



Pastor's Letter

April, 2012

A Letter To Our Representatives

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The following letter was sent to Senators Collins and Snowe and Congresswoman Pingree and Congressman Michaud regarding the recent HHS Ruling on mandatory birth control coverage. I welcome any questions or comments you may have.

Pastor Nielsen

March 26, 2012

Dear Senator Collins,

We are asking you to hear our grave concerns regarding the U.S. Health and Human Services ruling on mandatory coverage for contraceptives.

Standing before an assembly of princes at the Diet of Worms in 1521, Martin Luther declared, 'My conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not recant anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against the conscience. May God help me. Amen.'

When he spoke these words, Luther was simply following in the footsteps of many who have done the same before him. The holy apostle Peter stood against the authorities in their efforts to coerce him to conform to their demands which were contrary to the Holy Scriptures. "We must obey God rather than men." (Acts 5:29). While we honor those in authority, our first allegiance is to our Creator. The proper ordering of life lived under God is summarized by Jesus, "render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." (Luke 20:25).

We gratefully acknowledge that civil government at every level is a gift from God and the authorities are to be honored as God's servants. We pray for the President and the Congress of the U.S. along with other civil leaders every Sunday in worship. Our desire is not to tell the government how to govern nor to interfere in its work of maintaining a safe, peaceful and orderly society. We do however expect that the government will honor its citizens by refraining from imposing requirements that violate their conscience as shaped by the Holy Scriptures, a fundamental right insured under the First Amendment. We are concerned that this is exactly what the government is attempting to do by its ruling regarding mandatory birth control coverage.

The human conscience is the internal law that is written on our hearts that gives us our perception of what is right and wrong. We recognize that the conscience may be uninformed or ill informed. We recognize that the conscience can err and therefore must be informed by God's Word, so that it may conform to God's will. We fully recognize that on certain ethical issues, people of good intentions may come to different conclusions. But to go against one's conscience is to say within oneself, 'I will disobey God.' As per Luther, 'this is neither safe nor right.' This is why we must be especially respectful of the conscience. To ignore our fellow man's conscience is to show deep disrespect and indignity to him. When the government of the people forces its citizens to act against their conscience, it demonstrates a deep disrespect and contempt for its people.

While we do not share with the Catholic Church the teaching on contraceptives, we do honor their right to practice their beliefs according to their conscience according to the First Amendment. We do stand with them entirely on the matter of abortion and abortifacients, which we hold to be the taking of human life.

The 'accommodation' for church institutions to opt out of paying for contraceptive services, which in many cases includes abortifacients, is not enough nor is it honest. The federal requirement that insurance companies provide these products at no cost is both coercive and dishonest. We are not so naïve as to think that the actual expense of these products will not be passed along in other ways to the ultimate end that the religious institution does indeed end up funding them.

Christians who own insurance companies will be forced to offer contraceptives and abortifacients against their conscience as well. Under the Affordable Health Care Act, every citizen will be required to purchase health insurance. This means that Christians will be forced to buy insurance from companies that will be forced to provide products and services such as contraceptives and abortifacients that violate their conscience.

We are deeply disturbed to hear that the President has 'floated the idea' that the Federal government might be willing to fund contraceptive coverage by health insurance providers. This is a blatant disregard for the conscience of U.S. citizens who fund the Federal government.

Furthermore, this mandate from the HHS is by no means an isolated incident but is part of a troubling trend in which the government is demanding religious institutions to either act against their conscience and teachings or abandon the good work that they are doing. Christian adoption agencies are being coerced into providing adoption services for same sex couples. Christian relief agencies are being coerced into hiring homosexuals. For reasons of conscience as informed by the Holy Scriptures, some agencies that refuse to comply have been forced to close and adults, children and our society suffers. Terrible precedents have been set and if allowed to stand, will forever alter the landscape of our society for the worse.

We are well aware that some claim that this issue is about women's rights. Clearly, this is not the issue although we are not naïve to think that politics and upcoming elections are not at play here. The issues however go much deeper than politics and special interest groups. They threaten the freedom of conscience that we have fought very hard for and that stands as one of the many outstanding features of our nation.

Senator, we implore you to consider the type of society that we all wish for our present and future. Do we want to live in a world where citizens are forced to either violate their religious conscience or suffer legal punishment? Do we want a society where the government threatens the very people who are responsible for doing so much good work through acts of charity and mercy? Do we want a society that is wiped clean of all religious connection, such as religious hospitals, schools and charitable organizations?

We appeal to you to work for the repeal of the HHS ruling and all government efforts that would force us to choose between God and man.

Sincerely,
Rev. Paul Nielsen

Easter Lilies: Deadline is April 17th

Please use the form attached to the newsletter to order an Easter Lily for the chancel. All plants may be taken home after the service on Easter. Please make all checks payable to: LCR and note "Lily." Lilies will be \$10 each and the deadline is Sunday, April 1st.

Holy Week Worship Schedule:

- **Maudy Thursday: April 5th** - The Commemoration of the Institution of the Lord's Supper.
Worship begins at **6:00pm.**
- **Good Friday: April 6th** - Commemoration of the Crucifixion of Christ.
Worship begins at **6:00pm.**

Easter Sunday Schedule: April 8th

Easter Breakfast served from 8:30am. – 9:30am.

(Men for serving and cooking should arrive by 7:45am.)

Sunday School – Easter Egg Hunt – 9:30am.

Worship begins at 10:00am.

Vacation Bible School- June 25th – 27th. 9:00am. - 11:30am.

RESERVE THE DATES NOW. A very exciting program is being prepared for all children from Preschool to 5th grades. Please see Sasha Fitzpatrick for more information.

Men's Breakfast Meeting - Saturday, April 14th. 8:00am. "WE THE PEOPLE" – Citizens of Two Kingdoms. Is civil disobedience ever an appropriate response for the Christian? Plan to join us for great food, fellowship and study.

Hayden's "Creation" – Colby / Kennebec Choir and Colby College Orchestra. April 27, 28, 29 at 7:30pm. – Lorimer Chapel. Free. An incredible telling of the creation account from Genesis 1. Participating in the choir are Sharon Conover, Rick Dostie and pastor Nielsen.

Adult Bible Study in April: "What about the ordination of women to the pastoral office?"

Have you ever wondered why some church have men and women pastors and other churches have only men pastors? Pastor Nielsen will lead a study on Sunday mornings that will explore the topic from the Scriptures. April 15,22,29. 8:45am.

Holy Week / Easter Ad to appear in Morning Sentinel and Kennebec Journal on Friday, March 30th.

THE BLESSINGS OF HOLY WEEK

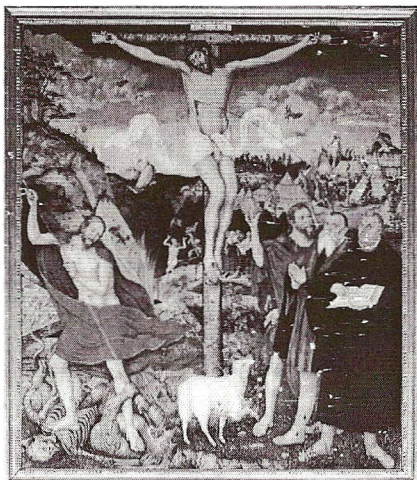
PALM SUNDAY The King comes to His Kingdom

HOLY THURSDAY The King's Banquet

GOOD FRIDAY The King is seated upon His throne

EASTER SUNDAY The King reigns

FOR YOU!



Palm Sunday 4/1: 10am.

Holy Thursday 4/5: 6pm.

Good Friday 4/6: 6pm.

Easter Sunday 4/8: 10am.

The Lutheran Church of the Resurrection

36 Cool St., Waterville, Me. 04901

872-5208 / lcr@myfairpoint.net / lcrwtvl.org



Monthly Worship

April 1, 2012

Palm Sunday

Psalm: 118:19-29 or 31:9-16

First Reading: Zechariah 9:9-12

Epistle: Philippians 2:5-11

Holy Gospel: Mark 14:1—15:47 or Mark 15:1-47 or John 12:20-43

April 8, 2012

The Resurrection of Our Lord

Psalm: 16

First Reading: Isaiah 25:6-9

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Holy Gospel: Mark 16:1-8

April 15, 2012

Second Sunday of Easter

Psalm: 148

First Reading: Acts 4:32-35

Epistle: 1 John 1:1—2:2

Holy Gospel: John 20:19-31

April 22, 2012

Third Sunday of Easter

Psalm: 4

First Reading: Acts 3:11-21

Epistle: 1 John 3:1-7

Holy Gospel: Luke 24:36-49

April 29, 2012

Fourth Sunday of Easter

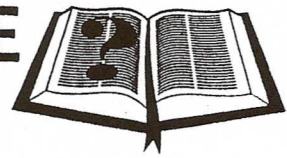
Psalm: 23

First Reading: Acts 4:1-12

Epistle: 1 John 3:16-24

Holy Gospel: John 10:11-18

BIBLE QUIZ



1. Whom does God tempt?

- A) all nonbelievers B) just murderers and other “hard core” sinners C) just the atheists
D) no one

2. Who was Esau's father?

- A) Issac B) Jacob C) Moses D)
Abraham

3. Which famous prophet had the vision of four wheels covered with eyes?

- A) Isaiah B) Jeremiah C) Daniel D)
Ezekiel

4. In what city was Peter lodging when Cornelius' servants visited him?

- A) Jerusalem B) Joppa C) Caesarea
D) Philippi

5. What was Martha's “beef” with her sister Mary?

- A) Mary sat like a guest instead of helping with the dinner preparations B) Mary nitpicked and complained about everything Martha was doing C) Mary was clumsy and more of a hindrance than a help
D) Mary claimed to be sick again so she could get out of helping

6. Who said this: “What is truth?”

- A) Peter B) Paul C) Pan D) Pilate

Answers on “Birthday” page



SAVE THIS DATE

Our sisters in Gorham Maine are hosting the ladies of the Northern Zone to a Spring Gathering on April 21, 2012.

The theme will be: "The Great Commission".

Additional details will follow shortly.

PLEASE NOTE:

I WILL BE OFF AGAIN ON A 'LITTLE JAUNT' TO WILLIAMSBURG AND THEN TEXAS AT THE END OF APRIL. SOOO, PLEASE GET YOUR MAY "NL" ITEMS TO ME BY APRIL 16TH.

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

SHARON

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

1} Prayer is not a "spare wheel" that you pull out when in trouble, but it is a "steering wheel" that directs the right path throughout.

2} So why is a car's WINDSHIELD so large and the rear view mirror so small? Because our PAST is not as important as our FUTURE. So, look ahead and move on.

3} Friendship is like a BOOK. It takes a few seconds to burn, but it takes years to write.

4} All things in life are temporary. If all is going well, enjoy it, it will not last forever. If things are going wrong, don't worry, they can't last long either.

5} Old friends are Gold! New friends are Diamonds! If you get a diamond, don't forget the gold. To hold a diamond you always need a base of gold.

6} Often when we lose hope and think this is the end, GOD smiles from above and says, "Relax, it's just a bend, not the end!"

7} When GOD solves your problems, you have faith in HIS abilities. When GOD doesn't solve your problems HE has faith in your abilities.

8} A blind person asked St. Anthony: "Can there be anything worse than losing eye sight?" He replied: "Yes, losing your vision."

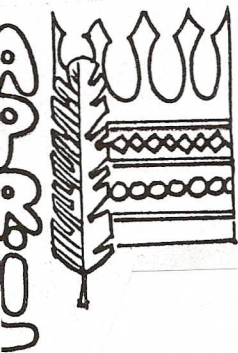
9} When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them, and sometimes, when you are safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you.

10} WORRYING does not take away tomorrow's TROUBLES, it takes away today's PEACE.

Message of the Robin

I have one preacher that I love better than any other on earth. It is my little tame robin, which preaches to me daily. I put his crumbs on the window sill. He hops on the sill and takes as much as he needs. From there he always flies to a little tree close by, lifts up his voice to God, sings his song of praise and gratitude, tucks his head under his wing and goes to sleep, leaving tomorrow to look after itself. He is the best preacher I have on earth.

Martin Luther



STEWARDSHIP

April 1

April 5
Maundy
Thurs.

April 6
Good
Friday

April 8
Easter
Sunday

April 15

April 22

April 29

Acolyte

Dan
Morren

Sarah
Kohl

Emily
Larsen

Dan
Morren

Sarah
Kohl

Emily
Larsen

Dan
Morren

Comm.
Assistant

Mike Hein

Chris
Batson

No
Comm.

Mark
Larsen

Brad
Fitz-
patrick

Eric Stout

Don Pryor

Ushers

Eric Stout
&
Tom
Heusers

Don Pryor
&
John
Gould

John
Ayotte
&
Jared
Goldsmith

Curt
Sliningeri
&
Glenn
Carlson

Finley
Edwards
&
John
Morren

Glenn
Carlson,
Jr.
&
Moe Cote

Bill
Jahnke
&
Seth
Carlson

Greeters

John
&
Karen
Morren

John
&
Esther
Gould

Karen
&
John
Ayotte

Dan
&
Sharon
Callahan

Robert
&
Francies
Sieber

Art
&
Gail
Carrano

Bill
&
Velta
Jahnke

Altar
Guild

Amy
Ouellette

Kitty
Carlson

Esther
Gould

LeeAnne
Larsen

Katie
Huesers

Avis
Grant

Flowers

Lent

Lent

Lent

Sharon
Klipp

Sharon
Klipp

George
&
Karen
Markham

George
&
Karen
Markham

Fellow-
ship

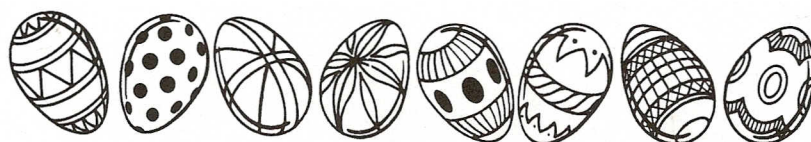
Kitty
Carlson

Easter
Breakfast

Sharon
Klipp

Michelle
Hein

Friend-
ship
Sunday
Pot Luck



The Lutheran Church of the Resurrection

April, 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Palm Sunday 8:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship <i>Easter Lily Deadline</i>	2 6:00 pm Elders	3	4	5 6:00 pm Maunday Thursday Worship	6 6:00 pm Good Fri- day Worship	7
8 Easter Sunday 8:30 am Breakfast 9:30 am Easter Egg Hunt 10:00 am Worship	9	10	11	12 9:00 am LWML	13	14 8:00am. Men's Breakfast meeting
15 2nd Sunday of Easter 8:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	16 6:00 pm Board For Youth 7:00 pm Church Council	17	18	19 10:30am. Adult Bible Study— Ezra / Nehe- miah	20	21
22 3rd Sunday of Easter 8:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	23 <i>May Newsletter Deadline</i>	24	25	26 10:30am. Adult Bible Study— Ezra / Nehe- miah	27 <i>Hayden's "Creation" - 7:30pm—Colby</i>	28
29 4th Sunday of Easter 8:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship <i>Hayden's "Creation" - 7:30pm</i>	30					



4/2	Terry Eldridge
4/3	Seth Carlson
4/7	Gail Carrano
4/9	Elizabeth Parks-Stamm
4/12	Sarah Nielsen
4/16	Art Carrano
4/28	Glenn Carlson, Jr.
4/29	Emily Larsen



Anniversaries

4/14	Sherman & Robin Hill
4/30	George & Karen Markham



4/5	Jenna Zahner
4/17	Darryll Zahner
4/19	Elizabeth Larsen
4/27	Taylan Thomas
	Tiana Thomas
4/29	Twila Kaska
4/??	Glenn Carlson, Jr.
	Gail Carrano

CONFIRMATION



ANNIVERSARIES

4/2	Evelyn Gaug
	Peter Gaug
4/6	Bonnie Mathieu
4/7	Darryll Zahner
4/12	Chris Batson
4/14	Sharon Klipp
4/30	Karen Morren
4/??	Yvonne Batson
	Dottie Evertson
	Vesta Holt

A Child's View of Thunderstorms

A little girl walked to and from school daily. Though the weather that morning was questionable and clouds were forming, she made her daily trek to school. As the afternoon progressed, the winds whipped up along with the lightning.

The mother of the little girl felt concerned that her daughter would be frightened as she walked home from school. She also feared the electrical storm might harm her child. Full of concern the mother got into her car and quickly drove along the route to her child's school. As she did, she saw her little girl walking along.

At each flash of lightning, the child would stop, look up, and smile. More lightning followed quickly and with each, the little girl would look at the streak of light and smile.

When the mother drew up beside the child, she lowered the window and called, "What are you doing?"

The child answered, "I'm trying to look pretty because God keeps taking my picture."

Bible Quiz Answers: 1) D – James 1:13-14
2) A – Genesis 25:21-25 3) D – Ezekiel 1:3, 16-18 4) B – Acts 10:5-6 5) A – Luke 10:39-40 6) D – John 18:38