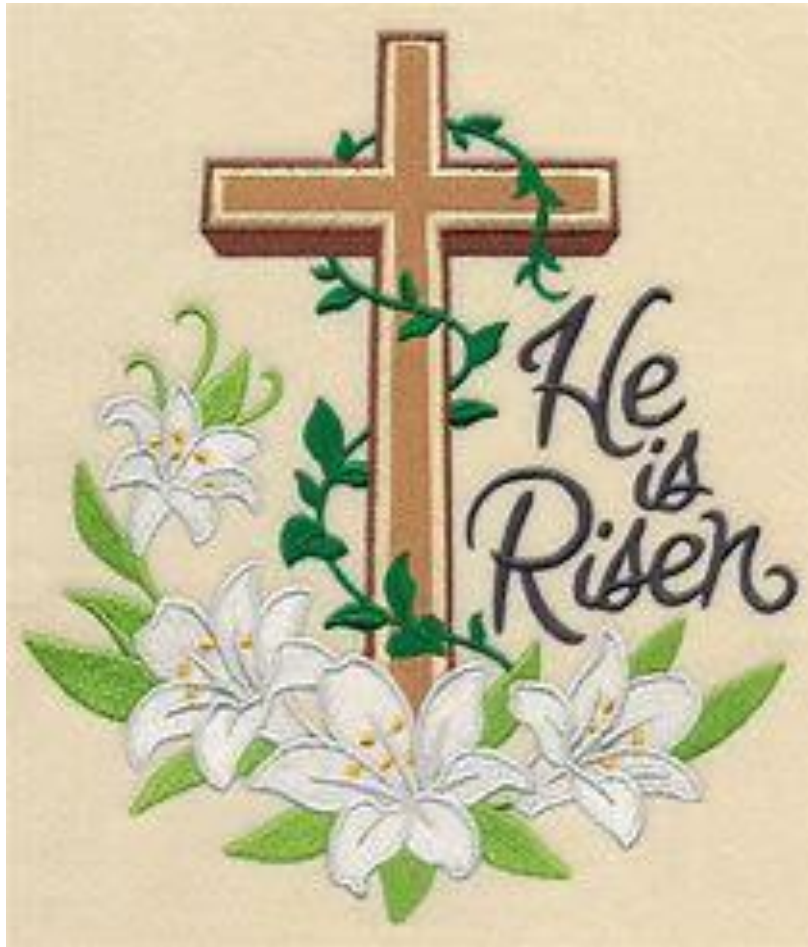


# **RESURRECTION NEWS**



**APRIL 2021**

## Pastor's Letter

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

I walked outside this morning and I got a big smile on my face because it smelled like spring! For many people, spring is their favorite time of the year. (Personally, I'm not a big fan of rain...yes, I know it's necessary, but it's annoying when you wear glasses!) Regardless of your own personal feelings about the season, spring is a time of new life—and there's something special about that.

I find it fitting that it's during this time of year that we Christians gather to celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead. Throughout history, the church has used flowers, butterflies, and other various spring-like symbols to remember Jesus' resurrection—and how fitting! During this season we see new life all around us—trees beginning to bud, flowers beginning to bloom, and maybe even a butterfly or two. And it's also during this season that we celebrate the new life that Jesus gives to us through the Holy Spirit!

*"The Spirit is the one who gives life. The flesh doesn't help at all.  
The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life."*

-John 6:63

In a world that seems to get more chaotic and stressful by the minute, what a joy it is to know that we have new life—a breath of fresh air—because of Jesus! I don't know exactly where you are in life. Maybe you really enjoy your life—every bit of it! Maybe you would rather be doing just about anything else than going through your daily grind. But regardless of where you find yourself, there's a peace that comes from taking just a few moments to take a deep breath and be reminded that there's something better in store for us. And what better place to be reminded of the joys of our new life in Jesus than by gathering together with our brothers and sisters in Christ!

The season of Easter gives us a beautiful opportunity to do this. On Easter Sunday, we'll gather together as the body of Christ to celebrate the resurrection of our Savior and the new life that he gives to us. Even though we'll be disbursed between multiple services to accommodate everyone with the COVID gathering guidelines and even though we're unable to hold our usual Easter Breakfast this year, I still rejoice that many of us will gather physically together to celebrate this most holy day!

I have to be honest though...Easter always brings me mixed feelings. I absolutely love the celebrations (even if they're scaled down). I absolutely love gathering together with everyone (even if we're spread out). But for me there's a bitter-sweetness to the day. I know that so many of the people who gather with us to worship on Easter Sunday won't be back the next weekend. So many people won't continue to make it a priority to gather in worship to hear the words of Jesus which are spirit and life. I'm not even sure that I could put into words how much it pains me to know that so many people go through their lives without a regular (weekly) connection to Jesus and his words.

If that's you, I would plead with you to let this Easter season be the time where you make a regular commitment to gather with your brothers and sisters in Christ weekly to hear Jesus' words through which his Spirit works to bring new life to our poor, feeble souls.

*Simon Peter answered, "Lord, to whom will we go?  
You have the words of eternal life."*

-John 6:68

Peace in Jesus,  
Pastor Akers

## *Notes from your Deaconess*

Dear Brothers and Sisters of LCR,

Locked doors, fearful minds  
How did he enter the room?  
He goes where he will

I relish my morning routines with my husband. Our early walks, whether in chilly or warming winds, seeing the moon, glimpsing the rising sun through the trees, or hearing the neighborhood roosters, all ground the day in God's gifts in creation, and then we enjoy the pleasures of good coffee and breakfast together. Later in the day, when I glance through the headlines, or hear news reports, I start to wander towards worry and fear about what the future holds for our nation, communities, churches, families. Then I need to keep returning to God's Word and promise to be with us, that his ways are not our ways, that his word will do what it says, and to cling to this. I also need to keep praying, looking for ways to love my neighbor, letting my "speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that [I] may know how [I] ought to answer each person" (Colossians 4:6), and serve him however I am able.

Our Sunday morning Bible studies in April after Easter will focus on the prophet Elijah, who surely lived in a time like ours when the rulers and many influential people in his homeland of Israel followed their own devices and desires, having little regard for their Creator who had redeemed them from slavery in Egypt and chose them as a distinct people. The Old Testament daily lectionary readings this month in Exodus and Leviticus, beginning on Maundy Thursday (4/1), commence with Passover, bring us through the Red Sea, and into the wilderness. In the New Testament readings, we will complete the book of Hebrews and then begin reading Luke's account of Jesus' ministry starting with his temptation in the wilderness after his baptism. Pastor's Thursday Bible studies continue in Nehemiah in yet another Biblical time where the people of God found themselves as targets for their faith and way of life. We continue to work through the minor prophets in the Saturday morning women's Bible studies (upcoming on 4/10 and 4/24). All these parts of scripture clearly demonstrate that humans have in all ages opposed God's truth revealed in his word and in the created order.

Have you visited our church library recently? Did you even know that we have one? I've begun with a bit of help from friends to reorganize it somewhat, to cluster together books addressing certain issues, and try to make it easier to use. I intend to get some labels onto the shelves as well. We have quite a collection of children's books, with an especially large collection of Arch books from Concordia Publishing House, which retell many Bible stories with lots of illustrations and often in rhyme. I've read these since I was quite young myself. We have a collection of fiction for older kids and adults as well. I'll highlight some other things about our library next month.

Under his mercy,  
Sharon M. Conover

*Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. Hebrews 13:20, 21*

## **Worship Schedule:**

### **Holy Week:**

- Maundy Thursday (4/1) (Divine Service w/Corporate Confession & Absolution):
  - Worship at Noon & 7pm
- Good Friday (4/2) (Good Friday Chief Liturgy w/Holy Communion):
  - Worship at Noon & 7pm
- Easter Sunday (4/4) (Divine Service):
  - Worship at 8:00am, 9:30am, & 11:00am
  - No Sunday School

### **Sundays:**

- 8:30am – Worship
- 9:45am – Sunday School/Bible Study
- 10:45am – Worship (live streamed)

### **Thursday Bible Study:**

Thursday Bible Study will continue to meet throughout the season of Lent. We will not meet, however, on Maundy Thursday (4/1). We are continuing our study of Ezra & Nehemiah. Join us at 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall or 6:00pm via Zoom. Contact Pastor Akers for more information.

### **Update from the Nielsens:**

Hello, Everyone!

We are settling into Hickory, NC and have decided it was a good choice despite the fact that we had never seen it before moving here. The weather was still a bit chilly in January and February if you think 40-50's is chilly. We have been doing some hiking in state and county parks. They are beautiful, clean, well maintained and open year-round. We took a 3-mile loop trail on my birthday January 26th. That was a fluke of high 60's. Paul has finally got some fishing in during the last 2 weeks. First time out he caught 3 brown trout and the second time out 4 rainbow trout. Or maybe one fish and multiple photos of it???? They did appear similar. We have joined the city gym and I take a low impact class and Paul takes a high impact class on Tuesday and Thursdays. He occasionally does a cycle class. He mentioned to the instructors that he goes there to stay healthy, but he thinks they are trying to kill him. We have joined a hiking club and the newcomers club. It is opening up a bit here, but some activities like book club still on zoom. We are going to a wine festival at a winery today that will feature tasting and live music.

Church news is we will be joining St John's Lutheran Church in Conover, NC. There are 4 very large LCMS congregation in that town of 8,000 alone plus 6 in Hickory- some big some not so big. There is a huge St. Steven's LCMS and right across the street a ELCA St Steven's. This place is loaded with Lutherans for better or worse. We have gotten involved with some bible studies. Paul has taken part in a group of men who do home repair for people in need - a handicapped ramp so far. He still has all his fingers. They have many outreach projects to get involved in, but we are taking it slow.

The biggest challenge is going to be finding a house. The market is high like everywhere else and not much to choose from. We went inside our first house yesterday and realized that sometimes pictures look better than the real thing. We shall remain patient as God does have a place for us. We do hope that all is well there, that the days of masks and quarantines are drawing to a close and that you will be able to return to 'normal' soon.

Love to you all,  
Deb Nielsen

## *Sometimes the Best Defense is a Good Defense*

Not so impressive. It was a 50/50 chance, or 1 in 2, right? What if I called it right twice in a row? Well, that's a 1 in 4 chance. Seems a little lucky, but still not so impressive.

What if I called it right 3,000 times in a row? 300,000 times? Now you know something is going on. There must be some influence outside of the obvious. It's like someone had designed that coin to land on heads every time.

The force of gravity is a good place to start our investigation. The force of gravity (dictated by the mass of our planet) is just barely strong enough to hold on to water vapor (18 g/mol for you chemists), which is an absolute requirement for the rain cycle which sustains life on Earth.

It turns out that if the force of gravity was different by 1 part in 10 to the 160<sup>th</sup> power, none of us would exist.<sup>2</sup> We would either be dry and dead because all water vapor would have escaped earth's gravity, (like it did on Mars), or life would have been poisoned out of existence because we retained deadly methane and ammonia in our atmosphere.

I'll give you one more and save some for next month. Let's look at the atom.

Easy. God designed them not to. He created a force called the “strong nuclear force” and it behaves very strangely! Most forces weaken with distance, just like moving your flashlight away from the wall. For science fans, it diminishes with the inverse of the square. 2X distance = ¼ the light. Same with gravity, but not so with the strong nuclear force.

## Coincidence or intricate, exquisite design by an exquisite Designer?

Charlie MacPherson, SDG (Soli Deo Gloria, unceremoniously stolen from JS Bach)

1. <http://www.leslieannwickman.com/astronaut-show/>
2. [www.str.org](http://www.str.org) – A Finely Tuned Universe. Necessity, chance or design.

## *Member of the Month*



Rick Dostie: Our organist for 11 years—and what a treasure he is to us! He has played organ consistently for the past 50 years in churches—Episcopal, Catholic, Baptist, Congregational, and LCMS—most being “just his work” and he would move on for career advancement. He came to LCR upon meeting Pastor Nielsen when his father was in the nursing home across the street. Rick liked what he heard and learned here at LCR, so he joined. He appreciated the liturgical services and has a strong belief that the music shouldn’t obscure the Word, it should lift it up! Rick felt comfortable with Pastor Nielsen’s preferences as they both held similar beliefs about the liturgy—and enjoyed the traditional style. Rick feels that Pastor Akers brings new ideas and new forms, but holds to the same traditional beliefs.

Rick was born in Farmington, Maine and grew up in Fairfield—where he still lives today, residing in his boyhood home. Rick’s mother (of Scot/Irish origin) was an elementary teacher, and his father (of French descent) was an elementary and junior high teacher of social studies, finally ascending to the position of principal at Fairfield Junior High. He is an only child, but his parents were from large families with lots of cousins around as Rick grew up. Rick also had a rich treasure in having his grandmother (50 years with Rosenthal Investments) reside on the top floor of his home—bringing the generational experience to his life.

Rick attended Fairfield public schools, participating in cross-country and baseball—the two sports holding the most interest for him. He studied at Middlebury College in Middlebury, Vermont. This school is among an unofficial group of academically selective liberal arts colleges called the “Little Ivies” and was the first American college to grant a bachelor’s degree to an African-American (1823), and the first formerly all-male liberal arts college in New England to become coeducational (1883). When asked how he selected Middlebury, Rick chuckles and says it had the program of study he desired and “it was away from home!” Rick’s college years were during the Viet Nam era, and had his eyesight not been so bad, he would have joined the Army Band, but his eyesight disqualified him from military service.

Rick began music education at 5 with piano—adding trombone and other brass instruments at age 12. His mother taught music in her classroom. In high school, Rick played in the same traveling dance/concert band his father, a semi-professional musician, was in. He played in a band even before driving a car! Rick continued music in college—in bands, with organ, in choruses, and conducting. His degree is political science with a minor in music. His doctorate is from the University of Maine—a Juris Doctor of law. Rick was a practicing attorney in criminal law and child welfare.

Rick’s interests today center around the things that have interested him all his life—music, history, and politics. He’s traveled around New England and worked with many big names we recognize: Lawrence Welk’s Myron Floren on the accordion, and other Welk show personalities; plus Wayne Newton, Jack Jones, Phyllis Diller (comedy routine), Milton Berle, Bobby Rydell, Gary Lewis, Frank Fontaine. Perhaps his favorite experience was with Frank Fontaine: A rock concert was scheduled and a crowd of teens were gathered. The rock star was in an auto accident so they were able to quickly get Frank Fontaine, but he needed an accompanist—enter Rick Dostie! Rick, still in high school, by then was driving. Fontaine arrived needing a driver to/from the concert performances. Rick was quickly procured and not only played with Fontaine, but escorted him for the weekend. Teens who were expecting a rock star were met by this old fellow (Fontaine), and Fontaine was able to hold their interest and give great concerts! Rick also led his own jazz trio at Graziano’s Italian Restaurant in Lisbon, Maine for several years.

Rick belongs to the American Guild of Organists and has attended conventions in Syracuse, Hartford, and Andover. He loves music from all areas: Baroque, Dutch, French, German—“all of it!” He plays lots of Bach, stating, “After all, this is Bach’s church!” He says all composers are worth hearing. Rick has conducted Belfast Community Chorus for nearly 50 years—doing 3 concerts per year. He’s worked with trios and small groups, including a guitar player who calls on him for accompaniment at small parties and weddings. Unfortunately, people don’t use bands as much as they used to.

His other interests, history and politics, keep him busy reading: Rick is particularly intrigued by the Civil War and by General George Marshall, Secretary of State under Truman from 1947-1949.

Though Rick never married, he has spent much time with children—educating and helping them in music endeavors—conducting for them, accompanying them, and helping with stage shows and musicals. He works with several schools including Winslow junior and senior high. Rick encourages the young to keep learning and not to give up, and to READ! As to seniors: READ. Use Muskie Community Center—be involved in activities and the meals. Use UMaine’s Extension programs. Join a chorus. Take a course. Keep learning alive—it’s great just for the sake of learning!

# April Stewardship

April 1  
Maundy Thursday

April 2  
Good Friday

April 4  
Easter

April 11

April 18

April 25

## Acolyte

7 p.m.  
Andrew Farr

Noon  
Andrew Farr

11:00  
Evan Farr

10:45  
Allison Farr

10:45  
Andrew Farr

10:45  
Evan Farr

## Worship Assistant

Noon  
Glenn Carson Sr.

Noon  
Steve Farr

8:00  
Glenn Carlson Sr.

8:30  
Glenn Carlson Sr.

8:30  
Charlie MacPherson

8:30  
Brian Watson

7 p.m.  
Chris Batson

7 p.m.  
Chris Batson

9:30  
Charlie MacPherson

10:45  
Dan Callahan

10:45  
Brad Fitzpatrick

10:45  
Mark Larsen

11:00  
Chris Batson

## Ushers

Noon  
Mo Cote

Noon  
Glenn Carlson Sr.

8:00  
Rick Drageland

8:30  
Jeff Sammons

8:30  
Brian Watson

8:30  
Rick Drageland

7 p.m.  
Glenn Carlson Jr.

7 p.m.  
Mark Larsen

9:30  
Mo Cote

10:45  
Chris Batson

10:45  
Seth Carlson

10:45  
Glenn Carlson Jr.

11:00  
John Ayotte

## Cantor

8:30  
Jared Goldsmith

8:30  
Sharon Conover

8:30  
Jared Goldsmith

10:45  
Fernando Gouvea

10:45  
Allison Farr

10:45  
Steve Farr

## Greeters

Noon  
The Dragelands

8:00  
The Fitzpatricks

8:30  
The MacPhersons

8:30  
Sharon Klipp

8:30  
The Watsons

7 p.m.  
The Batsons

9:30  
The Akers

10:45  
The Cotes

10:45  
The Gouveas

10:45  
The Batsons

11:00  
The Batsons

## Altar Care

LeeAnne Larsen

Avis Grant

Sharon Conover

Amanda Goldsmith

Amy Ouellette

Sasha Fitzpatrick

## Flowers

Christine Thomas

Sharon Klipp

Sharon Klipp

The MacPhersons



## **Monthly Worship**

**April 4, 2021**

**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 11, 2021**

**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 18, 2021**

**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 25, 2021**

**St. Mark, Evangelist**

**Psalm:** 146:1-4,9-10

**First Reading:** Isaiah 52:7-10

**Epistle:** Timothy 4:5-18

**Holy Gospel:** Mark 16:14-20

## **BIBLE QUIZ**

**1. What type of wood did God command Moses to build the ark of the covenant out of?**

A) oak B) acacia/shittim (C) gopher (D) cedar

**2. How did the Israelites know for sure that the Egyptian army would never again threaten them?**

A) they saw dead soldiers and horses washed up on the shore B) the invincible Edomites promised their “protection” on the Israel/Egyptian border C) Pharaoh signed a peace treaty on papyrus scrolls D) God said so

**3. What was King Saul’s first big sin?**

A) he didn’t want to fight a perceived losing battle as God commanded him to B) he didn’t kill every living thing as God commanded him to C) he fought a battle that God neither commanded or sanctioned D) he sacrificed burnt offerings instead of waiting for the prophet Samuel to do it

**4. Which two gospels trace Jesus’ lineage through his earthly father, Joseph?**

A) Matthew and Luke B) Luke and John C) Matthew and John D) Mark and Luke

**5. Which one of Noah’s sons tattled on his father’s drunken state and nakedness?**

A) Shem B) Japheth C) Ham D) Cain

**6. Who said this: “Is thy God whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee?”**

A) Pharaoh of Egypt B) King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon C) King Darius of Media/Persia D) Pontius Pilate of Rome





4/4 Lucia Wilson  
 4/6 Seth Carlson  
 4/7 Gail Carrano  
 4/10 Matthew Akers  
 4/26 Maria Kubeck  
 4/28 Glenn Carlson Jr.  
 4/29 Emily Larsen



## BAPTISM BIRTHDAY

4/3 Laverne Pelletier  
 4/13 Dan Callahan  
 4/17 Darryll Zahner  
 4/19 Elizabeth Reed  
 4/21 Matthew Akers  
 Lucia Wilson  
 4/26 Taylan Thomas  
 Tiana Thomas  
 4/27 Rick Drageland  
 4/?? Chester Gilbert  
 Charlie MacPherson  
 Cianan Morris



4/7 Chester & Evelyn Gilbert



## Confirmation

## Anniversary

4/5 Miriam Schiebel  
 4/7 Corina Wilson  
 Darryll Zahner  
 4/8 Lydia Bendas  
 4/10 Dan Callahan  
 4/12 Rev. Robert Fischer  
 Chris Batson  
 4/14 Sharon Klipp  
 4/?? Yvonne Batson  
 Dorothy Evertsen  
 James Pryor  
 Vesta Holt

## FOR A FEW CHUCKLES

The substitute teacher was struggling to open a lock on the Sunday school supply cabinet. She'd been told the combination but couldn't quite remember it. Finally, she went to the pastor's study and asked for help.

When the minister began to twist the dial, he paused after the first couple of numbers and stared blankly. Finally, he looked heavenward and his lips moved silently, then he looked back at the lock, turned to the final numbers, and clicked open the hasp.

The teacher was amazed. "I'm in awe of your faith, Pastor."

"It's really nothing," he responded. "The numbers are on a piece of tape on the ceiling."

0-0-0-0-0

The pastor was invited over for dinner and asked to lead in prayer before the meal. After a brief prayer, little Fred said approvingly, "You don't pray to long when you're hungry do you?"

## Bible Quiz Answers

1. B (Exodus 25:10)
2. A (Exodus 14:30)
3. D (1 Samuel 13:9-13)
4. A (Matthew 1, Luke 3)
5. C (Genesis 9:22)
6. C (Daniel 6:20)

# The Daily Lectionary

A guide to help you be in the Word daily

4/1	Exodus 12:1-28 / Hebrews 5:1-14
4/2	Exodus 12:29-13:16 / Hebrews 6:1-20
4/3	Exodus 13:17-14:9 / Hebrews 7:1-22
4/4	Exodus 14:10-31 / Hebrews 7:23-8:13
4/5	Exodus 15:1-18 / Hebrews 9:1-28
4/6	Exodus 15:19-16:12 / Hebrews 10:1-18
4/7	Exodus 16:13-35 / Hebrews 19-39
4/8	Exodus 17:1-16 / Hebrews 11:1-29
4/9	Exodus 18:5-27 / Hebrews 12:1-24
4/10	Exodus 19:1-25 / Hebrews 13:1-21
4/11	Exodus 20:1-24 / Luke 4:1-15
4/12	Exodus 22:20-23:13 / Luke 4:16-30
4/13	Exodus 23:14-33 / Luke 4:31-44
4/14	Exodus 24:1-18 / Luke 5:1-16
4/15	Exodus 25:1-22 / Luke 5:17-39
4/16	Exodus 31:1-18 / Luke 6:1-19
4/17	Exodus 32:1-14 / Luke 6:20-38
4/18	Exodus 32:15-35 / Luke 6:39-49
4/19	Exodus 33:1-23 / Luke 7:1-17
4/20	Exodus 34:1-28 / Luke 7:18-35
4/21	Exodus 34:29-35:21 / Luke 7:36-50
4/22	Exodus 38:21-39:8 / Luke 8:1-21
4/23	Exodus 39:32-40:16 / Luke 8:22-39
4/24	Exodus 40:17-38 / Luke 8:40-56
4/25	Leviticus 8:1-36 / Luke 9:1-17
4/26	Leviticus 9:1-24 / Luke 9:18-36
4/27	Leviticus 10:1-20 / Luke 9:37-62
4/28	Leviticus 16:1-24 / Luke 10:1-22
4/29	Leviticus 17:1-16 / Luke 10:23-42
4/30	Leviticus 18:1-19:8 / Luke 11:1-13

*(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.*