

# RESURRECTION NEWS



JANUARY 2015



## Pastor's Letter

January, 2015

Epiphany

*"This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time. And it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel" 1 Timothy 1:10*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Epiphany is sometimes called, "The Season of Light" from the star that guided the Magi to Bethlehem and that marks the Day of Epiphany. The focus throughout the season of Epiphany is on the Christ, who is **'the light of the world.'**

According to the official record, it was night when God created the earth. In Genesis 1:2 we read, for *"the earth was formless and empty, and darkness was over the surface of the deep."* And while the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters, God said, *"Let there be light; and there was light."* (Gen.1:3).

Also according to the official record, it will be a dark night when this world comes to a close. In his parable, Jesus says, *"At midnight, the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.'"* (Matthew 25:6).

Between the first and the last night of the world is the One who is *'the light of the world.'* The Light of the world has come from heaven to earth in the flesh of the only-begotten Son of the Father. He was in the beginning, with God, when the darkness first gave way to the light.

He is the light that reveals. And we may ask, "what does He reveal?" And the answer is, "He reveals the heart of God and the love that is in that heart for all mankind." That is why Jesus is called, *"The Word made flesh."* How is it that even you and I reveal the thoughts and intentions of our heart for others? How do we express what we feel and what we desire? Isn't it through words - either spoken or written? Likewise, God reveals Himself to us through His Word - spoken through His Son, written through the inspiration of His Holy Spirit.

God forbid that it be said of us, *"The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it."* Or, *"He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him."* Or, *"He came to that which was his own but his own did not receive him."* Even today He is not received, misunderstood and unknown by so many of those whom He has come to enlighten and bless. And we may ask, "Why does the world reject the Light?" And the answer is, "Because sin loves the darkness rather than the light." Because light reveals - not only the face of God in Christ but also the heart of man before God. Because we do not want to give up our sins and live in the light."

*"Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God..."* Wherever Christ shines in the heart there is light and life. Even when that light of truth uncovers many sins, it is a light of comforting grace and forgiveness. It is a light from the face of God that overcomes the fear of death through the resurrection of Christ from the dead. It is a light that brings life to the heart and soul of a believer and gives courage and strength to fight against and even overcome the works of darkness and to walk in the light of the truth. It is a light that enlightens us to become little lights in a dark world.

Yours in Christ,  
*Pastor Nielsen*

# Seeking to Serve...notes from a Deaconess student

Dear Brothers and Sisters of LCR,

Four months have now passed since I began my distance Deaconess Studies at Concordia Theological Seminary. My second academic course focused on the Lutheran Confessions. I can now honestly state that I "subscribe to these Symbols", am very well acquainted with all parts of the Book of Concord, have worked thoroughly through them and much better understand the concepts of original sin, justification by faith alone, the nature of Christ, and "Real Presence."

Each week we had to write a reflection on the portion we had studied, responding to a particular question posed by our professor. I'm thankful for these writings assembled over four hundred years ago in the midst of various controversies of the European Christian churches. Such disagreements within the Christian community continue to persist among churches today. The documents included have clear grounding and references to the Bible, both Old and New Testament texts.

My other course which took place over the whole four months was Field Education, a class of practical matters addressing prayer, living a life of mercy, learning how to listen more intentionally, an introduction to topics of child abuse, struggles with barrenness, and pornography. Our class interacts via "Moodle", a kind of computer classroom. My instructor and fellow students, who live in states as far west as Iowa, and south to Alabama, comment on assigned readings with each other. We also have to occasionally submit reports about visits with parishioners (names changed) or topics for joint consideration and education and respond to those.

In about three weeks I will head out to Fort Wayne, Indiana for two weeks of intensive coursework. I will do some preparatory reading and writing for the classes before the on-campus time, and will be studying the Pauline Letters and Theological Ethics.

I continue to ask for your prayers and am thankful for them as well as financial support I have received.

Under his mercy,  
*Sharon M. Conover*

## **Day of Epiphany Service of Lessons and Carols - Tuesday, January 6<sup>th</sup> - 7:00pm.**

As we move from the 12 days of Christmas into the season of Epiphany, our attention shifts from the 'human nature' of Jesus Christ to His 'divine nature.' January 6<sup>th</sup> is a historic, 'holy day' on which the Church originally celebrated Christmas. The Day of Epiphany celebrates the visitation of the Magi who are the first to recognize the divine fulfillment of the Old Testament in the child born to Mary. Invite a friend to come with you.

## **Men's Breakfast Meeting - Saturday, January 10<sup>th</sup> - 8:00am.**

Great fellowship, bible study and conversation about the life of faith in the real world. Come join in.

## **Mid-Week Bible Study Resumes - Thursdays, beginning January 8<sup>th</sup> - 10:30am. Gospel of Luke.**

All are welcome.

**New Flower and Fellowship Sign Up Sheets for 2015** are posted on the Bulletin Board in the Narthex. Please sign up now. The cost for sponsoring flowers for the altar is now \$25 for two weeks.

### **Sunday School for January: 8:45am.**

1/4 The Boy Jesus in the Temple - Luke 2:41-52

Memory verse: "The word of God is living and active." Hebrews 4:12

1/11 The Baptism and Temptation of Jesus - Mark 1:1-13

Memory verse: [Christ] appeared in order to take away sins, and in Him there is no sin."

1 John 3:5

1/18 Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael - John 1:43-51

Memory verse: "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." John 6:68

1/25 Jesus Calls Matthew - Mark 2:13-17

Memory verse: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."

1 John 1:8

Children will be learning hymn #601 - "All Who Believe And Are Baptized" during the Opening.

They will be singing this hymn during worship on January 25<sup>th</sup>.

\*[If parents will read and discuss these texts on Saturday evenings, it will help the children get even more out of each lesson on Sunday. Please help them learn the hymn of the month as well.]

### **Adult Bible Study for January: 8:45am. "The Challenge of Islam"**

Many people mistakenly think of Judaism, Christianity and Islam as ancient religions that all worship the same God, and even share many of the same prophets. In this bible study, Sam Shamoun, an Arab Christian, presents an eye-opening perspective on the religion of Islam. The topics that we will cover in January are:

- 1/4 - The foundations and history of Islam
- 1/11 - Angels, Jin and the Qu'ran
- 1/18 - Islam and Jesus
- 1/25 - Islam and Mohammed

### **Special Appreciation Dinner for the Altar Guild - Friday, January 23 - 6:00pm.**

The Altar Guild is on-duty every Sunday and for several mid-week services, preparing the Lord's Supper, oiling the candles, setting the flowers, etc. Their service to the life of the congregation is greatly appreciated by everyone. A special dinner hosted by Kitty Carlson at her home, will honor their service. The evening will include dinner, bible study and a special presentation. Please confirm your attendance with Kitty.

### **New Members:**

Please welcome Steve, Kari Farr and their children, Andrew, Allison, Evan and Hayley into the congregation. They were received into membership on December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014.

### **Men's Clothing Drive for Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter**

The Mid-Maine Homeless shelter strives to assist residents in achieving independence. Clothing assistance is an important part of their mission. They receive ample women's clothing but never have a sufficient inventory of men's clothing to distribute. Bring men's clothing to the Fellowship Hall to the designated tables. Cut off and delivery is February 14<sup>th</sup>. Our goal is to collect, fold, sort and deliver 100 boxes of men's clothing on February 14<sup>th</sup>. Get your friends, neighbors and co-workers involved in this project as well. Come and help us beginning at 9:00am. Sponsored by the Board for Missions.

### **Thank you from Seminarian Alexander Sabol**

Pastor Nielsen,

Thanks to you and your congregation for your continued financial support. It is really great to know that there are pastors and congregations such as yourselves that are willing to support people such as myself as we learn to become faithful ministers of God's word. I hope that you had a blessed Thanksgiving. It was really nice to get out of the flat plains and into the hills of Pennsylvania. I have finished Hebrew and I am currently memorizing the catechism so that I may better convey the concepts when I start teaching confirmation in January. I will soon be going out on vicarage and it is hard to believe that I have already been here in Fort Wayne for over a year. I am looking forward to vicarage. I am excited at the prospect of moving out to be on my own and potentially living in an area of the country that I am unfamiliar with. Again thank you so much for your support, it is truly greatly appreciated. Your most recent gift is going towards buying my books for this quarter. May God bless your ministry and your congregation.

Sincerely,

Alexander W. Sabol

### **Thank you from Seminarian Paul Rockrohr**

Pastor Nielsen and Members of LCR,

Stacy and I are so grateful for your continued support in my seminary endeavors. Your faithfulness in supporting us has been a true blessing, a means by which God has provided "our daily bread." We have marveled each time we receive your gifts, and the words of St. Paul have come to my mind often. "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel." (Phil. 1:3-7)

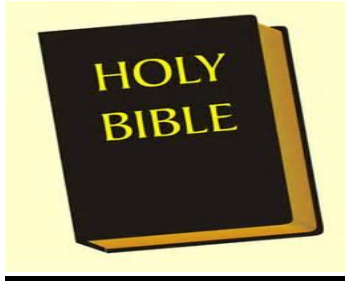
While we are not in prison as St. Paul was, your gifts of love have unlocked other prison doors. Fear can indeed imprison us, whether it financial worries or a host of other things. You have constantly cared for our bodies, by reducing the burden of tuition. The realization of how God is blessing us has set in even more in recent days, since we learned that Stacy is pregnant with our first child. What a joy it is for us, to receive this gift from Him. It is a joy that we hope you share with us, as we eagerly expect this baby to come in May. But of course, as new parents, it also means that we are considering the many things we need to do to prepare for this child. Such things would be overwhelming if we did not have so many people, especially you, showering us with care. Stacy and I have often given thanks to our Father in heaven that He has blessed us so abundantly through the good works of His children. Even as I prepare to enter the pastoral office, it is your partnership in the gospel that has permitted me to study with confidence that God will provide all that we need to support this body and life.

As we prepare for the coming of our King this Advent, Stacy and I give thanks that God continues to preserve His saints in this world by His many gifts. He preserves each of us by His gifts from pulpit and altar, and by the common Christian love that bears with each other in all things. May the love of Christ continue to dwell in you richly, as He uses you to further His kingdom.

Sincerely,

Paul and Stacy Rockrohr

# BIBLE QUIZ



## Monthly Worship

### January 4, 2015

#### Christmas 2

**Psalm:** 119: 97-104

**First Reading:** 1 Kings 3:4-15

**Epistle:** Ephesians 1:3-14

**Holy Gospel:** Luke 2:40-52

### January 6, 2015

#### Epiphany

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

**First Reading:** Isaiah 60: 1-6

**Epistle:** Ephesians 3:1-12

**Holy Gospel:** Matthew 2:1-12

### January 11, 2015

#### The Baptism of Our Lord

**Psalm:** 29

**First Reading:** Genesis 1:1-5

**Epistle:** Romans 6:1-11

**Holy Gospel:** Mark 4: 1-11

### January 18, 2015

#### Second Sunday after the Epiphany

**Psalm:** 139:1-10

**First Reading:** 1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)

**Epistle:** 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

**Holy Gospel:** John 1:43-51

### January 25, 2015

#### Third Sunday after the Epiphany

**Psalm:** 62

**First Reading:** Jonah 3:1-5, 10

**Epistle:** 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 (32-35)

**Holy Gospel:** Mark 1:14-20

#### 1. What is real charity/love?

A) Popularity and wealth B) sex within marriage  
C) godly characteristics D) there is no such thing as real love

#### 2. Which king ordered the slaughter of a priest and his whole family for the supposed crime of treason?

A) Saul B) David C) Solomon D) Ahab

#### 3. What is the point of the parable of the prodigal son?

A) God seeks the backsliders, the “sinners”, according to society, so they can repent and enter heaven B) God wants everyone to live perfectly like the older son C) God enters into communion with those who finally become holy D) God has the “warm fuzzies” for all his creatures

#### 4. What did God command Ezekiel to use for fuel to cook his meals?

A) cow dung B) human flesh C) rotting animals  
D) donkey jawbones

#### 5. Which prophet was taken up in a chariot of fire?

A) Elijah B) Elisha C) Ezekiel D) Daniel

#### 6. Who said this: “Naked came I out of the mother’s womb, and naked shall I return thither”?

A) David B) Daniel C) Job D) Jesus

Answers on “Birthday” page



- 1/3 Betsy Gorneau
- 1/16 Caden Fitzpatrick
- Lee Anne Larsen
- 1/19 Vesta Holt
- 1/21 Steve Love
- 1/26 Deb Nielsen



- 1/26 Sherman Hill
- 1/30 Maira Goldsmith
- 1/?? Yvonne Batson



**CONFIRMATION  
ANNIVERSARY**

- 1/14 Ken Zahner
- 1/26 Sherman Hill

**Bible Quiz Answers:**

1. C 1 Corinthians 13:4-8
2. A 1 Samuel 22:12-18
3. A Luke 15:7, 10, 32
4. A Ezekiel 4:15
5. A 2 Kings 2:11
6. C Job 1:20-21

**PUN FUN!**

- I tried to catch some fog. I mist.
- When chemists die, they barium.
- Jokes about German sausage are the wurst.
- How does Moses brew his tea? Hebrews it.
- I stayed up all night to see where the sun went. Then it dawned on me.
- This girl said she recognized me from the vegetarian club, but I'd never met herbivore.
- I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I can't put it down.
- I did a theatrical performance about puns. It was a play on words.
- The told me I had type A blood, but it was a type-O.
- Why were the Indians here first? They had reservations.
- Class trip to the Coca-Cola factory—I hope there is no pop quiz!
- The Energizer bunny arrested and charged with battery.
- The old man didn't like his beard at first. Then it grew on him.
- Did you hear about the cross-eyed teacher who lost her job because she couldn't control her pupils?
- What does a clock do when it is hungry? It goes back four seconds.
- I wondered why the baseball was getting bigger. Then it hit me!
- Broken pencils are pointless.
- What do you call a dinosaur with an extensive vocabulary? A thesaurus.
- England has no kidney bank, but it does have Liverpool.
- I used to be a banker, but then I lost interest.

# The Lutheran Church of the Resurrection

## Calendar of Events

### January, 2015

#### **Week of January 4<sup>th</sup>**

Sunday - 1/4	8:45am. - Sunday School / Adult Bible Study 10:00am. - Worship
Monday - 1/5	6:00pm. - Board of Elders
Tuesday - 1/6	7:00pm. - Epiphany Service of Lessons and Carols
Wednesday - 1/7	6:30pm. - Board for Missions Meeting
Thursday - 1/8	10:30am. - Mid-Week Bible Study - The Gospel of Luke
Saturday - 1/10	8:00am. - Men's Breakfast Meeting

#### **Week of January 11<sup>th</sup>**

Sunday - 1/11	8:45am. - Sunday School / Adult Bible Study 10:00am. - Worship
Thursday - 1/15	10:30am. - Mid-Week Bible Study - The Gospel of Luke

#### **Week of January 18<sup>th</sup>**

Sunday - 1/18	8:45am. - Sunday School / Adult Bible Study 10:00am. - Worship
Monday - 1/19	6:00pm. - Board for Youth 7:00pm. - Church Council
Thursday - 1/22	10:30am. - Mid-Week Bible Study - The Gospel of Luke
Friday - 1/23	6:00pm. - Altar Guild Recognition Dinner
Saturday - 1/24	Sharon Conover departs for Deaconess Intensive – Concordia Theological Seminary – Ft. Wayne

#### **Week of January 25<sup>th</sup>**

Sunday - 1/25	8:45am. - Sunday School / Adult Bible Study 10:00am. - Worship
Wednesday 1/28-29	Pastor Nielsen at N.E. District Pastor's Meeting - Enfield, Ct.



# Stewardship for January, 2015

	<u>January 4</u>	<u>January 6</u> (Epiphany)	<u>January 11</u>	<u>January 18</u>	<u>January 25</u>
Acolyte	Emily Larsen	Sarah Kohl	Caden Fitzpatrick	Jacob Huesers	Allison Farr
Comm. Assistant	Glenn Carlson	-----	Mike Hein	Brad Fitzpatrick	Mark Larsen
Ushers	Chris Batson & Robert Sieber	Mike Hein & Jon Morren	Moe Cote & Brad Grierson	John Gould & Bill Jahnke	Mark Larsen & Steve Love
Greeters	Glenn, Jr. & Krista Carlson	John & Esther Gould	Moe & Becky Cote	Seth & Angie Carlson	Peter & Lois Doran
Altar Care	Lee Anne Larsen	-----	Katie Huesers	Avis Grant	Deb Nielsen
Flowers	John & Esther Gould	John & Esther Gould	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
Fellowship	OPEN	-----	OPEN	OPEN	Sharon Klipp

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