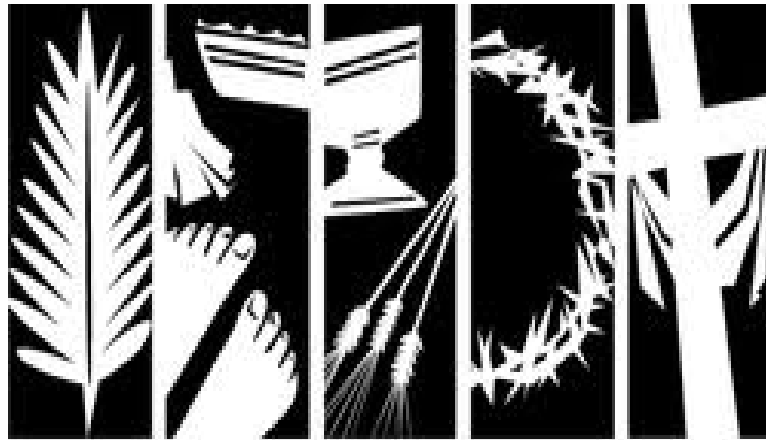


RESURRECTION NEWS



LENT

FEBRUARY 2013



Pastor's Letter

February, 2013

I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete." (John 15:11).

The Difference Between Pleasure and Joy

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The late, great theologian Erma Bombeck once wrote, "In church the other Sunday I was intent on a small child who was turning around smiling at everyone. He wasn't gurgling, spitting, humming, kicking, tearing the hymnals, or rummaging through his mother's handbag. He was just smiling. Finally, his mother jerked him about and in a stage whisper that could be heard in a little theater off Broadway said, 'Stop grinning! You're in church' And with that she gave him a belt on his hindside and as the tears rolled down his cheeks added, 'that's better,' and returned to her prayers." She goes on to say "I wanted to grab this child with the tear-stained face and hold him close to me and tell him about my God. The God of joy. The smiling God. The God who had to have the sense of humor to have created the likes of us."

I suspect that a great many people, both outside as well as inside the church may wonder just how much pleasure and joy is appropriate for Christians. Confession, repentance, self-sacrifice seem to be the dominate themes of the faith. Yet, the call to 'rejoice' is a command that is repeated over and over again throughout the Old and New Testament. What does the bible have to say about pleasure and joy? It's important for us to know because it does seem as though we are confused and in our confusion, we have taken this whole business of pleasure and joy out of God's hands. Which may well account for why we are such a "pleasure-seeking" people and yet such a joyless people as well.

Why do we seek God's answers in the pits of suffering yet we do not think of God for guidance and wisdom when it comes to our pleasure? In many ways we have reversed the dilemma of Job. Job knew that all good came from God and he was puzzled why he was getting bad. We say that all bad comes from God and look to ourselves and to the world for pleasure and joy.

When we divorce our search for pleasure and joy from the will of God, we will inevitably look for pleasure in unfaithful ways. The Bible is filled with examples of men and women who try to find pleasure apart from God only to be utterly disappointed if not tragically ruined. The clearest example may be that of Solomon. Solomon could be called, "The Pleasure King." Solomon tells his own sad story saying, "I thought in my heart, 'Come now, I will test [myself] with pleasure to find out what is good... I refused my heart no pleasure. But in the end, "everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun."

Solomon was searching for joy under the sun rather than in the Son. The futility of Solomon's experience is repeated over and over again in our own day as so many of us pursue that which promises pleasure apart from God only to find that it brings disappointment, meaninglessness, even despair. I read a book some time ago by Neil Postman who gave a very insightful commentary on our day. His book is titled, "Amusing Ourselves To Death." Never before in human history has there been so much available simply for the purpose of providing pleasure. And never before in human history has there been so much despair among so many. So many of the pleasures that this world offers us display a sign that reads, "Free Admission." Yet although it costs nothing to get in, it costs a great deal to get out. It costs a ruined character, a guilty conscience, a broken relationship.

Compare Solomon to his father, David. David's search for pleasure is in the Lord. In the 16th Psalm, David writes, "You are my Lord, apart from you I have no good thing." David understood that all goodness which includes that which gives pleasure, comes from God. He writes, "You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand." (Psalm 16:1,11). The testimony of David is that life is filled with joy when, and only when, it is lived in an obedient faith in the Lord. Unending and satisfying pleasure comes from the hand of the Lord and therefore it is there that we must turn in our search to satisfy our desire for pleasure and our hunger for true joy.

The angels announce “joy to the world,” because “the Lord has come.” Jesus offers you a “complete joy.” He says, “I am the vine and you are the branches. As the Father has loved me so I have loved you. Now remain in my love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete.”

The Christian faith is not a theology of sorrow and sadness. By no means! It is a theology of joy. But it is a theology that real joy is to be found in a relationship with the One who has established true joy through His death and resurrection. Only in Him will your joy and pleasure ever be “complete.”

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Nielsen

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study – Job: The Nature of Suffering and Faith.

Please plan to join us for this discussion of the book of Job on Sunday mornings beginning at 8:45am.

Men’s Breakfast Meeting - Saturday, February 9th – 8:00am. – 9:30am.

Every month, the men of the congregation are invited to gather for breakfast, fellowship and the study of God’s Word together. Join us on February 9th as we once again explore “*THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS*” by C.S. Lewis.

Ash Wednesday - February 13th - 6:00pm.

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 note that mid-week Lenten services will be held as follows:

- Ash Wednesday - 6:00pm.
- Wednesdays in Lent - 12:00 noon and 6:00pm.

Important Results from the 2012 Annual Voters Meeting of the Congregation - December 9th.

- A motion to continue the current Missions Giving level of 15% of offerings. *Passed.*
- A motion to create a new Board for Missions. *Passed.*
- A motion to purchase a new church organ. *Passed.**
- Approval of the 2013 budget. *Passed.*
- Election of Church Council officers. *Passed.*
- Motion to create a “Capital Expenditure Fund” of up to \$4,000 per year. *Passed.*

**(The construction of the new organ is scheduled for completion the week of February 17th for shipment and installation shortly thereafter.)*

Report of “Mission Giving” for 2012

The following agencies have received financial assistance from this congregation in 2012 in fulfillment of the congregation’s commitment to give 15% of Offerings for the support of various mission work.

• New England District – LCMS	\$9,470
• Seminary Student Support	\$6,000
• Hope Lutheran – Bangor	\$2,400
• Lutheran Malaria Initiative	\$1,500
• Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter	\$2,500
• 1 st Choice Pregnancy Center	\$2,500
• Lutheran Heritage Foundation	\$1,000
• Concordia Theological Seminary	\$1,000
• Guatemala Mercy Medical Trip	\$500
• Social Ministry	\$450
• <i>To be rolled into 2013</i>	<u>\$2,000</u>
	\$27,320

Thank you from 1st Choice Pregnancy Resource Center - Waterville

January 7, 2013

Dear Brothers and Sisters at the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection,
How we thank God for you! Your generosity in your recent gift of \$1,000 to First Choice has blessed, encouraged and spurred us on immensely. Thank you! For the majority of 2012, we have been seeking the Lord concerning an effective marketing plan. We desire to reach more abortion minded ladies with the truth about life. God supplied us with a godly woman possessing talents in the marketing arena with many years of experience. Immediately, she gently informed us that although our sign and logo are nice, they do not draw the desired target group. This confirmed what some of our clients had said. Consequently, part of our strategy has been to change our logo to something that will help accomplish this goal. We wanted something that would make our clients feel welcome as well. All of this is to say that a portion of your generous donation has been used for this purpose. The rest will be used for day to day operations which allow us to minister to clients. In our next newsletter, we will give a review of 2012. We are so thankful for your partnership with us in this local, pro-life mission. You are making a difference for life in your own community, one life at a time. You have an open invitation to stop by First Choice. We would love to meet you, give you a tour and answer any questions you may have concerning the ministry. May the Lord bless you and keep you, may His face shine upon you and give you peace.

For Life,

Wendy Merrill

Executive Director.

Thank you from Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter

December 18, 2012

Dear Shelter Friends.

Please accept our sincerest thanks for your very generous contribution of \$1,000. With your help, we will continue to provide a warm, welcoming, and safe environment for our guests during their stay at the shelter. It is always our goal to also provide the necessary help and resources for our guests to reestablish their independence and get a fresh start in life. Thank you so much! We are so grateful for your faithful support.

Sincerely,

Betty Palmer

Executive Director

Corrections to the 2013 Membership Directory

- Stout. Address should be South Ridge Drive.
- Gould. Telephones are #314-2782 (Esther); #877-1816 (John)
- Grierson. Brad's e-mail: bradgrierson@outlook.com



Monthly Worship

February 3, 2013

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Psalm: 71:1-6 (7-11)

First Reading: Jeremiah 1:4-10 (17-19)

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 12:31b-13:13

Holy Gospel: Luke 4:31-44

February 10, 2013

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 13, 2013

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 17, 2013

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 24, 2013

Second Sunday in Lent

Psalm: 4

First Reading: Jeremiah 26:8-15

Epistle: Philippians 3:17-4:1

Holy Gospel: Luke 13:31-35

BIBLE QUIZ

1. Where did Rahab hide the two spies?

A) with the stalks of drying flax on her roof B) in a well that was dry C) in the stables with the camels and donkeys D) in the walls because her house was in the city walls

2. At what time of day did the Pharisee Nicodemus visit Jesus?

A) sunrise. B) midday C) late afternoon D) after dark

3. How did King Herod to some foreigners' desire to meet the newborn king of the Jews?

A) he was enthusiastic B) he was fearful C) he was curious D) he was indifferent

4. What was one main difference between the Pharisees and the Sadducees?

A) Sadducees believed in a resurrection and the Pharisees did not B) Pharisees believed in a resurrection and the Sadducees did not C) Sadducees believed a Messiah would come, the Pharisees did not D) Pharisees believed a Messiah would come, Sadducees did not

5. What physical handicap did Jacob's father develop in old age?

A) blindness B) deafness C) paralysis D) a limp

6. The "crime" posted over Jesus as he hung on the cross was translated into which three languages?

A) Aramaic, Latin and Greek B) Latin, Greek and Hebrew C) Aramaic, Hebrew and Latin D) Greek, Egyptian and Aramaic

Answers on "Birthday" page



2/4 Darryll Zahner
 2/1 Elizabeth Larsen
 2/13 Ray Gorneau
 2/19 Brad Fitzpatrick
 2/22 Kay Gideon



2/6 Doris & Charles Brossy



2/1 Caden Fitzpatrick
 2/9 Karen Morren
 2/13 Becky Cote
 2/14 Vesta Holt
 2/20 Jonathan Morren
 2/23 Robert Sieber
 2/25 Lee Anne Larsen
 2/?? Natalie Crowley



ANNIVERSARIES

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

A VERY WISE GENERAL

As a crowded airliner is about to take off, the peace is shattered by a 5-year-old boy who picks that moment to throw a wild temper tantrum. No matter what his frustrated mother does to try to calm him down, the boy continues to scream furiously and kick the seats around him.

Suddenly from the rear of the plane, an elderly man in the uniform of an Air Force General is seen slowly walking forward up the aisle. Stopping the flustered mother with an upraised hand, the white-haired courtly, soft-spoken General leans down and, motioning toward his chest, whispers something into the boy's ear.

Instantly, the boy calms down, gently takes his mother's hand, and quietly fastens his seat belt. All the other passengers burst into spontaneous applause.

As the General slowly makes his way back to his seat, one of the cabin attendants touches his sleeve. "Excuse me, General," she asks quietly, "but could I ask you what magic words you used on that little boy?"

The old man smiles serenely and gently confides, "I showed him my pilot's wings, service stars, and battle ribbons, and explained that they entitle me to throw one passenger out the plane door on any flight I choose.."

Bible Quiz Answers: 1) A Joshua 2:6 2) D John 3:1-2
 3) B Matthew 2:3 4) B Acts 23:8 5) A Genesis 27:1
 6) B John 19:20

February Stewardship

	<u>February 3</u>	<u>February 10</u>	<u>Feb.13</u> Ash Wed.	<u>February 17</u>	<u>February 24</u>
<u>Acolyte</u>	Sarah Kohl	Cullen Stout	Emily Larsen	Dan Morren	Jacob Huesers
<u>Comm. Assist.</u>	Brad Fitzpatrick	Mike Hein	Brian Watson	Eric Stout	Jared Goldsmith
<u>Ushers</u>	John Ayotte & Don Pryor	Glenn Carlson, Jr. & John Gould	Chris Batson & Mark Larsen	Finley Edwards & Jon Morren	Robert Sieber & Bill Jahnke
<u>Greeters</u>	John & Karen Ayotte	Dan & Sharon Callahan	Mark & Lee Anne Larsen	Finley & Emily Edwards	Tom & Katie Huesers
<u>Altar Care</u>	Deb Nielsen	Sharon Conover	Amanda Goldsmith	Amy Ouellette	Kitty Carlson
<u>Flowers</u>	Mike & Michelle Hein	Mike & Michelle Hein	No Flowers-Lent	No Flowers-Lent	No Flowers-Lent
<u>Fellowship</u>	The Fitzpatrick	Becky Cote	-----	OPEN	Sharon Klipp

The Lutheran Church of the Resurrection

Calendar of Events

February, 2013

Week of February 1st

Friday - 2/1 5:00pm. - Catechumenate - Dinner and Movie

Week of February 3rd

Sunday - 2/3 8:45am. - Sunday School / Adult Bible Study

10:00am. - Worship

6:00pm. - The Catechumenate

Monday - 2/4 6:00pm. - Board of Elders

Wednesday - 2/6 7:00pm. - Board for Missions

Saturday - 2/9 8:00am. - Men's Breakfast Meeting

Week of February 10th

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

10:00am. - Worship

Wednesday - 2/13 **Ash Wednesday**

6:00pm. - Worship

Week of February 17th

Sunday - 2/17 8:45am. - Sunday School / Adult Bible Study

10:00am. - Worship

6:00pm. - The Catechumenate

Monday - 2/18 6:00pm. - Board for Youth

7:00pm. - Church Council

Wednesday - 2/20 Noon - Mid-Week Lent Worship

6:00pm. - Mid-Week Lent Worship

Week of February 24th

Sunday - 2/24 8:45am. - Sunday School / Adult Bible Study

10:00am. - Worship

6:00pm. - The Catechumenate

Wednesday - 2/27 Noon - Mid-Week Lent Worship

6:00pm. - Mid-Week Lent Worship

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

