

RESURRECTION NEWS



MAY 2015



Pastor's Letter

May, 2015

"Individual Confession and Absolution" - Part II

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In the March 2015 Newsletter, I wrote about *"Individual Confession and Absolution."* I suspect that for many of us this was a new topic and may have been the first time you had ever heard of such a thing. As is often the case, new ideas take a while to sink in before we're ready to give them a try.

Last month, I wrote briefly about what *"Individual Confession and Absolution"* is and is not. 'Individual Confession' is the acknowledgement of a particular sin, out loud, in the presence of another person, usually the pastor. 'Individual Absolution' is nothing other than the Gospel of forgiveness applied individually to you for this particular sin.

This month, I'd like to write briefly about the great value of *"Individual Confession and Absolution."*

The power of sin to do harm and create trouble is well known to anyone who has a beating heart. I can think of three ways that sin does its' damage. Sometimes it's 'gross sin,' that is blatantly evil and causes both bodily and/or emotional harm to another person and yourself. But sometimes it's as subtle as a careless word spoken at the wrong time or in the wrong tone of voice that caused hurt feelings even though there was no harm intended. And sometimes it's a sinful habit(s) that just won't go away and leave you alone no matter how much you tell it to.

In addition to bodily harm and broken relationships and destructive habits, sin also dumps a heavy load of GUILT wherever it strikes. And GUILT is a debilitating thing.

I realize that we have been conditioned to deal with GUILT in a number of unbiblical and unproductive ways. Justifying our bad behavior is the most common approach to dealing with GUILT. "Don't worry. There's nothing to feel GUILTY about." Hmmm.... Not helpful. Typically, attempts to escape our GUILT apart from the Gospel just lead to more sin and more guilt.

If nothing else, maybe the deeper lesson here is that everyone agrees that GUILT needs to be dealt with. The only question is, 'how?'

The great value of *"Individual Confession and Absolution"* is that it deals with the GUILT caused by our sin with the power of God. I'm not sure I can pin this down as precisely as I'd like to, but there is something powerful in confessing the individual sin that has dumped its load of GUILT on me out loud, and hearing the absolution come back to me out loud, that not only forgives my sin, but that also lifts the GUILT. I'm not sure why the 'out loud' is important, but it is. *(I'm thinking that it's connected to the power of the 'spoken word' of God. Just as God's Word is powerful to create and strengthen faith when it is 'spoken/preached,' so also is our confession of sin is powerful when it is spoken out loud. Don't hold me to that quite yet. But I do think that it is an idea worth testing.)*

Set free from GUILT, we are now set free to address the harm that we have caused by our sin, apologize to the one we've harmed by our careless words and even break free of our destructive habits and amend our sinful lives. Wounds healed, relationships renewed, lifestyles redirected. There's value in that.

Individual confession and absolution is available by appointment.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Nielsen

Seeking to Serve...notes from a Deaconess student

Dear Brothers and Sisters of LCR,

Another month has zoomed past! By the time you see this I will be about finished with the first of my two "spring" classes. I have had much to digest, learn and respond to in this church history course. This week I need to write a paper describing the background or history of five religious societies in our community. I also have to take my final test for the class.

A summary response I wrote during my second week of this course after reading "The Freedom of the Christian" by Martin Luther concerns faith and love:

Faith, or trust, is freely given to us because of God's love for us in becoming man (humbling himself) in Jesus Christ. When this faith is given to us through the Word coming to us, most clearly so in baptism, that Word who also is Jesus Christ, gives us all that is his ("the Blessed Exchange") and takes all of our sin and brokenness himself. In giving us himself and all that is his, we have his love which is such that we, too, will give ourselves for our neighbors through the power of the Holy Spirit. "We conclude, therefore, that a Christian lives not in himself, but in Christ and in his neighbor...He lives in Christ through faith, in his neighbor through love. By faith he is caught up beyond himself into God. By love he descends beneath himself into his neighbor" (p. 309, Three Treatises). "In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another" (1 John 4:10-11).

The fourth week I had to write a bit about "The priesthood of all believers" which we addressed at LCR in the fall Sunday School series on vocations.

Luther's concept "the priesthood of all believers" encompasses all who have been called to faith in Christ and share "one body and one Spirit...one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is over all and through all and in all" (Ephesians 4:4-6). We have different offices which "must benefit and serve every other...so that in this way many kinds of work may be done for the bodily and spiritual welfare of the community" (Three Treatises, p. 15). Depending on our particular office, we may cook meals, prescribe medicine, apprehend speeders, teach children, answer telephones, or offer the sacraments to God's people. Still, we all "are a chosen race, a royal priesthood...that [we] may proclaim the excellencies of him who called [us] out of darkness into his marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9), pray for each other, offer God's forgiveness, and even baptize in his name.

Under his mercy,
Sharon M. Conover

MEN'S BREAKFAST MEETING: SATURDAY, MAY 9TH 8:00AM.

Plan to join us for the final Men's Breakfast of the season. Great food, fellowship and discussion around God's Word and how we conform our daily lives to it.

SPRING WORK DAY! SATURDAY, MAY 9TH – 9:30AM. – NOON.

Please set aside the morning to join us in getting the building ready for the summer. There are several interior projects that we must complete. The Trustees.

RECOGNIZING 5 YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE - RICK DOSTIE, ORGANIST

It was on May 9th, 2010 that Rick Dostie began as our organist. He has been a great blessing to the congregation and our worship. In five years, Rick has only missed one Sunday, and that was only because the snow was so deep he couldn't get out of his driveway. Rick has a Bachelor of Arts *cum laude* degree from Middlebury College, Vermont. He is currently the music director of the Penobscot Bay Singers Belfast and the accompanist for the Colby-Kennebec Choral Society. Thank you, Rick!

THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD - WORSHIP SERVICE - 7:00PM. MAY 14TH.

"The Ascension of Our Lord" is a one of the major celebrations in the life of the Church. It is 'good, right and salutary' that we gather for worship on this holy day. Please set aside May 14th to join us in "Service of Prayer and Preaching" at 7:00pm.

WE RECOGNIZE OUR GRADUATING SENIORS: SUNDAY, MAY 17TH.

Congratulations to **Taylan Thomas** who will graduate from Waterville High School. He plans to attend Thomas College in the Fall, majoring in Computer Science.

SUMMER SERVICE SCHEDULE BEGINS SUNDAY, MAY 24TH

Worship will begin at 9:00am.

Sunday School will be in recess for the summer.

HIGHER THINGS YOUTH GROUP CAR WASH - SUNDAY, MAY 31ST AFTER WORSHIP.

For their final fund raiser in preparation for their trip to the Higher Things Conference in Michigan in July, the Higher Things Youth Group would like to wash your car after worship. Free will donations will be accepted.

THANK YOU FROM SEMINARIAN ALEX SABOL

Pastor Nielsen,

Thank you and your congregation for your continued support of my seminary education. I was able to use your money in order to pay my bill in full, thus I was able to lower my loan total for the year. I cannot fully express my thanks. Given that I am looking at a considerable amount of student loan debt after I graduate, it is such a relief that I am able to lessen that burden thanks to your generosity. I pray that you will rejoice with full voice this Easter and that we, with all confidence, will be able to boldly proclaim, HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA! Christ's blessings to all of you and again, thank you for your continued prayers and support.

Christ's Blessings,

Alexander W. Sabol

THANK YOU FROM THE GARUNA FOUNDATION

Dear Pastor Nielsen and Mission Partners at LCR:

Greetings to you in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior!

On behalf of the Garuna Foundation, I want to thank you for your very generous contribution of \$1,080 to sponsor school enrollment for three children in Cambodia. Your gracious contribution will be used to help bring grace, mercy and compassion (Garuna) of Jesus Christ to the multitudes of those in Thailand, Cambodia and surrounding countries who have not yet had an opportunity to hear of His precious love and forgiveness.

It was a great blessing for me to be with you this past weekend. It was a great joy to have time with Pastor Nielsen and Debbie, to meet with the Mission Board, to be with you for Bible Class and Worship, and see some beautiful scenery and eat some delicious Maine lobster. Thank you very much for your dedicated and faithful support of the Garuna Kids' ministry. You are certainly making a significant difference in the lives of many.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Jeffery J. Ehlers, Chairman

FOLLOW-UP TO MISSION SUNDAY: GARUNA KIDS' SPONSORSHIP

"Mission Sunday" on March 22nd was a wonderful celebration of the work that the Holy Spirit is accomplishing throughout the world through Christ's Holy Church. Our mission guest, Rev. Jeff Ehlers of the Garuna Foundation did a wonderful job, telling us about the exciting work that is being done in South-East Asia, particularly the Garuna Kids project. Garuna is building and staffing Lutheran Schools in Cambodia at an increasing pace. Many children who do not have the financial means to attend school are being given the opportunity to do so through Garuna Kids scholarships. A full year's sponsorship for one child is \$360. If you would like to sponsor a child to attend a Lutheran school in Cambodia, forms are available on the table in the Narthex, or go to the Garuna web-site: www.garuna.org

MEMORIAL GIFTS IN MEMORY OF HERB SCHATNER – *(Undesignated Memorial Fund)*

David and Jacqueline Schartner

Lois Graia

Alice and Eugene Lefabvre

MEMORIAL GIFTS IN MEMORY OF DANNY MORREN – *(Higher Things Youth Fund)*

Peter and Lois Doran

Gail and Art Carrano

Betsy and Ray Gorneau

Sharon Klipp

Avis Grant

Mark and Lee Anne Larsen

Pat Kablitz

Moe and Becky Cote

Paul and Erika Irish

Carol Rizzi

Suzanne Loper

James Wilde

Edward and Jeanette Morren

A and R Reeve

Paula Kalafsky

Eric and Kay Maiwald

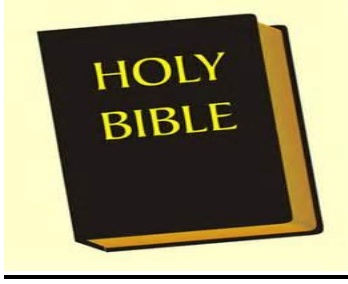
Marcia and John Morren Jr.

The Irish Family

The Cockey Family

Lois Espenshade

Roxane Halter



Monthly Worship

May 3, 2015

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Psalm: 150

First Reading: Acts 8:26-40

Epistle: 1 John 4:1-11 (12-21)

Holy Gospel: John 15:1-6

May 10, 2015

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Psalm: 96

First Reading: Acts 10:34-48

Epistle: 1 John 5:1-8

Holy Gospel: John 15:9-17

May 17, 2015

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Psalm: 1

First Reading: Acts 1:12-26

Epistle: 1 John 5:9-15

Holy Gospel: John 16:11b-19

May 24, 2015

The Day of Pentecost

Psalm: 139:1-12 (13-16)

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Epistle: Acts 2:1-21

Holy Gospel: John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

May 31, 2015

The Holy Trinity

Psalm: 29

First Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8

Epistle: Acts 2:14a, 22-36

Holy Gospel: John 3:1-17

BIBLE QUIZ

1. When the Jewish exiles returned home and started to rebuild the temple, what did their nearby neighbors do?

A) helped them with supplies and labor B) gave them their cedar trees for a low price C) raided their camp for many months D) frustrated every effort through a nasty letter-writing campaign

2. What was King Saul's chief reason for hating David?

A) revenge B) jealousy C) rivalry D) anger

3. What miraculously filled all the poor widow's many borrowed jars?

A) gold B) coins C) oil D) flour

4. How did Moses destroy the golden calf?

A) he broke it up into many pieces and buried them deep in the earth B) he burned, crushed it, mixed it with water and forced the Israelites to drink it C) he saved it as an example of supreme disobedience to the Lord God Almighty D) he melted it down and used the gold for holy articles in the tabernacle

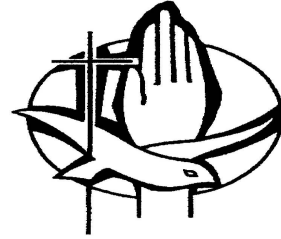
5. What does the name *Barnabas* mean?

A) ðson of thunder/noiseö B) ðson of consolation/encouragementö C) ðson of happiness/joyfulö D) ðson of sorrow/sadnessö

6. Who said this: "Nevertheless, not my will, but thine be done"?

A) Isaiah B) Jeremiah C) Jesus D) Paul

Answers on "Birthday" page



CONFIRMATION ANNIVERSARIES

5/1 Brian Watson
 5/3 Don Pryor
 5/4 Emily-Lynn Carlson
 5/15 Kitty Carlson
 5/16 Bonnie Mathieu
 Kenneth Zahner
 5/22 Sasha Fitzpatrick
 5/23 Anna Bisson
 Michelle Hein
 5/24 Amanda Goldsmith
 5/27 Christine Thomas
 5/30 Ted Evertsen
 5/31 Jared Goldsmith

5/8 Moe Cote
 5/10 Angie Carlson
 Amanda Goldsmith
 Jared Goldsmith
 Matthew Esculano
 5/11 Avis Grant
 5/18 Peter Doran
 5/31 Lee Anne Larsen
 5/?? Lois Doran



5/11 Avis Grant
 5/17 Callum Goldsmith
 5/?? Gail Carrano
 Richard Dostie



5/4 Gail & Art Carrano
 5/5 Moe & Becky Cote
 5/7 Pat & Jeffery Kablitz

Bible Quiz Answers

1. D Ezra 4:4-24
2. B 1 Samuel 18:8-9
3. C 2 Kings 4:3-7
4. B Exodus 32:20
5. B Acts 4:36
6. C Luke 22:42

“Helpful” Prayer

Timmy had been misbehaving in children’s church and was isolated from the other children for a time-out. After a while he emerged and informed his teacher that he had thought it over and then prayed about it.

“Fine,” said his pleased teacher. “If you ask God to help you not to misbehave, He will help you.”

“Oh, I didn’t ask Him that,” said Timmy, “I asked Him to help you put up with me.”

Stewardship May, 2015

	<u>May 3</u>	<u>May 10</u>	<u>May 17</u>	<u>May 24</u>	<u>May 31</u>
Acolyte	Jacob Huesers	Allison Farr	Mia Fitzpatrick	Emmy Carlson	Caden Fitzpatrick
Comm. Assistant	Brian Watson	Steve Love	Brad Fitzpatrick	Glenn Carlson	Mike Hein
Ushers	Chris Batson & Moe Cote	Tom Heusers & Brad Grierson	Brian Watson & Bill Jahnke	Glenn Carlson, Jr. & Seth Carlson	John Ayotte & Brad Fitzpatrick
Greeters	Steve Love & Avis Grant	Mark & Lee Anne Larsen	Peter & Lois Doran	Peter & Evelyn Gaug	Sharon Klipp & Pat Kablitz
Altar Care	Esther Gould	Lee Anne Larsen	Katie Heusers	Avis Grant	Julie & Sarah Kohl
Flowers	Avis Grant	Avis Grant	John & Karen Ayotte	John & Karen Ayotte	Mike & Michelle Hein
Fellowship	The Ouellettes	OPEN	Sharon Klipp	OPEN	OPEN

The Lutheran Church of the Resurrection

Calendar of Events

May, 2015

Week of May 3rd

Sunday - 5/3	8:45am.	Sunday School / Adult Bible Study
	10:00am.	Worship
Monday - Wednesday		Pastor Nielsen attending District Pastor's Conf. – Mass.
Thursday – 5/7	10:30am.	Mid-Week Bible Study - Luke
Saturday - 5/9	8:00am.	Men's Breakfast Meeting
	9:30am.	Spring Clean Up Day at Church

Week of May 10th

Sunday - 5/10	8:45am.	Sunday School / Adult Bible Study
	10:00am.	Worship - Mother's Day
	11:30am.	Sr. Youth Group Meeting
Monday - 5/11	6:00pm.	Board for Youth Meeting
	7:00pm.	Church Council Meeting
Wednesday – 5/13	6:30pm.	Board for Missions
Thursday - 5/14	7:00pm.	Ascension of Our Lord - Worship

Week of May 17th

Sunday - 5/18	8:45am.	Sunday School / Adult Bible Study
	10:00am.	Worship
Thursday - 5/21	10:30am.	Mid-Week Bible Study – Luke

Week of May 24th

Sunday - 5/24	<u>9:00am.</u>	Worship - Summer Worship Schedule Begins
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Week of May 31st

Sunday - 5/31	<u>9:00am.</u>	Worship
	10:30am.	Sr. Youth Car Wash after worship

Lutheran Church of the Resurrection
36 Cool St.
Waterville, ME 04918

