

RESURRECTION NEWS



JANUARY 2013



Pastor's Letter

January, 2013

The Book of Job

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Old Testament book of Job recounts the life of a man who experiences the extreme highs and extremes lows of life in this world. Because the life of Job covers such dramatic yardage, it is able to include our lives in its story somewhere between the two extremes. Some may find themselves on the side of the 'good times.' Others may relate to the suffering and pain of personal loss that Job experiences. But as we all know, things change, nothing stays the same.

It is especially as we move from the good times into the bad times that we start to ask questions. Deep questions. Questions like the ones that are raised in the book of Job. Questions that are prompted not only by our own particular situation, but also by the situation and circumstances that we see taking place in the lives of others, (think Newtown, Ct.)

Why did God create us with the capacity for suffering?

Is all suffering deserved or
do some suffer innocently?

Does God cause bad things to happen
or does He allow them to happen,
even to the innocent?

Why would God allow bad things to happen,
especially to 'good' people,
especially to innocent people (children)?

How do I expect God to respond to suffering,
mine in particular?

Is there a constructive purpose for my suffering and loss?
Is all suffering and loss meant to be punishment?
Can suffering and loss be directly related to a particular sin?

These are all questions that are directed to God. What is His answer? But it is as we explore these questions and many others like them that other questions begin to surface. Questions directed not so much at God, but at ourselves? Questions like:

Is my worship of God conditional on the blessings that I receive from Him?
Is God worthy of my worship and love even when He withholds His blessings?

Do I 'fear, love and trust in God above all things'
(Luther's explanation to the 1st Commandment)
even in the face of suffering?

How do I respond to those who are suffering,
both those whom I call 'friend' as well as my enemies?

Please join me as we begin an in-depth reading of the Book of Job on Sunday morning's beginning, January 6th at 8:45am. Along with our own reading and discussion, we will also invite Gregory the Great from the 6th century AD to contribute his thoughts from his definitive commentary on Job.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Nielsen

From the Blog of Jared Goldsmith. www.goldsmith5.blogspot.com/

A Season of Helplessness

Each night during the season of Advent, Callum and Maira open doors of our "Advent Calendar" which counts down the days until Christmas Eve. Inside every door, there is a magnet designed as some type of component of the Nativity scene in Bethlehem so many many years ago. Tonight, for example, Maira unwrapped Joseph, last night Callum unwrapped a camel, and so on and so forth...

The point that I am getting at is this: Each night, that empty, desolate manger becomes more decorated and more full and and more emblazoned with color and people and animals and stars until, on the last night before Christmas, the precious babe is placed in the cradle of the manger.

Over the past several days I have truly been wrestling with myself in terms of how to react to the tragedy that occurred in that doomed elementary school in Newtown, CT. In my prayers, for once, I was truly speechless; how does one talk to God about something so deeply abysmal? Even asking to comfort those affected seemed just...well....so out of place; the tragedy cut so deep that I didn't even know where to start. As a parent (and as a teacher) I was (and still am) at a loss of what to even say. And then, the other night, while my four year old son placed a humble magnetic sheep onto the manger scene, it dawned on me that Christmas is a season of helplessness. And, therein, there is true beauty.

The most difficult part of this Newtown disaster, for me, is reconciling with the virtual helplessness these children faced--how in the world could they even stand a chance....how could they even do ANYTHING when faced with a deranged psychopathic killer? Their fragile, undeveloped minds must have been horrified at what they were facing. They needed their moms and their dads, and their moms and their dads were nowhere to be found. Complete and utter loneliness.

But, then, is this not unlike the story of Christmas? As Christians believe, Christmas Eve was the night when a completely and utterly helpless child was born in the most humble of all places--the odds were completely against him--and his parents--as they negotiated treacherous travel and murderous people, all so they could finally be turned away from help when they needed it most. What a helpless and hopeless scene it must have been for a mother in labor with her beautiful child...with Joseph, who wasn't even the father, trying his best to fill the fatherly role and take care of his family. Complete and total helplessness.

And then, as the story goes, what happened was miraculous. And still is.

We learn in the story of Christmas that the Angel of the Lord came upon the shepherds and told them not to be afraid. Why should these shepherds have believed this? The times in which they lived were nerve-racking and treacherous and dishonest and scary. Much like today. And we learn that the wise men followed the Christmas star as a 'beacon' to lead them to the baby Jesus. In our darkest hours as a nation and as individual families do we not follow the same star? Do we need not gravitate toward hope of some type--wherever and however it can be found--when it seems that there could BE no hope? Are we not conditioned, innately, as humans to 'just believe' that something good will happen?

Christmas is, indeed, a season of helplessness. It is a story rooted in it, for it could not be as strong and as beautiful and as everlasting if it were not. To me, there is nothing in the world so helpless as a child--whether this child be the newest baby at Thayer hospital or a 5th grader in Newtown, CT or the infant Christ child himself. All are helpless. All are in need. And, for many who aren't babies or children, this is a season of loneliness and despair--the forced 'happiness' we are told to experience (whether through our movies or carols or songs or greeting card images, etc) puts a lot of pressure on us. And, I would suggest, that this pressure might be too great for some to endure

But just as Christmas a season of helplessness, Christmas is, ultimately, a season of joy--true, unspeakable,

unfathomable joy. But how? And how, in the wake of what has happened in our nation this week, can there be joy? There simply is no coming to terms with this. There is nothing any poet or songwriter or counselor can say to 'make this better.' Not even a bit. But think back to the story of Christmas--true Christmas--when the shepherds and the animals and the wisemen and all the people found joy in the most unexpected of all places: The Savior of the world born in a disheveled and humble and mere barn. Today it is no different: On Christmas morning we look, of all places, underneath a living tree we have cut down and brought into our house...we find joy, wrapped up with a bow, exactly where we would least think it would be....So unexpected. So perfectly right and beautiful.

May we continue to find joy and peace and salvation in all of those unexpected places; in the midst of the personal, spiritual, and national tragedies we face, may we be completely and totally surprised with joy and peace. May we realize that, just as God gave his own son as a gift to all the children of the world that we, the children, are in turn a perpetual gift right back to God. And, lastly, may our own 'mangers' be resplendent and full of those things we truly need in order to be warmed and nourished and provided for on even those most helpless and hopeless of nights

Altar Guild Recognition Night: Friday, January 11th - 5:30pm.

Please plan to join us for dinner, study and discussion. We'll reexamine why we do what we do and talk about organizing and carrying out our work again in 2013. Please let Avis Grant know if you can attend.

Men's Breakfast Meeting: Saturday, January 12th - 8:00am.

Men, come join us for a great time of lively conversation, fellowship and examination of how God's Word guides us in our walk of faith. At the December meeting, we decided to expand the scope of this group by taking on a fellowship activity and a service project. Come with ideas to discuss and decide on.

Sunday School Christmas Pageant: Sunday, January 13th - 10:00am.

While the rest of the world is done with Christmas and most of the decorations have been put away, the Church continues to celebrate Christmas through the season of Christmas and Epiphany. Parents and Sunday School staff have been working hard on this special Christmas Pageant for some time. Come and share the joy.

Mid-Week Adult Bible - Thursdays, 10:30am. The Gospel of Luke

We will resume our mid-week bible study. Dates in January are 10th, 17th, 31st. (*Not the 24th*).

Thank You from the Lutheran Heritage Foundation

Dear Lutheran Church of the Resurrection,

For your generous gift, please accept sincere gratitude from the Lutheran Heritage Foundation. So that children and adults may know the Light of the world – each in their own language – LHF continues to translate and publish orthodox Lutheran works, distributed around the globe. For missionaries, pastors, congregations, and homes – the nations hear and read that the saving Light has come, a promise is received in their native tongue. With your faithful funding, LHF's mission continues. Your gift of \$1,426 is dedicated to the "Indonesia Project – 'Summary of Christian Doctrine.'

Rev. James E. Fandrey

LHF Executive Director



Monthly Worship

January 6, 2013

The Epiphany of Our Lord

Psalm: 72:1-11 (12-15)

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Epistle: Ephesians 3:1-12

Holy Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

January 13, 2013

**The First Sunday after the Epiphany
(The Baptism of our Lord)**

Psalm: 29

First Reading: Isaiah 43:1-7

Epistle: Romans 6:1-11

Holy Gospel: Luke 3:15-22

January 20, 2013

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Psalm: 128

First Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Holy Gospel: John 2:1-11

January 27, 2013

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Psalm: 19: (1-6) 7-14

First Reading: Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Holy Gospel: Luke 4:16-30

BIBLE QUIZ

1. What are parables?

A) a person walking parallel to someone else B) the smallest coin denomination used in Corinth and Nazareth C) an instrument of torture used by the Roman soldiers D) short stories illustrating biblical truths

2. Why were some of the tribes of Israel ready to engage in civil war so soon after entering the Promised Land?

A) they jumped to the wrong conclusion regarding the building of a second altar. B) they did not like how small their land allotments were C) they had a history of unruly rebels in their ranks D) their Philistine neighbors bribed them into warring with their own kinsmen

3. What common item did God use to allow Samson to kill 1000 Philistines?

A) ram's horn B) donkey's jawbone C) lion's tailbone D) camel's skull

4. Exactly how is a believer's salvation obtained?

A) through silver and gold B) through daily deeds of goodwill C) through Jesus' blood D) through at least one of our parent's Christian faith

5. What did Jesus do when He found a mature fig tree with no figs on it?

A) cursed it and the tree withered B) blessed it and the tree produced fruit C) scolded it and the tree dropped its leaves D) ignored it and the tree shook violently

6. Who said this: "Let my people go'?"

A) Jeremiah through Baruch B) God through Moese C) King David through Joab D) God through Jesus

Answers on "Birthday" page



- 1/3 Betsy Gorneau
- 1/8 Candace Schorr
- 1/16 Caden Fitzpatrick
- LeeAnne Larsen
- Curt Slininger
- 1/19 Vesta Holt
- 1/20 Liam Stout
- Lin Stout
- Travis Watson
- 1/26 Deb Nielsen



- 1/17 Michael Cote
- 1/18 Candace Schorr
- 1/26 Sherman Hill
- 1/?? Yvonne Batson
- Joe Krolak



- 1/26 Sherman Hill

Children are Quick

TEACHER: Maria go to the map and find North America.
 MARIA: Here it is.
 TEACHER: Correct. Now class, who discovered America?
 CLASS: Maria

TEACHER: John, why are you doing your math multiplication on the floor?
 JOHN: You told me to do it without using tables.

TEACHER: Glenn, how do you spell 'crocodile?'
 GLENN: KROKODIAL
 TEACHER: no, that's wrong.
 GLENN : Maybe it is wrong, but you asked me how I spell it.

TEACHER: Donald, what is the chemical formula or water?
 DONALD: HIJKLMNO
 TEACHER: What are you talking about?
 DONALD: Yesterday you said it's H to O.

TEACHER: Winnie name one important thing we have today that we didn't have ten years ago,
 WINNIE: Me!

TEACHER: Paul, why do you always get so dirty?
 PAUL: Well, I'm a lot closer to the ground than you are.

TEACHER: George Washington not only chopped down his father's cherry tree, but also admitted it. Now Louie, do you know why his father didn't punish him?
 LOUIS: Because George still had the axe in his hand.

TEACHER: Now Simon, tell me frankly, do you say prayers before eating?
 SIMON: No sir, I don't have to. My Mum is a good cook.

TEACHER: Harold, what do you call a person who keeps on talking when people are no longer interested?
 HAROLD: A teacher.

Bible Quiz Answers: 1) D Matthew 13:31-34
 2) A Joshua 22:12, 26-28, 33 3) B Judges 15:15 4) C 1Peter 1:18-19 5) A Mark 11:12-14, 20-21 6) B Exodus 5:1

The Lutheran Church of the Resurrection

Calendar of Events

January, 2013

Week of January 6th

Sunday - 1/6

8:45am. - Sunday School / Adult Bible Study
10:00am. - Worship
6:00pm. - The Catechumenate

Monday - 1/7

6:00pm. - Board of Elders

Thursday - 1/10

10:30am. - Mid-Week Bible Study - The Gospel of Luke

Friday - 1/11

5:30pm. - Altar Guild Dinner and Study

Saturday - 1/12

8:00am. - Men's Breakfast Meeting

Week of January 13th

Sunday - 1/13

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

Thursday - 1/18

10:30am. - Mid-Week Bible Study - The Gospel of Luke

Week of January 20th

Sunday - 1/20

8:45am. - Sunday School / Adult Bible Study
10:00am. - Worship
6:00pm. - The Catechumenate

Monday - 1/21

6:00pm. - Board for Youth
7:00pm. - Church Council

(1/21-25 - Pastor Nielsen at Symposium - Concordia Theological Seminary – Ft. Wayne, Indiana)

Week of January 27th

Sunday - 1/18

8:45am. - Sunday School / Adult Bible Study
10:00am. - Worship
6:00pm. - The Catechumenate

Week of January 27th

Sunday - 1/27

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

(1/29-30 - Pastor Nielsen at Circuit Meeting - Manchester, N.H.)

Thursday - 1/31

10:30am. - Mid-Week Bible Study - The Gospel of Luke

January Stewardship

	<u>January 6</u>	<u>January 13</u>	<u>January 20</u>	<u>January 27</u>
<u>Acolyte</u>	Sarah Kohl	Emily Larsen	Dan Morren	Jacob Huesers
<u>Communion Assistant</u>	Jared Goldsmith	Don Pryor	Glenn Carlson	Chris Batson
<u>Ushers</u>	Robert Sieber & Chris Batson	Mark Larsen & Moe Cote	Bill Jahnke & Seth Carlosn	Brian Watson & Curt Slininger
<u>Greeters</u>	Robert & Francis Sieber	Peter & Lois Doran	Jon & Karen Morren	Curt & Karen Slininger
<u>Altar Care</u>	Esther Gould	LeeAnne Larsen	Katie Huesers	Avis Grant
<u>Flowers</u>	Ray & Betsy Gorneau	Ray & Betsy Gorneau	OPEN	OPEN
<u>Fellowship</u>	OPEN	OPEN	<u>OPEN</u>	Ray & Betsy Gorneau

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