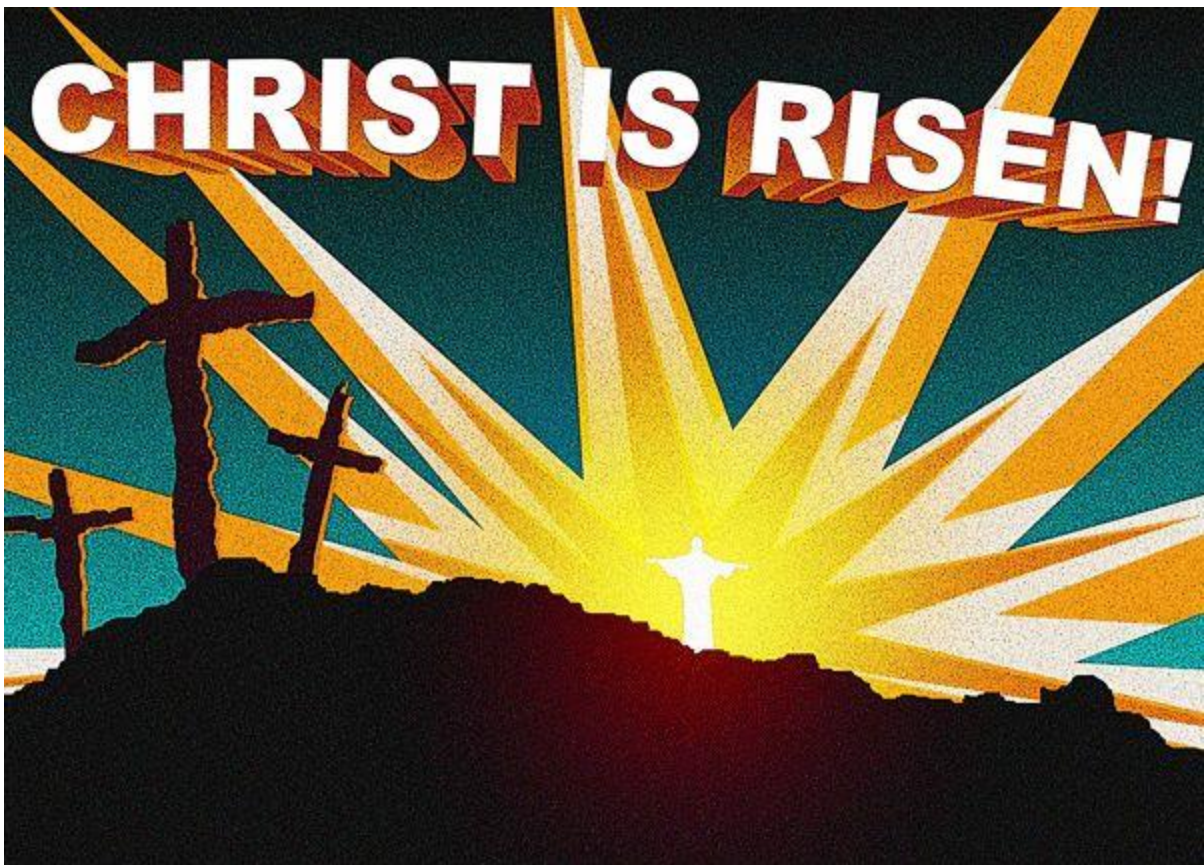


RESURRECTION NEWS



APRIL 2020

Pastor's Letter

April, 2020

*"Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?
But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience." (Romans 8:24).*

Dear Brothers and sisters in Christ,

In these uncharted waters, we wonder what the future holds on so many levels. Our lives have been interrupted in so many ways. For many, the interruption is an annoying inconvenience. For many more, the interruption is much more of a crisis situation – the loss of work and income, loss of health, loss of basic services that we've come to depend on.

These are times that call for 'hope' and 'patience,' two things that the Christian ought to be particularly well equipped with, both for ourselves and for our neighbors.

"Hope" by its very nature is a future thing. And a well-founded 'hope' for the future is the basis for 'patience' in the present. Fear and panic about the future is contrary to the 'hope' that the believer has by faith. By faith we believe that our Lord has the future firmly under His control and has already "worked all things for good for those who love God." (Romans 8:28)

To live this way is not easy because it goes against the grain. 'Hope' is contrary to the way we are programmed. It's only natural for us to judge the future by the present. It's only natural that our hope or despair for the future is based on the circumstances of the present – the things that we can see and touch and measure and spend. So, when these become scarce we become impatient and lose hope for the future.

If I had a magic pill to change the present, I'd prescribe it. But we all already have is God's Word which has the power to change us. I would highly recommend that a worthwhile exercise during this time of quarantine would be to read through chapter 11 of Hebrews. This 'hall of fame' of the 'heroes of the faith' are wonderful examples and a rich source of encouragement for us all.

We can all be easily misled into believing that if we only had more faith, God would give us what we 'hope' for. But after examining the lives of these faithful saints, we come to verse 39 where we choke on the words, **"and all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised..."** For these wonderful examples, the big payoff never did come. It never reached that point they could see it and hold it in their hands and count it and measure it – at least, not in their lifetime.

Their 'hope' stretched even further than their life in this world. They were counting the days until their release from the 'quarantine' of this world all the way into the future when there is only one, eternal day. Who else has a 'hope' like this but the one who firmly believes that there is a God who has promised a future so bright and wonderful that He raised His Son from the grave as proof of His power to actually do it?

Today's heroes of the faith set their sights on the return of the risen Christ who will fulfill every hope that is based on His unfailing promise. Let us fix our hope on Jesus and wait for Him with patience.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Nielsen

Notes from your Deaconess

April, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters of LCR,

We fill our minds, hearts, and mouths with songs of praise to God in the Easter season – which comes upon us soon! Who has defeated death and the grave? Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Jesus lives! The vict'ry's won! Death no longer can appall me;
Jesus lives! Death's reign is done!
From the grave will Christ recall me. Brighter scenes will then commence;
This shall be my confidence. (LSB 490:1)

Make songs of joy to Christ our head; Alleluia!
He lives again who once was dead! Alleluia! (LSB 484:1)

Jesus said, *"I tell you, my friends, do not fear those [persons/viruses/diseases] who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do. But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him! Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God. Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows."* Luke 12:4-7

We certainly need to obey our government authorities, being careful to clean, self-isolate, distance, and follow recommended guidelines in order to love our neighbors and care for them, **but**

Have no fear, little flock; have no fear, little flock,
For the Father has chosen to give you the Kingdom;
Have no fear, little flock! (LSB 735:1)

Be still, my soul; your God will undertake to guide the future as he has the past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake; All now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below. (LSB 752:2)

I recently received an email from an organization called "Voice of the Martyrs" --they encourage us in our prayers to pray that Christ's name and gifts be proclaimed in these days of fear. Chinese Christians who have to wear face masks for safety are being emboldened to share the hope and joy that they have received in Christ – the facial recognition devices in place in China can't identify people well with the masks! How encouraging is that? The word goes forth. We, too, have a hope to share.

Do continue in your daily devotions, and connect with each other via phone, email, cards. If you have needs for food or help, be sure to reach out to Pastor or me, and we'll see what can be done.

Under his mercy,
Sharon M. Conover

Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. Hebrews 2:14-15

SEMINARY STUDENT: ALARIK MORRIS

Dear Lutheran Church of the Resurrection,

March 24, 2020

Brothers and sisters of the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, I pray that this letter finds all of you healthy and well as our planet is currently groaning in anticipation of Christ's return. This current situation we find ourselves in presents for us an opportunity to only be driven to rely more fully on the God who created, saved, and will come to bring us into his new creation. This is a frightening situation and for virtually all of us, uncharted and unfamiliar territory. Our daily lives have been completely and utterly disordered, our fears have been amplified, and our comfort that we take in our family and friends has to a degree been confined as we begin to take precautions and isolate ourselves.

Currently, my fiancée in Michigan as well as myself in St. Louis have been restricted in our daily lives. Our classes both at Concordia Ann Arbor and at the seminary have been restricted to online classes and learning, our chapel services have been suspended, and we have been resigned to only leaving our places of residence in order to get medicine, groceries, and to exercise outside being sure to practice socially distancing ourselves from others. It's a time that I did not see occurring even a little over a couple weeks ago and that probably none of you have ever experienced. For me, never seeing my classmates, friends, and professors in person for the remainder of the school year is not something that I had expected to happen this semester. Yet we know that God is in control and that he is still providing for his Church through this situation.

Even though Angela and I's lives have been disorganized and our plans for graduation, wedding planning, and travel have been thrown up in the air, our hope still rests ultimately in Christ. The God who formed the universe, created each one of us personally, came as one of us to die, rose from the dead, and even now is making all things that we have tarnished new that he might present to his Church a new creation without fear, sin, and disease. It is because of this reality that God is still enthroned in heaven and Christ is still risen from the grave that we have this confidence in God's plans for us. With the Psalmist we can pray in the face of fear, death, and the devil who is wreaking havoc in our world, that "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea" (Psalm 46:1-2). In the same way, I pray that you too are comforted and can take heart in the God who has overcome the world on the cross. That even though we might not be comfortable or happy with our earthly situation, we can be confident in the God who heals the sick, feeds the hungry, comforts the grieving, and brings the dead (and the living) to true life which is found only in Christ Jesus our savior.

In my classes at seminary about a week ago, I wrote a sermon on Jeremiah 20:1-7, a passage where Jeremiah is beaten and put into the stocks by the temple priests for proclaiming the word that God gave him to preach to Jerusalem. In one of his most somber and revealing laments, Jeremiah takes a sudden turn from questioning God's call, to describing God as being "with me as a dread warrior" (Jer. 20:11). I pray that in this, probably some of our darker moments in life, where fear, death, and doubt surround us, that you remember that the God who was swallowed by the beast of death only to slay it from the inside out, is the dread warrior who is with you always up until the Last Day. He is with you to comfort you and strengthen you in times of fear and worry, he is with you to protect you from the assaults of death and the devil, and he is with you as he was in your baptism, claiming you as one redeemed by Christ.

I will be praying for you in the coming days, that you would be strengthened in this gospel promise, that you would find comfort in prayer, in hearing God's Word from Pastor Nielsen on the internet and from other congregations and sermons, in communicating by what means we have with your brothers and sisters in Christ, and that you would take this opportunity to devoting yourselves to study of God's Word, prayer, and contacting others as all of us could be comforted with a good word from our fellow members of Christ's Church. If anyone of you would like to contact me during this time of isolation please feel free to email me at morrisa@csl.edu and I would be more than happy to hear from you and be in contact with you as communication has now become so much more important in this time of isolation.

Yours in Christ our loving savior,
Alarik Morris

CORRECTION TO 2020 DIRECTORY

Jenifer MacPherson - Phone number: 649-6064

NEED A MEAL, PRESCRIPTION, SUPPLIES?

If you are in need of any of the above or any other service, here are a list of folks who are willing to pick up and deliver:

- Rachel Anderson
- Yvonne Batson
- Deaconess Conover
- Charlie and Jenifer MacPherson
- Dorthy McAllister
- Deb Nielsen
- Christine Thomas
- Brian and Andrea Watson

TO BE RESCHEDULED...

We are anticipating that this quarantine will continue through Holy Week and the day of Easter and beyond. The plan is that we will celebrate Good Friday and Easter Sunday on the first Friday / Sunday that we resume corporate worship services. And what a joyous Easter it will be! Also, we have six new members who are anxious to join the membership of the congregation and six confirmands who are ready for the Rite of Confirmation. All of this will happen the Sunday after we celebrate Easter. In the meantime, please continue to make use of the audio recordings of mid-week Lent and Sunday services.

MID-WEEK LENT SERVICES - 2020 - "I BELIEVE IN GOD..." - THE APOSTLES CREED

- 4/1 Wednesday - 3rd Article II - "I believe in the Holy Spirit..."
- 4/9 Thursday - Maundy Thursday - Divine Service
- 4/10 Friday - Good Friday - Tenebrae

THANK YOU FROM THE GARUNA FOUNDATION

Dear Pastor and Mission Partners:

Greetings to you in the name of Jesus our Savior!

On behalf of the Garuna Foundation, I want to thank you for your very generous donation of \$720 for two Garuna Kids Annual Sponsorships. Your gracious contribution will be used to help bring the 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.

Thank you so much for your faithful prayers and support.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Jeffery Elhers, Chairman

THANK YOU FROM LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

Dear Friends of Life,

We are humbled and heartened to have received your recent \$1,000 offering. Thank you for your Gospel-motivated voice For Life. And thank you most of all for your ongoing fellowship and support of our life-affirming labors. Having you standing, speaking, and acting alongside us enhances our joys in this mission and eases its sorrow. (*Full letter posted on bulletin board*).

THANK YOU FROM LUTHERAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Thank you so much Resurrection Lutheran and Pastor Nielsen for your kind and generous gift to the mission of LHF! We are truly grateful to you for your partnership in the Gospel.

In Christ,

Rev. Dr. Matthew Heise

THANK YOU FROM GARUNA KIDS

Dear Mission Partners,

Thank you for renewing your Garuna Kids sponsorship. Your continued support has made it possible to serve Cambodian children and their families through the Garuna Christian School Ministry. By God's grace, we have seen great openness to the Gospel through our schools and their evangelism outreach events.

Thanks again and God bless you,

Tamie Worthington,

Garuna Sponsorship Program Coordinator

THANK YOU FROM WATERVILLE FOOD BANK

Thank you for your donation of \$1,000. Your donation will help us in our mission to end hunger in the greater Waterville area.

Sincerely,

Sandra Hammond, President

THANK YOU FROM MID-MAINE HOMELESS SHELTER & SERVICES

Thank you for your gift of \$1,000. Because of your support we are able to provide a temporary home to almost 500 people a year. That's 16,000 bed nights and 45,000 meals a year. Our mission is to end homelessness for each person who stays with us. Thank you for believing in us and the people we serve.

Warm regards,

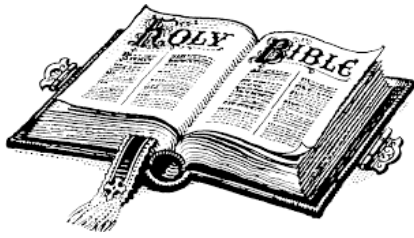
Katie Spencer White, Executive Director

THANK YOU FROM CONFORDIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Thank you for your recent contribution. Your direct support to our Co-op helps us prepare pastors, deaconesses, and missionaries who will proclaim the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ in all the world. We pray that God would continue to bless the labors of your hands and use you as His instrument whereby He blesses others.

In service of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Rev. Dr. Gary W. Zieroth, Dean of Students



Monthly Worship

April 5, 2020

Palm Sunday

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

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

Epistle: Philippians 2:5-11

Holy Gospel: John 12:12-19 and Matthew 26:1-27;
66 or Matthew 27:11-66 or
John 12:20-43

April 12, 2020

The Resurrection of our Lord

Psalm: 16

First Reading: Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6

Epistle: Colossians 3:1-4

Holy Gospel: Matthew 28:1-10

April 19, 2020

Second Sunday of Easter

Psalm: 148

First Reading: Acts 5:29-42

Epistle: 1Peter 1:3-9

Gospel: John 20:19-31

April 26, 2020

Third Sunday of Easter

Psalm: 116:1-14

First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Epistle: 1Peter 1:17-25

Holy Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

BIBLE QUIZ

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

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

2. After the fall of Babylon, in the book of Revelation, how long will the dragon be confined within the bottomless pit?

A) 1 year B) 10 years C) 100 years D) 1,000 years

3. As Jesus was being arrested, one of the disciples chopped off what body part on the high priest's 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?"

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

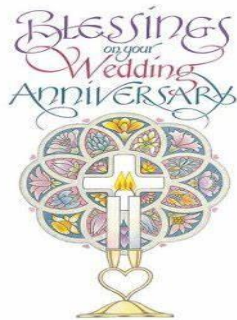


4/3 Seth Carlson
 4/7 Gail Carrano
 4/28 Glenn Carlson Jr.
 4/29 Emily Larsen



Birthdays

4/3 Laverne Pelletier
 4/17 Darryll Zahner
 4/19 Elizabeth Larsen
 4/26 Taylan Thomas
 Tiana Thomas
 4/27 Rick Drageland
 4/?? Chester Gilbert
 Cianan Morris



4/7 Chester & Evelyn Gilbert

Bible Quiz Answers

1. D (Job 2:11; 42:7)
2. D (Revelation 20:2-3)
3. B (John 18:10)
4. A (Exodus 7:15-19)
5. B (John 11:35)
6. D (Luke 6:39)



ANNIVERSARIES

4/2 Evelyn Gaug
 Peter Gaug
 4/5 Miriam Schiebel
 4/7 Darryll Zahner
 4/11 Rev. Robert Fischer
 4/12 Chris Batson
 4/14 Sharon Klipp
 4/?? Yvonne Batson
 Vesta Holt

FOR A FEW CHUCKLES!

Three buddies die in a car crash, and they go to heaven.

There, they are all asked, "When you are in your casket and your friends are mourning, what would you like to hear the say about you?"

The first guy says, "I would like to hear them say that I was a great doctor and a great family man."

The second guy says, "I would like to hear them say that I was a wonderful husband and schoolteacher who made a huge difference in the children of tomorrow."

The last guy replies, "I would like to hear them say, "Look! He's moving!"

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A preacher ended his temperance sermon by saying, "The world would be a better place if everyone poured their beer, wine and whiskey into the river." Then he sat down.

The song leader stood and announced with a smile, "For our closing song, let us sing Hymn 365: 'Shall We Gather at the River.'"

April Stewardship

	<u>April 5</u>	<u>April 9</u> (Maundy Thursday)	<u>April 10</u> (Good Friday)	<u>April 12</u> (Easter)	<u>April 19</u>	<u>April 26</u>
<u>Acolyte</u>	-----	Andrew Farr	Andrew Farr	Callum Goldsmith	Evan Farr	Emily Lynn Carlson
<u>Comm. Assistant</u>	-----	Glenn Carlson (am) Chris Batson (pm)	-----	Dan Callahan	Steve Farr	Brian Watson
<u>Ushers</u>	-	Mark Larsen (pm) & Mike Hein (pm)	-----	Moe Cote & Brad Fitzpatrick	Dan Keefe & Brian Watson	Wayne Pelletier & Tom Heusers
<u>Greeters</u>	-----	Chris & Yvonne Batson	-----	Chris & Yvonne Batson	Mark & LeeAnne Larsen	Dan & Becca Keefe
<u>Altar Care</u>	-----	Avis Grant	Altar Guild	LeeAnne Larsen	Katie Heusers	Deb Nielsen
<u>Flowers</u>	-----	-----	-----	Sharon Klipp	Sharon Klipp	Moe & Becky Cote
<u>Fellowship</u>	-----	-----	-----	Easter Breakfast	Darryll Zahner	Darryll Zahner

The Daily Lectionary

A guide to help you be in the Word daily

4/1	Exodus 4:1-18 / Mark 14:1-15
4/2	Exodus 4:19-31 / mark 15:16-32
4/3	Exodus 5:1 – 6:1 / Mark 15:33-47
4/4	Exodus 7:1-25 / Mark 16:1-20
4/5	Exodus 8:1-12 / Hebrews 1:1-14
4/6	Exodus 9:1-28 / Hebrews 2:1-18
4/7	Exodus 9:29-10:20 / Hebrews 3:1-19
4/8	Exodus 10:21-11:10 / Hebrews 4:1-16
4/9	Exodus 12:1-28 / Hebrews 5:1-14
4/10	Exodus 12:29-13:16 / Hebrews 6:1-20
4/11	Exodus 13:17-14:9 / Hebrews 7:1-22
4/12	Exodus 14:10-31 / Hebrews 7:23-8:13
4/13	Exodus 15:1-18 / Hebrews 9:1-28
4/14	Exodus 15:19-16:12 / Hebrews 10:1-18
4/15	Exodus 16:13-35 / Hebrews 19-39
4/16	Exodus 17:1-16 / Hebrews 11:1-29
4/17	Exodus 18:5-27 / Hebrews 12:1-24
4/18	Exodus 19:1-25 / Hebrews 13:1-21
4/19	Exodus 20:1-24 / Luke 4:1-15
4/20	Exodus 22:20-23:13 / Luke 4:16-30
4/21	Exodus 23:14-33 / Luke 4:31-44
4/22	Exodus 24:1-18 / Luke 5:1-16
4/23	Exodus 25:1-22 / Luke 5:17-39
4/24	Exodus 31:1-18 / Luke 6:1-19
4/25	Exodus 32:1-14 / Luke 6:20-38
4/26	Exodus 32:15-35 / Luke 6:39-49
4/27	Exodus 33:1-23 / Luke 7:1-17
4/28	Exodus 34:1-28 / Luke 7:18-35
4/29	Exodus 34:29-35:21 / Luke 7:36-50
4/30	Exodus 38:21-39:8 / Luke 8:1-21
5/1	Exodus 39:32-40:16 / Luke 8:22-39
5/2	Exodus 40:17-38 / Luke 8:40-56

(Daily lectionary readings taken from LSB #299-304)

Some helpful habits for home devotions:

- *Do one reading in the morning and the other in the evening.*
- *Keep a journal or make a mental note of one thought that you would like to remember from this reading.*
- *Read and discuss the daily reading with a family member or friend.*
- *Choose one verse to commit to memory, reciting it through the day.*
- *Speak to God in prayer about something from the reading that impressed or confused you in this reading.*
- *If you miss a day or two (or three) and fall behind, don't worry and don't quit! Either set aside some time to catch up or skip those readings and move on.*
- *If you're using another reading schedule or guide, stick with it. The important thing is to be in the Word daily.*