

RESURRECTION NEWS



NOVEMBER 2012



Pastor's Letter

November, 2012

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Allow me to offer a few words on a couple of unconnected thoughts rattling around in my head.

The joy of the daily routine

For a long time now, I have had the habit of spending 45 to 60 minutes before breakfast in the morning in the Scriptures and prayer. I try not to read and think about the texts for Sunday's sermon. This is my time and I want to keep it separate from the job. My prayers always include the members of the congregation, individually and collectively, along my family and any other concerns that come to mind. It's at the point now where the whole day feels out of sync if I have to skip this. I know that it is not possible for everyone; jobs, schedules, family demands, children may simply don't allow for it. I'm not saying that everyone should do what I do.

I left for S.E. Asia fully armed with my "Treasury of Daily Prayer" downloaded onto my new Kindle Fire. I fully intended to continue my daily routine of morning devotions and prayer while away. Truth is, it didn't happen. Not once. I wasn't in control of the day's agenda and schedule and so I didn't have the freedom to make the time. Twice, on 'free days,' Alan and I sung "Matins" together along with the appointed scriptures readings and prayed together in our hotel room before breakfast. Those were the only two days that began with a proper sense of order and peace.

Towards the end of the trip, I began to crave a meal without white rice and the return to my morning routine. Once again I am reminded that a daily routine is a good thing, especially if we can shape that routine to include a time in the Word and prayer. Several of you have told me that you have either established or are trying to work a time in the Word and prayer into your daily routine, either together with spouse or alone, and how good it is when it happens. I couldn't agree with you more.

Same sex marriage proposition

November 6th is Election Day. Politics is in the air we breathe these days. Here in Maine, we will once again have the chance to express our conscience on the issue of homosexuality and marriage through the voting process. I've listened to most of the opinions on this issue both pro and con. The persuasion is either by guilt or fear. Guilt: 'How could I be so cruel as to deny the right to marry to two people who truly love each other?' Fear: 'If this becomes law there will be many hard legal consequences for individuals and organizations that refuse to support it.'

Somehow, guilt and fear seem like unfit motivators for the Christian. Christ has removed our guilt with His cross and dissolved our fear by His resurrection. Our conscience is formed by the Scriptures which reveal the truth. We are motivated to live according to the truth in love. We love one another as God loves us. With the love of God, we love our neighbor. It is unloving to call something right that God's Word calls wrong. It's deceptive, harmful, unloving.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Nielsen

Men's Network Breakfast - Saturday, November 10th - 8:00am. "Running The Race" - I

What do sports and the bible have in common? Check out these familiar verses from the Bible: "I press on toward the goal to win the prize." "You were running a good race. Who cut in on you?" "In a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize." "I have fought the good fight." In this study, we will examine how our love of sports can help sharpen the focus of our daily race in this life of faith. Breakfast is served at 8:00am. Please join us. (Sponsored by the Board of Elders)

Daylight Savings Time Ends – Saturday, November 3rd.

Remember to turn your clock BACK an hour before going to bed on Saturday night.

All Saints Sunday - November 4th - WE REMEMBER YOUR SAINTS, DEAR LORD.



God's gracious love in Jesus Christ ignites the thankful acclamations of the saints in every time and place. In gratitude saints remember God's countless blessings in every generation. It is God who has blessed us with faith. It is God who sustains and nurtures the lives of the saints through Word and Sacrament. It is God who continually affords grace and mercy to the saints in every age. Those who have died in the faith live forever in the perpetual, unchanging Light of Christ. Christ is the sole source of Light for the New Jerusalem; He is the Dayspring, the bright and glorious Morning Star whose glory enlightens the minds and hearts of His Saints with His life-saving Gospel. The congregation is invited to bring cut flowers to lay at the altar in memory of friends and loved ones who have gone before in the Christian faith. Flowers will also be available in the Narthex.

Last Sunday of the Church Year - November 25th

The Church Year calendar revolves around the Son rather than the sun. The "Last Sunday of the Church Year" is a time to focus on the end of this "old age" and the inauguration of the "age to come." This year, we will once again use the service called "Evening Prayer" on the Last Sunday of the Church Year. Though this is a setting for 'evening' worship, the theme of fading light and approaching darkness marks the theme of the "Last Sunday" well. "Evening Prayer" is a beautiful setting for worship.

Annual Voters Meeting of the Congregation - Sunday, December 9th – After Worship

Please plan to be present for this important annual meeting of the congregation. Agenda items include various Board and Committee reports, 2013 budget recommendation, election of Church Council officers. The Church Council will also present two important motions for the congregation to consider and vote upon: (1) Continuation of the current level of Missions Giving at 15% of offerings for another year and the formation of a new 'Board for Missions' to oversee and promote the mission work of the congregation; and (2) Purchase of a new organ. All communicant members of the congregation who have not yet done so, will be asked to sign the Constitution and By-Laws before the voting meeting begins. A free pizza party will precede the meeting.

The Power of Music

"I firmly believe, nor am I ashamed to assert, that next to theology no art is equal to music; for it is the only one, except theology, which is able to give a quiet and happy mind. This is manifestly proved by the fact that the devil, the author of depressing care and distressing disturbances, almost flees from the sound of music as he does from the word of theology. This is the reason why the prophets practiced music more than any art and did not put their theology into geometry, into arithmetic, or into astronomy, but into music, intimately uniting theology and music, telling the truth in psalms and songs. (Martin Luther, "Letter of 1528-1530" LW vol. 49 p. 428).

Murray sees Lutheran Malaria Initiative impact in Tanzania

By Paula Schlueter Ross

Back from a weeklong visit to Tanzania, East Africa, the Rev. Dr. Scott R. Murray says he was "blessed" to see how efforts to eradicate malaria in Africa are making progress. In that country, malaria deaths are down by 60 percent, according to officials at the Tanzania Ministry of Health, which Murray visited as part of a Lutheran Malaria Initiative (LMI) delegation.

Murray, senior pastor of Memorial Lutheran Church in Houston and LCMS fifth vice-president, represented LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison on the LMI portion of his Aug. 8-16 trip to Tanzania. The LMI delegation included eight U.S. Senate staff members along with representatives from the United Nations Foundation; The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria; and Lutheran World Relief, Baltimore.

(From "Reporter Online". For more on this story, go to <http://reporter.lcms.org/pages/rpage.asp?NavID=20443>)

HHS mandate: An attack on all people of faith

By Matthew C. Harrison and Samuel Rodriguez (This op-ed letter was published in the Washington Post on August 9, 2012)

Flags and signs are held during a rally for religious freedom organized in part by the Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia in front of Independence Hall Friday, March 23, 2012 in Philadelphia. The rally was in objection to the Health and Human Service mandate that private health care cover women's contraception. (AP)For months, this nation has been debating the coming HHS mandate, but last week, this mandate became a reality and the end of our religious freedom in this country has begun. The mandate, would effectively force religious institutions, as well as businesses and organizations, to pay for services such as contraception, sterilization, and abortion-inducing drugs that are in direct conflict with their deeply held beliefs. The mandate will ask them to make the impossible choice between following the letter of the law and operating within the framework of their religious tenets.

While religious institutions have one year to comply, phase one of this mandate begins now as family businesses and organizations had to comply by August 1. Already, some are going to court to fight this mandate - and in one case so far, winning - to ensure they are not forced to abandon their right of conscience and pay for services that violate their faith.

While much of the media coverage has painted this issue as one that impacts only Catholics, it affects all people of faith. As a representatives of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod community and the evangelical Christian community, and as fellow Americans of faith, we stand in solidarity with our Catholic brothers and sisters against this mandate. This particular issue is greater than our religious divisions; instead, it goes to the very heart of religious freedom in this nation.

We believe the government has overstepped its bounds. This controversy is not merely about birth control and the Catholic Church's views on it. The mandate stands as a de facto requirement to sacrifice conscience and faith on the altar of political expediency. This egregious violation of our most fundamental right attempts to contextualize a new narrative where our rights no longer stand endowed by our creator, but rather from ideologues on Capitol Hill.

Although our respective faiths do not have identical views on contraception, we have a moral issue with this requirement that religious institutions must cover products and services to which they have religious objections, including abortion-inducing drugs and related medications.

As we enter the next phase of this dangerous mandate, it becomes even more disturbing. The exemption provided for religious institutions narrowly specifies what constitutes a “religious employer.” In order to pass the strict guidelines of the exemption, our services as religious institutions must be provided primarily to people of our faith, and we must primarily employ people of our faith to perform these services. Most religious organizations, including hospitals, social services organizations, publishing houses, schools and more, will fail to meet the required provisions and will thus be subject to this mandate.

For the first time in our country’s history, we will have to impose religious tests on those we employ and those we help, in order to maintain our status as exempt religious employers.

A multitude of religious organizations will be forced to carefully consider if they can in good conscience continue to provide services because they cannot and will not go against their fundamental convictions to provide service to all regardless of whether those served share their beliefs. The choice made by some of those organizations to discontinue providing services will be a devastating blow to the people and families in need of the valuable help that those religious organizations provide. Imagine the scarcity of basic human services and care if scores of faith-based service providers were forced to cease their services.

Nursing homes, hospices, counseling and rehabilitation centers, after-school programs, food and shelter efforts for the poor, homes of refuge for victims of violence and abuse, hospitals, schools, thrift stores and more would no longer be able to contribute to our society. The care provided by these organizations, which are currently operating out of faith communities in every state, city and town, provides a vital web of life-sustaining support for people in need.

Religious freedom is a right guaranteed to every American by the First Amendment—set forth by the founders of our great nation. The state cannot take them away. We are committed to working to ensure that we remain free to practice the teachings of our faith. Freedom of religion extends beyond the practice of our faith in houses of worship. We must be free to put our faith into action in the public square.

In vivid ways, it is obvious how committed people of many faiths—citizens of this country—have contributed to the well-being of our nation in countless ways from its earliest days. The founders understood how utterly essential the free practice of our corresponding faiths was to the success of our national enterprise. Hence, accommodations and modifications cannot redeem this direct violation of our most sacred right. Only a complete repeal of the aforementioned mandate can begin to reconcile the damage created by the violation of our most cherished trust. In such a trust Caesar will never demand from us what only belongs to God.

People of faith in this country must streamline our efforts to push back the end of religious freedom, which started officially on August 1. We need to stand up and tell the federal government that religious people determine what violates their consciences, not bureaucrats. We have fought for a free conscience in this country, and we will continue this fight to insure that it remains.

The Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison is the 13th president of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. The Rev. Samuel Rodriguez is president of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference. They are board members of Conscience Cause .



Monthly Worship

November 4, 2012

All Saints Day

Psalm: 149

First Reading: Revelation 7: (2-8) 9-17

Epistle: 1 John 3:1-3

Holy Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

November 11, 2012

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm: 146

First Reading: 1 Kings 17:8-16

Epistle: Hebrews 9:24-28

Holy Gospel: Mark 12:38-44

November 18, 2012

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm: 16

First Reading: Daniel 12:1-3

Epistle: Hebrews 10:11-25

Holy Gospel: Mark 13:1-13

November 25, 2012

Last Sunday of the Church Year

Psalm: 93

First Reading: Isaiah 51:4-6 or Daniel 7:9-10, 13-13

Epistle: Jude 20-25 or Revelation 1: 4b-8

Holy Gospel: Luke 19: 28-40 or Luke 21:25-36

BIBLE QUIZ

1. Why was Jesus dismayed in regard to the epileptic boy who sometimes fell into a fire or water during a seizure?

A) the disciples had first tried to heal the boy but failed due to their lack of faith B) there were so many demons in the boy that it was overwhelming C) the Pharisees were using the poor boy as a means to trick Jesus again D) the crowd just wanted to see Jesus perform another miracle for "entertainment"

2. Where did the prophet Samuel find David so he could be anointed the next king?

A) eating dinner with his father and brothers B) eating dinner by himself C) shepherding his father's sheep with his brothers D) shepherding his father's sheep by himself

3. For seven years, what did God condemn King Nebuchadnezzar to because of his pride?

A) he became a POW to the hated enemy Egyptians B) he became a slave among his own people C) he became like a wild animal and ate grass D) he became a bed-ridden invalid who never left his palace

4. What was the early Christian sect called?

A) the Way B) the Truth C) the Life D) the Jesusonians

5. Why do we need to put on the whole armor of God?

A) so we can correctly point out the errors and injustices around us B) so we can better pray and focus on Godly matters C) so we can withstand in the evil day D) so we can be guaranteed of getting into heaven

6. Who said this: "For whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap"?

A) Jesus B) Jacob C) Samuel D) Paul

Answers on "Birthday" page



- 11/3 Jon Morren
- 11/6 Avis Grant
- 11/10 Sherman Hill
- 11/13 Fernando Gouvea
- 11/23 Peter Doran
David Leigh



- 11/7 David & Kay Gideon
- 11/18 Peter & Evelyn Gaug



- 11/27 Corina Batson
- 11/?? Krista Carlson
Sarah Kohl



ANNIVERSARY

- 11/14 Sharon Conover
Michael Hein

SUNDAY CLOTHES

A little boy was walking down a dirt road after church one Sunday afternoon when he came to a crossroads where he met a little girl coming from the other direction.

"Hi, said the little girl.

"Where are you going?" asked the little boy.

"I've been to church this morning and I'm on my way home." answered the little girl.

"I'm also on my way home from church. Which church do you go to ?" asked the little boy.

"I go to the Catholic church at the top of the hill," replied the little girl. "What about you?"

"I go to the Lutheran church back down the road." answered the little boy.

They discovered that they were both going in the same direction, so they decided that they would walk together. They came to a low spot in the road where spring rains had partially flooded the road, so there was no way they could get across without getting wet.

"If I get my new Sunday dress wet, my Mom's going to skin me alive." said the little girl.

My Mom'll tan my hide too, if I get my new Sunday suit wet." said the little boy.

"I'll tell you what I think I'll do," said the girl. "I'm gonna pull off all my clothes and hold them over my head and wade across."

"That's a good idea," said the boy. "I'm going to do the same thing with my suit."

So they both undressed and waded across to the other side without getting their clothes wet. They were standing there in the sun waiting to drip dry before putting their clothes back on, when the boy finally remarked: "You know, I never realized before just how much difference there really is between a CATHOLIC and a LUTHERAN!!!

Bible Quiz Answers:

- 1) A Matthew 17:16-20
- 2) D 1Samuel 16:11
- 3) C Daniel 4:25
- 4) A Acts 9:2
- 5) C Ephesians 6:13
- 6) D Galatians 6:7

The Lutheran Church of the Resurrection

Calendar of Events November, 2012

Week of November 1st

Thursday - 11/1 10:30am. - Mid-Week Bible Study - The Gospel of Luke
7:00pm. - Inquirers Class

Week of November 4th

Sunday - 11/4 8:45am. - Sunday School / Adult Bible Study
10:00am. - Worship
6:00pm. - The Catechumenate

Monday - 11/5 6:00pm. - Elders Meeting

Thursday - 11/8 9:00am. - LWML Meeting
10:30am. - Mid-Week Bible Study - The Gospel of Luke
7:00pm. - Inquirers Class

Saturday - 11/10 8:00am. - Men's Breakfast Meeting - Fellowship Hall

Week of November 11th

Sunday - 11/11 8:45am. - Sunday School / Adult Bible Study
10:00am. - Worship

Thursday - 11/15 10:30am. - Mid-Week Bible Study - The Gospel of Luke
7:00pm. - Inquirers Class

Week of November 18th

Sunday - 11/18 8:45am. - Sunday School / Adult Bible Study
10:00am. - Worship
6:00pm. - The Catechumenate

Monday - 11/19 6:00pm. - Board for Youth Meeting
7:00pm. - Church Council Meeting

Week of November 25th

Sunday - 11/25 8:45am. - Sunday School / Adult Bible Study
10:00am. - Worship

Thursday - 11/29 10:30am. - Mid-Week Bible Study - The Gospel of Luke
7:00pm. - Inquirers Class

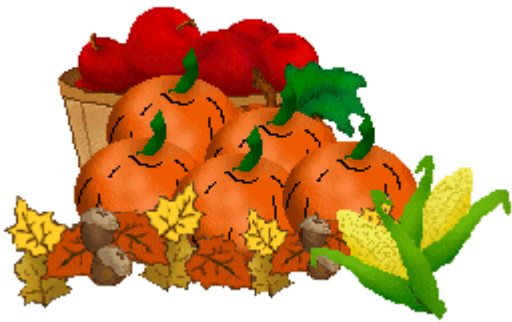
A Look Ahead to December

12/1 9:00am. - LWML Christmas Craft and Bake Fair
12/2 & 16 6:00pm. - The Catechumenate
12/9 11:30am. - Annual Voters Meeting

Stewardship For November

	<u>November 4</u>	<u>November 11</u>	<u>November 18</u>	<u>November 25</u>
<u>Acolyte</u>	Emily Larsen	Sarah Kohl	Dan Morren	Jacob Huesers
<u>Communion Assistant</u>	Glenn Carlson	Jared Goldsmith	Don Pryor	Eric Stout
<u>Ushers</u>	Glenn Carlson, Jr. & John Gould	Finely Edwards & Chris Batson	Jon Morren & John Ayotte	Seth Carlson & Brian Watson
<u>Greeters</u>	John & Esther Gould	Jared & Amanda Goldsmith	Jon & Karen Morren	Brian & Andrea Watson
<u>Altar Care</u>	Esther Gould	LeeAnne Larsen	Katie Huesers	Avis Grant
<u>Flowers</u>	OPEN	OPEN	Art & Gail Carrano	Art & Gail Carrano
<u>Fellowship</u>	The Markhams	Doris Brossy	Darryll Zahner	Darryll Zahner

*Lutheran Church of the Resurrection
36 Cool Street
Waterville, ME 04901*



NOVEMBER