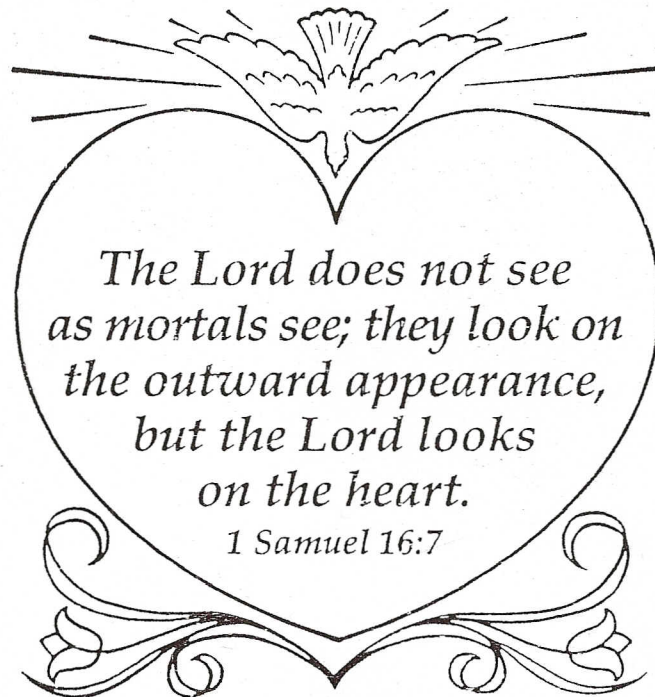


RESURRECTION NEWS



FEBRUARY 2012



Pastor's Letter

February, 2012

"Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled"

John 14:1-3

Funeral Sermon for John Poirier - 1/2/12

It was early April of 2011, Irma Mytinger, one of my parishioners, called and asked if I would be willing to visit a dear friend and neighbor of hers named John. At a recent visit to his doctor led the doctor prompted the doctor to suggest that John should speak to his priest. John hadn't had a priest for some time and Irma was asking if I would be his priest. I said, 'gladly.' I called. John said, 'I know who you are.' I invited myself over. John said, 'sure, come on over.' We introduced ourselves, had a cup of coffee and I said, "I hear you're afraid of dying." John said, "Everyone thinks that I'm afraid of dying, my doctor, my wife, my neighbor. I know I'm dying. I'm not afraid of death." I said, "okay then, what do you want to talk about now?" And we spent the rest of the visit talking about the places where he had been a cook and the Red Sox. Before leaving, we read John 14:1-3, the gospel reading we just heard, we prayed together and I left.

Jesus said, **"Let not your hearts be troubled."** And if JESUS says it, then, there's no discussion, no arguing, no doubts, **"let not your hearts be troubled!"** He is the One who came down from heaven, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and buried, who descended into hell, who rose again from the dead and who ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty. If JESUS says, **"let not your hearts be troubled,"** then **"let not your hearts be troubled!"**

The next Sunday, John was in worship here, and he didn't miss a Sunday unless he was too sick to come. In September he began attending my "Inquirers Class" where he was instructed in the faith that was given to him as a free gift in his baptism. He missed the last two classes because he was simply too sick to come. But he called and asked me to come by with the assignments that he had missed. I did. We talked about the Scriptures and I served Him the Lord's Supper, the body and blood of the One who said, **"Let not your hearts be troubled."** He said, "I am so glad that I have found my faith again."

We talked about Simeon and the "Nunc Dimittis" that we sing after the Lord's Supper every Sunday, from the 2nd chapter of Luke's gospel. There was this priest who served in the temple in Jerusalem named Simeon. Luke says, **"he was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel and the Holy Spirit was upon him."** The Holy Spirit revealed to Simeon that he would not see death before he saw the Lord's Christ.

The whole world had been waiting to see the Lord's Christ ever since Adam and Eve fell into sin and heard the Lord God promise that her offspring would crush the head of the serpent. Adam and Eve waited to see the Lord's Christ. But they died. Noah waited to see the Lord's Christ. But he died. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob waited to see the Lord's Christ. But he died. Moses and the people of Israel waited to see the Lord's Christ. But he died. David longed to see the Lord's Christ. But he died. All of the prophets prophesied that the day was coming when we will see the Lord's Christ. But they died. And the Holy Spirit told Simeon that he would not see death before he saw the Lord's Christ.

And every day Simeon would go to the Temple to perform his priestly duties, wondering, is this the day. And then one day, a young couple came into the temple with their 40 day old infant in their arms. And somehow Simeon knew. He went over to this couple, his name was Joseph and her name was Mary. And he took the child from their arms into his and he said, **"Lord, now let thou thy servant depart in peace, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in sight of all peoples. A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."** (Luke 2:22-32).

And as John received the bread in his hands, the bread that is the true body of the Lord's Christ, he was in the place of Simeon. He held the body and blood of the Lord's Christ, hidden under the bread and wine, but present nonetheless. **"Lord, now let thou thy servant depart in peace, for my eyes have seen your salvation."**

This is the Lord's Christ who took upon Himself the sin of the world, Adam and Eve's, Noah's, Abraham's, Isaac's, Jacob's, Moses and all the people of Israel, David's, yours, mine and John's.

It wasn't for His own good health that He went to the cross. He bore the punishment for our sin that we deserve. And on the 3rd Day, He rose from the dead that we may have what we don't deserve – life after death, even everlasting life in the glory of heaven.

“Believe in God. Believe also in me,” says the Lord's Christ. Don't kid yourself. He did not die and rise again for nothing. He died and rose FOR YOU. Don't throw His cross away! Don't take a chance that it was NOT FOR YOU. If Jesus says, **“Believe in God. Believe also in me”** then there's no discussion, no arguments, no doubts, **“Believe in God, believe also in Me!”**

John believed in God and in His Son, his Lord and Savior. John became a member of this congregation on December 18th, 2011. He wasn't here for that either because he was too sick. He called to let me know he couldn't make it. I said, 'that doesn't get you out of a thing.'

Just an hour and a half before he died, I asked him the following:

“Do you confess to almighty God that you are a poor, miserable sinner?” If so, nod your head. And he nodded his head.

“Do you confess to our merciful Father that you have sinned against Him in thought, word and deed?” If so, nod your head. And he nodded his head.

“Do you confess that you justly deserve His temporal and eternal punishment?” And he nodded his head.

“Do you believe that our Lord Jesus Christ died for you and shed His blood for you on the cross for the forgiveness of all your sins?” And he really nodded his head.

“Do you pray God, for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of His beloved God, to be gracious to you?” And he nodded his head.

And I said, “Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all of your sins. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in Me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again to take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.”

Just nine days after joining this congregation, John left us. Which is not to say that he is no longer a member of this congregation. But it is to say that for him, the congregation meets at a different place. Here, the average Sunday worship attendance is around 70 or 80. Now, he worships with the angels, the archangels and all the company of heaven where the average attendance is **“a great multitude that no one can number, from every nation, from all tribes, and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. All crying out, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne and to the Lamb!’ For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd and he will guide them to springs of living water.”**

The chef who cooked for at Margaret Chase Smith's home for Dwight Eisenhower and Edmund Muskie, sits now at the banquet table of God and feasts on **rich food and well aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.** And for all of the eating and drinking that goes on at this 'mountaintop banquet,' it is the Lord who does the swallowing. **“He will swallow up the covering that is cast over all people, the evil that is spread over all the nations. He will swallow up death forever.”** (Is.25:6-8).

“Let not your hearts be troubled.” Even in your sorrow and grief, give thanks to God for His Son, Jesus Christ who has overcome OUR death by HIS death on the cross, and opened OUR graves by HIS resurrection from the dead, and has opened the kingdom of heaven to all who believe.

What more is there to say? Only this: **“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”** (Rev.7:12).

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study - Poverty and Welfare – The Christian Perspective

Please plan to join us for a discussion of the Christian Perspective on Poverty and Welfare during Adult Bible Study on February 5, 12, 19. Pastor Nielsen will lead the discussion based on his presentation at Colby College last September. 8:45am.

Men's Breakfast Meeting - Saturday, February 11th – 8:00am. – 9:30am.

"The Christian And Politics" – Part 1. Politics and politicians -- there's seemingly no way to escape them. Though government and those who govern are often criticized by press and citizen alike, it is through government that God works His designs in this world. Join host Dr. Dale Meyer as he surveys government in history, the character of the United States as a nation, and the Christian's role as a citizen of any country.

Ash Wednesday - February 22nd - 7:00pm.

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.

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 preaching and prayer.

Our congregation has appointed 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 or Thursdays for six consecutive weeks. 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 surely 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 presents 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.

Youth Sledding Party! Sunday, Febuary 26th - 1:00pm.

Join us for an afternoon of sledding and hot chocolate at Glenn and Kitty Carlson's home – 999 China Rd., China. For more information, contact Glenn Carlson Jr. - 993-2076. Board for Youth.

Did You Know

That the congregation gave a total of \$31,000 to missions in 2011? 2012 begins the fifth year in our five-year commitment to increase missions giving by 1% per year from 10% to 15%. The Church Council is currently considering how to direct the missions giving of the congregation for 2012. We would welcome your suggestions and ideas. See Fernando Gouvea, Tom Huesers, Sharon Conover, Pat Kablitz, Glenn Carlson or Chris Batson.

LWML Distribution of Funds from the 2011 Christmas Craft Fair.

The total amount raised at this year's Christmas Craft Fair was a record \$2,580. Funds have been designated for distribution as follows:

LCMS World Relief - Malaria Project	\$250
Bethesda Lutheran Homes	\$100
Maine Children's Cancer Program	\$200
Lutheran Hour Ministries	\$100
Lutheran Social Services- New England	\$300
Central Maine Pregnancy Support Center	\$200
Boys and Girls Club	\$200
Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter	\$300
Maine Children's Home for Little Wanderers	\$200
Lutheran World Relief	\$200
Lutheran Assoc. of Missionaries / Pilots	\$130
Garuna Foundation (S.E. Asia)	\$200
Corina Batson (college scholarship)	\$100
Trinity Lutheran School – Minn.	\$100

Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter – Capital Campaign Pledge by LCR

Dear Rev. Nielsen,

Thank you for the recent contribution to the Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter's Rebuilding Lives Campaign from the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection. This letter serves as an official acknowledgement of the church's commitment of \$5,000 made on December 29th, 2011. We have credited \$2,905 paid on December 30, 2011 towards this pledge. We understand that the church intends to complete the remainder of this pledge by the end of 2013. The Church will be listed among other donors as The Lutheran Church of the Resurrection. Again, thank you very much for your generous commitment to the Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter's Rebuilding Lives Capital Campaign.

Sincerely,

Sheri Leahan – Campaign Associate

2012 Membership Directory Correction:

Add: Jane Kennedy 34 Frances St., Waterville, Me. 04901 #873-7445
Norah under Isaac and Dawn Kopecky

Change: Pat Kablitz phone number to: #874-7710
Code to Bode under Glenn and Krista Carlson
Brian to Bryan under Chuck and Heather Hillery

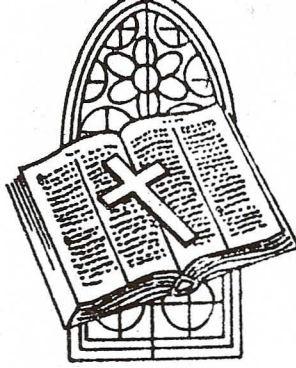
2012 Church Council Change:

Eric Stout has asked to step down from the Church Council due to new workplace assignments. Tom Huesers was appointed to be 'Head Trustee' at the January Church Council meeting.

The Lutheran Church of the Resurrection

February, 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 5th Sunday after Epiphany 8:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	6 6:00 pm Elders	7	8	9 9:00 am LWML	10	11 8:00am. Men's Breakfast Meeting
12 6th Sunday after Epiphany 8:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 Transfiguration of Our Lord 8:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	20 <i>March Newsletter Deadline</i> 6:00 pm Board For Youth 7:00 pm Church Council	21	22 Ash Wednesday 7:00 pm Worship	23	24	25
26 1st Sunday in Lent 8:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Wrrship 2:00pm. Sledding Party	27	28	29 6:00 pm Mid-Week Lent Service	1 10:30am. Mid-Week Lent Service		



Monthly Worship

February 5, 2012

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Psalm: 147:1-11

First Reading: Isaiah 40:21-31

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 9:16-27

Holy Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

February 12, 2012

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

Psalm: 30

First Reading: 2 Kings 5:1-14

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 10(19-30) 31-11:1

Holy Gospel: Mark 1:40-45

February 19, 2012

The Transfiguration of Our Lord

Psalm: 50:1-6

First Reading: 2 Kings 2:1-12 or Exodus 34:29-35

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 3:12-13 (14-18); 4:1-6

Holy Gospel: Mark 9:2-9

February 22, 2012

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 26, 2012

First Sunday in Lent

Psalm: 25:1-10

First Reading: Genesis 22:1-18

Epistle: James 1:12-18

Gospel: Mark 1:9-15



1. What clung to Paul as he carried logs for a fire?

A) tarantula B) viper C) river rat D) green locust

2. Who were the three friends of Job who dispersed faulty logic to him?

A) Barak, Ben, Ebenezer B) Sheba, Bichri, Rogelim C) Barzillai, Mahanaim, Shemei D) Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar

3. As Jesus was being arrested, one of the disciples chopped off what body part on the high priests servant?

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

4. 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

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?" Who was the first martyr?

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

Answers on "Birthday" page



STEWARDSHIP

February 5

February 12

February 19

February 22
(Ash
Wednesday)

February 26

Acolyte

Sarah Kohl

Emily Larsen

Dan Morren

Emily Larsen

Dan Morren

Comm.
Assistant

Jared
Goldsmith

Chris Batson

Mark Larsen

Mike Hein

Eric Stout

Ushers

Glenn Carlson
&
Robert Sieber

Curt Slininger
&
Glenn Carlson
Jr.

Don Pryor
&
Bill Jahnke

Chris Batson
&
John Ayotte

Jon Morren
&
John Gould

Greeters

Jared
&
Amanda
Goldsmith

Curt
&
Kim Slininger

Avis Grant
&
Anna Bisson

Chris
&
Yvonne
Batson

Christine
&
Tiana Thomas

Altar Guild

Esther Gould

LeeAnne
Larsen

Katie Huesers

Avis Grant

Avis Grant

Flowers

Doris Brossy

Fred
&
Amy Ouellette

Fred
&
Amy Ouellette

LENT
(no flowers)

LENT
(no flowers)

Fellowship

The Batsons

The
Fitzpatricks

The
Gorneaus

The
Markham



- 2/4 Darryll Zahner
 2/8 Curt Mueller
 2/10 Elizabeth Ann Larsen
 2/13 Ray Gorneau
 2/19 Brad Fitzpatrick
 2/22 Kay Gideon
 2/25 Jenna Zahner



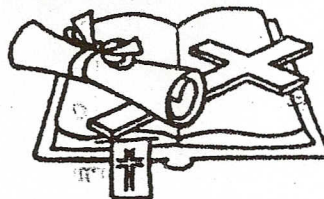
Anniversaries

- 2/6 Doris & Charles Brossy



- 2/1 Caden Fitzpatrick
 2/6 Karen Mueller
 2/9 Karen Morren
 2/13 Becky Cote
 2/14 Vesta Holt
 2/20 Jonathan Morren
 2/23 Robert Sieber
 2/25 LeeAnne Larsen
 2/?? Natalie Crowley

CONFIRMATION



ANNIVERSARIES

- 2/9 Fernando Gouvea
 Mari Gouvea
 2/13 Karen Mueller
 2/20 Arthur Conover
 Siena Fitzpatrick
 Elizabeth Larsen
 Taylan Thomas
 Tiana Thomas

A "paraprosdokian" is a figure of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected in a way that causes the reader to reframe or reinterpret the first part. Enjoy!

---Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

---We never really grow up, we only learn how to act in public.

---You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.

---There is a fine line between cuddling and holding someone down so they can't get away.

---Money can't buy happiness, but it sure makes misery easier to live with.

---A clear conscience is the sign of a fuzzy memory.

---Nostalgia isn't what it used to be.

---Where there's a will, I want to be in it.

Bible Quiz Answers: 1) B—Acts 28:3 2) D—Job 2:11; 42:7 3) B—John 18:10 4) A—Exodus 7:15-19 5) B—John 11:35 6) D—Luke 6:39