

RESURRECTION NEWS



December 2021

Pastor's Letter

December 2021

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

This month, we continue exploring the Ten Commandments, focusing on the Fifth Commandment:

You shall not murder.

What does this mean? Answer: We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need.

What would you say if I told you that this commandment is intimately related to the message of Christmas? My guess is that your response is something along the lines of, "Huh?" But it's true. The fifth commandment, "*You shall not murder*" is intimately related to the message of Christmas. What do I mean by this?

Martin Luther gives us a hint in his explanation to this commandment in which he shows us that the fifth commandment is about much more than simply murder. Luther is in good company in making this move. In Matthew 5:21, Jesus himself shows that this commandment is about so much more than simply murder: **"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment."** The fifth commandment is about much more than simply murder.

So, what is the fifth commandment about? Luther says that this commandment means "*We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need.*" In other words, for Luther, the fifth commandment is all about defending the physical life of our neighbor. Now are you starting to see how this might relate to the message of Christmas?

If you're like most Americans, when you think about Christmas you think of snow, decorations, shopping, food, reindeer, and any number of other things. It's possible that some Americans might think of the manger scene with baby Jesus in the manger, but the thought probably doesn't go much beyond that.

The ancient Church and the Scriptures themselves teach us to think differently about Christmas. The Nicene Creed, in speaking about Jesus' Incarnation at Christmas, says: **...who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary...** Jesus came to earth on Christmas *for us men and for our salvation!* Jesus himself puts it slightly differently in the Gospel of John: **I came that they may have life and have it abundantly** (John 10:10). Now do you see how the fifth commandment relates to the message of Christmas?

Jesus came on Christmas so that human beings *may have life*. This life isn't any kind of life here on earth—it's *abundant life!* Jesus came to earth on Christmas *for our salvation*. That is to say, he came so that we might have eternal life. And, of course, this eternal life isn't only for you and me. It's a message for the whole world, as the angel said to the shepherds on that first Christmas: **I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord** (Luke 2:10-11).

My friends, Christmas is a reminder to us about the importance of life. As we journey this year through the Advent and Christmas seasons, it is our Christian calling to defend the physical life of our neighbor. We can do this through simple acts of kindness and generosity toward those around us—helping clear snow, assisting someone in need with physical or maintenance tasks, paying for someone's morning coffee, or any number of other small acts. We love our neighbors and care for their physical needs here on this earth because Christ has come to earth so that ALL may have life and have it abundantly.

Through our demonstration that we care for the early lives of our neighbors, we pray that the Holy Spirit would open opportunities for us to discuss the eternal life that we have in Jesus. May the Lord grant us such opportunities this Advent and Christmas season.

Peace in Jesus,
Pastor Akers

Notes from your Deaconess

As days grow darker
We eagerly await our
True light's arrival

Dear Brothers and Sisters of LCR,

As Advent proceeds and the sunrises and sunsets become closer together, we crave more sunshine. How fitting that we should celebrate the incarnation at this time of year in the northern hemisphere. (I suppose those in the southern hemisphere can also rejoice that Christmas occurs at the time of year with the *most* sunlight.)

Our Lord declared *"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life"* (John 8:12). This same gospel begins by speaking of Jesus as the light (John 1:1-14), the gospel reading historically read on Christmas Day—in all the Sunday lectionary plans. This association of light with God echoes through the scriptures. He traveled with his people Israel in the wilderness as a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. The psalmists and prophets also include this language, *"The Lord is my light and my salvation"* (Psalm 27:1), *"Send out your light and your truth; let them lead me"* (Psalm 43:3), *"Come, let us walk in the light of the LORD"* (Isaiah 2:5), and of course the blessing which we hear each Sunday includes *"the LORD make his face to shine upon you"* (Numbers 6:25). In the gospel of Matthew, we also read Jesus' statement *"You are the light of the world"* (Matthew 5:14). St. Paul wrote to the Romans *"So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light"* (Romans 13:12). If we have been clothed in Christ, then we are light to those around us. In his letter to the Philippians St. Paul wrote reminding them that they *"shine as lights in the world"* (Philippians 2:15).

We began to read the prophet Isaiah in our daily lectionary readings a few days ago. This hope-filled book contains a great many passages which apply to Jesus. They both comfort and admonish the readers to prepare for his coming—in the flesh as our redeemer, and at the end as judge to right all wrongs. The New Testament readings include the letters of Peter, John, and Jude as well as more of the Revelation to John. Look for the frequent mentions of light in these readings—you might be surprised with how often you'll find it. We'll read accounts relating to Jesus's birth during the last week of the month until we reach Epiphany in January.

Saturday morning women's Bible studies will take place on Saturdays December 4 and 18, 8:30am to 10am. We continue to meet downstairs at church, and also you can join via Zoom if you let me know to send the link. We continue to read and consider the book of Daniel.

Under his mercy,
Sharon M. Conover

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the peoples; and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. (Isaiah 60:1-3)

And we have something more sure, the prophetic word, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in our hearts. (1Peter 1:19)

Sunday Morning Schedule

8:30 a.m. "Precautionary" Divine Service (masks required)
10:00 a.m. Divine Service (masks optional)
11:15 a.m. Fellowship

Midweek Bible Study & Services

Beginning December 1, the midweek schedule will be changing. Thursday Bible Study will move to Wednesdays and we will begin holding regular Wednesday prayer services. The Wednesday schedule will be:

- **10:30am** - Bible Class (in person only)
- **12:00pm** - Prayer Service—Matins (in person or Facebook live stream)
- **6:30pm** - Prayer Service—Vespers (in person or Facebook live stream)
- **7:00pm** - Bible Class (in-person & Zoom)

Please note: Mid-Week Bible Study will not meet on Wednesday, December 22 or 29. There will be prayer services on those days, however.

Worship Services the Week of Christmas

Here is the full schedule of services for the week of Christmas:

- **Sunday, December 19**
 - 8:30am - Divine Service (Precautionary)
 - 10:00am - Divine Service (live streamed)
- **Wednesday, December 22**
 - 12:00pm - Mid-Week Prayer—Matins (live streamed)
 - 6:30pm - Mid-Week Prayer—Vespers (live streamed)
- **Friday, December 24**
 - 4:00pm - Christmas Eve Worship (Precautionary)
 - 6:00pm - Christmas Eve Worship (live streamed)
- **Saturday, December 25**
 - 10:00am - Divine Service (live streamed)
- **Sunday, December 26**
 - 8:30am - Divine Service (Precautionary)
 - 10:00am - Divine Service (live streamed)

Annual Congregational Meeting

Please join us for the annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 19 after the second service (to begin around 11:30). Lunch (pizza) will be provided. The Church Council will give reports, we will vote on the budget for 2022, and we will elect congregational officers. If you have questions, please talk to Mark Larsen, Pastor Akers, or any Church Council member. The LWML will also be having a bake sale and have Christmas centerpieces for sale at the meeting.

LWML

A BIG THANK YOU for the generous donations to help LWML-NED (New England District) meet the October 2021 Mite Challenge. Our congregation alone donated \$816.67. The success was far beyond our wildest expectations! Including the \$5,000, the total amount was \$19,118.24! These donations made it possible for the LWML-NED to meet our #7 and #8 grants. "Capstone Education Fund", a ministry to help street children in Kenya, and also "Missouri Synod's Mission Central", which funds transportation needs for world-wide missionaries.

Defending the Faith

Sometimes the Best Defense is a Good Defense

It's an old book, written by sexist men – and it's been translated so many times that it looks nothing like the original. And you put your faith in THIS???

Welcome to a multi-part series on the reliability of Sacred Scripture!

If we're really going to structure our entire lives around the Bible, shouldn't we have clear reasons to believe that it's really God's Word? That it hasn't been corrupted over the millennia?

That seems obvious, so let's dive in - and I'm borrowing heavily from some excellent work by J. Warner Wallace at www.ColdCaseChristianity.com and www.CARM.org – and I highly recommend both for your own research.

Books of the New Testament were written early.

Think about an event – say a wedding – that you went to yesterday. You can probably recall a lot of details about it. The color of the bridesmaid's dresses, the food, the guests, the Best Man speech, the bride and groom's first dance and even what kind of dressing was on the salad and which shoes your spouse wore.

Now think about a wedding that you went to 40 years ago. Can you remember the same level of detail? My bet is that you can't. I know for certain that I can't!

Descriptions of events are simply going to be more accurate if they're documented close to the time of the events. Our memories are just going to be more clear and more accurate.

Now let's apply that to Scripture. Documents written closer to the time of the events have less time for memories to fade (though the Holy Spirit promised to recall all things in John 14:26).

If there were errors in transcription or writers just plain fabricated events, the still-living eyewitnesses were right there to object and correct the record.

Now how about some of the reasons we think that the Book of Acts was written early.

First off, the Book of Acts never discusses the destruction of the Temple (A.D. 70), which Jesus prophesied in Matthew 24:2. That fulfilled prophecy would have been a huge boost to the authority of Scripture. Why not mention it then? Simple – it had not yet happened. That places Acts prior to A.D. 70.

The Book of Acts makes no mention of the horrendous persecution of Christians (A.D. 64) by Nero. Luke documented the killing of Stephen (Acts 7:55-60), so why not mention the martyrs of the Nero persecution? The simple answer is that those killings had not yet happened when Acts was written. That places Acts prior to A.D. 64.

There's also no mention of the deaths of the Apostle Paul (dated between A.D. 62 to 68) or James, the Lord's half-brother who was martyred around A.D. 62.

All of these items point to a very early dating of the Book of Acts most likely prior to A.D. 62.

Next month, we'll look at how Scripture has been corroborated – and some of our evidence comes from those who were vehemently opposed to the early Christian church!

As always, I welcome comments and even criticism in person or via charles.j.macpherson@gmail.com.

Charlie MacPherson, SDG

Members of the Month

Sharon Elsdon and Dan Callahan (both members of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod by infant baptism) grew up a six-hour drive from each other and met in college—at California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly) in San Luis Obispo. Sharon, from San Francisco Bay Area, drove three hours south to Cal Poly; while Dan from Los Angeles, drove three hours north to Cal Poly—thus they met in the middle right from the beginning! (Dan might have been an Oklahoman had his grandfather not run away from there at age 16, settling in Los Angeles—which is where Dan’s father and subsequently Dan were born.)

Both Sharon and Dan were members of the Cal Poly Band, Sharon on percussion and Dan on trumpet; and they attended church together as well. This took place during the Vietnam War. Dan had a break in the colleges he attended prior to Cal Poly, and was drafted. Not wanting to be in the Army, he joined the Navy—just as his dad had done during WWII. Dan drilled once a month with the Naval Reserve unit in Monterey while he finished his degree at Cal Poly and then in 1969 went full time active duty.



1969 was a milestone year for the Callahans: Dan earned his BS in Chemistry, was commissioned an ensign in the Navy, received his Naval Aviator wings; man walked on the Moon; and Sharon and Dan were married!

For the next 21 years, Dan was a P-3 pilot, had a crew of 13, and flew above the Atlantic and Pacific waters hunting for and tracking Soviet submarines. Also during those 21 years, he received an MS in Meteorology at the Naval Postgraduate School; taught chemistry and meteorology at the Naval Academy in Annapolis; and served on the aircraft carrier USS Independence. His last tour with the Navy was with several patrol squadrons at Brunswick Naval Air Station. He had a wonderful career in the Navy with service in the Orient, the Philippines, Iran, Spain, Sicily and Bermuda, and circumnavigated the globe twice. After retirement from the Navy, Dan taught general chemistry and physics at UNE in Biddeford and Portland, and then fully retired in 2013.

Sharon became the “dutiful military wife,” raising the kids, holding down the fort, and studying toward her degrees during Dan’s overseas deployments. When asked if she had any funny stories to tell of events during Dan’s deployments, she said: “Sorry, no funny stories about when Dan was on deployment - it wasn’t fun!!! We did all join him in Okinawa for 6 months and Bermuda for a summer, though!” As the Navy moved them around quite a bit, Sharon finally graduated from San Jose State University in 1976 and started her

life-long career in teaching. From a very young age Sharon had wanted to be a teacher and when she actually became a teacher, she really loved her work! When the Callahans moved to Maine, Sharon was able to get her MA in American and New England Studies at USM. Sharon taught for 40 years, 35 with the Brunswick School Department, mostly as an eighth-grade Language Arts teacher before retiring in 2017. In retirement Sharon has time for hobbies she enjoys: She loves to swim, knit, sew (smocking and quilting), recently learned to play the ukulele.

The Callahans now work together to maintain their home in Brunswick and a summer cottage in Machiasport. They enjoy traveling—the Greek islands, Venice, Germany, and Ireland (*see photo at Glenariff in September*) in particular. They also love to spend time with family: Those here in Maine and Boston, but also those in California and elsewhere on the West Coast. As opposite “snow birds” they spend summers in Machiasport building bunkhouses, tractor sheds, improving the property, and entertaining guests. (All-in-all they say, what they do most often is just fall asleep watching their favorite TV shows—Jeopardy, Blue Bloods, Survivor, the Amazing Race!)

Sharon and Dan have a son and a daughter. Sean is the GM of Applebee’s in Brunswick and has two children: Liam, 19; Sinead, 16. Before getting into the restaurant business Sean taught high school and coached basketball, even winning a Maine state championship! Daughter Tara, husband Charlie, and children, Callie, 22; Danika, 19; and Tristan, 13, live in Mill Valley, CA. Tara is an attorney—the Executive Director/Corporate Council for the legal offices of BioMarin, a

cutting-edge pharmaceutical research company focusing on childhood hereditary diseases. The Callahans always travel to California for Christmas and New Year's, and then at least once or twice more each year. In turn, Tara and her family always come to spend time with the family at the Callahan cottage each summer. Sharon and Dan feel so lucky that Callie chose to attend Bowdoin, graduated in June, and now lives and works in Boston.

Dan and Sharon feel very fortunate to also have Matthew Esculano in their lives for the past 30 years! Matthew was Sharon's 8th grade student and the two bonded over Jeopardy—which they still watch and never miss a show. When Matt needed to go into foster care, Sharon and Dan took him in. He has been in their lives ever since.



Matt is a very high functioning person with autism; and even graduated with the mainstream from Brunswick High School. He's been connected to Independence Association since then and attends their day program 4 days a week. He does their other activities like Wii Tournaments, Bocce, movie nights, potlucks (he loves to eat anything that doesn't have onions in it) and dances. Matt has a girlfriend, Jenny, and they've been dating since he was 16—Jenny's a couple of years older. They attend Independence activities together and never miss their hour-long Friday night phone calls. Matt skis with Maine Handicapped Skiing in the winter and loves Special Olympics every February. He also participates in Special Olympics for track and field each June. Ask him the capital of any country in the World and he knows it! He keeps Sharon and Dan busy!

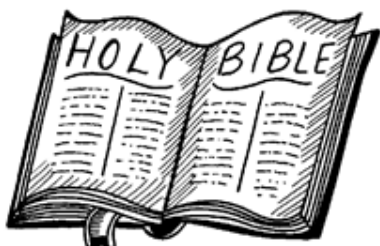
Even though they've moved seven times since marriage, they've managed to find LCMS churches at each location. Living an hour from church has curtailed much of their participation at LCR, but they are happy to have found a church home in Maine. They've been members since 2006. Over the years, the Callahans have sung in choirs, and served on boards and committees. Sharon has also been Sunday School Superintendent. Dan has played the trumpet, been an Elder, and been President of the congregation, as well as VP here in Waterville. Sharon and Dan have a lovely life with a beautiful family and "thank God every day for their many blessings."

December Stewardship

	<u>December 5</u>	<u>December 12</u>	<u>December 19</u>	<u>December 25</u>	<u>December 26</u>
<u>Acolyte</u>	10:00 Evan Farr	10:00 Hayley Farr	10:00 Evan Farr		10:00 Evan Farr
<u>Worship Assistant</u>	8:30 Chris Batson	8:30 Brian Watson	8:30 Mark Larsen		8:30 Mark Larsen
	10:00 Charlie MacPherson	10:00 Glenn Carlson Sr.	10:00 Chris Batson	10:00 Chris Batson	10:00 Brad Fitzpatrick
<u>Usher</u>	8:30 Wayne Pelletier	8:30 Mo Cote	8:30 Wayne Pelletier		8:30 Mo Cote
	10:00 John Ayotte	10:00 Glenn Carlson Jr.	10:00 Rick Drageland	10:00 John Ayotte	10:00 Seth Carlson
<u>Cantor</u>	8:30 Open	8:30 Open	8:30 Open		8:30 Open
	10:00 Fernando Gouvêa	10:00 Jared Goldsmith	10:00 Allison Farr		10:00 Steve Farr
<u>Greeters</u>	8:30 The Andersons	8:30 Dorothy McAllister	8:30 The Larsens		8:30 Christine Thomas
	10:00 The Dragelands	10:00 Sharon Klipp	10:00 James Breslin	10:00 The Batsons	10:00 The MacPhersons
<u>Altar Care</u>	Amy Ouellette	Sasha Fitzpatrick	Krista Carlson		Andrea Watson
<u>Flowers</u>	Sharon Conover	Sharon Conover	Sharon Klipp		Sharon Klipp
<u>Fellowship</u>	Sharon Klipp	Open	Congregational Meeting (Pizza)		No Fellowship

Christmas Eve Stewardship:

	<u>4:00 p.m.</u>	<u>6:00 p.m.</u>
Ushers:	Mark Larsen Glenn Carlson Jr.	Chris Batson Open
Acolyte:	Hayley Farr	Open
Greeters:	Dorothy McAllister	Chris & Yvonne Batson



Monthly Worship

December 5, 2021
Second Sunday in Advent

Psalm: 50:1-15
Old Testament: Malachi 4:1-6
Epistle: Romans 15:4-13
Holy Gospel: Luke 21:25-36

December 12, 2021
Third Sunday in Advent

Psalm: 85
Old Testament: Isaiah 40:1-8
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 4:1-5
Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:2-10

December 19, 2021
Fourth Sunday in Advent

Psalm: 111
Old Testament: Deuteronomy 18:15-19
Epistle: Philippians 4:4-7
Holy Gospel: John 1:19-28

December 24, 2021
The Nativity of Our Lord
(Christmas Eve)

Psalm: 110:1-4
Old Testament: Isaiah 7:10-14
Epistle: 1 John 4:7-18
Holy Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

December 25, 2021
The Nativity of Our Lord
(Christmas Day)

Psalm: 2
Old Testament: Exodus 40:17-21, 34-38
Epistle: Titus 3:4-7
Holy Gospel: John 1:1-14

December 26, 2021
First Sunday after Christmas

Psalm: 89:1-8
Old Testament: Isaiah 11:1-5
Epistle: Galatians 4:1-7
Holy Gospel: Luke 22:22-40

BIBLE QUIZ

1. **What did John the Baptist eat while he was in the wilderness?**
 - A. Pizza Israeli-style
 - B. Locusts and wild honey
 - C. Milk and roasted grass
 - D. Bread and water
2. **What did Jesus do with the money changers in the Temple?**
 - A. He told them they would see the Kingdom of God.
 - B. He took their money and gave it to the poor.
 - C. He gave them a pat on the back and told them to keep up the good work.
 - D. He overturned their tables and poured their money onto the floor.
3. **In Matthew 10, what does Jesus use to illustrate the depth of the knowledge of God?**
 - A. He counts the grains of sand on a beach.
 - B. He counts the stars.
 - C. He counts the hairs on our head.
 - D. He hears us when we pray in silence.
4. **Where did Joseph and Mary go to hide the infant Jesus from Herod?**
 - A. Egypt
 - B. Nazareth
 - C. Syria
 - D. Argentina
5. **Which Gospels have accounts of Jesus feeding the 4,000 (the seven loaves and fish)?**
 - A. Matthew and Mark
 - B. All of them
 - C. John only
 - D. Mark and Luke



12/2 Lydia Bendas
Dorothy McAllister
12/3 Ruth Milhous
12/10 Elizabeth Akers
12/12 Maira Goldsmith
12/13 Sharon Conover
Allison Farr
12/14 Dawn Buck
Evelyn Gaug
12/15 Ethan Carlson
12/18 Steven Bendas
12/20 Benjamin Schiebel
12/23 Dan Callahan
12/25 Evelyn Gilbert
12/27 Natalie Crowley
12/31 Matthew Esculano



12/2 Jessie Shaw
12/10 Gail Maestas
12/17 Dawn Buck
12/21 Evan Farr
Hayley Farr
12/25 Dottie Evertsen



12/16 Fernando & Mari Gouvea
12/20 Peter & Lois Doran
12/27 Dan & Sharon Callahan



12/17 Esther Gould
John Gould
12/19 Rick Dostie



A four year old was at the pediatrician for a check up. As the doctor looked down her ears with an otoscope, he asked, "Do you think I'll find Big Bird in here?" The little girl stayed silent. Next, the doctor took a tongue depressor and looked down her throat.

He asked, "Do you think I'll find the Cookie Monster down there?" Again, the little girl was silent.

Then the doctor put a stethoscope to her chest. As he listened to her heart beat, he asked, "Do you think I'll hear Barney in there?" "Oh, no!" the little girl replied. "Jesus is in my heart. Barney's on my underpants."

A young preacher recently came upon a farmer working in his field.

Being concerned about the farmer's soul the preacher asked the man, "Are you laboring in the vineyard of the Lord my good man?"

Not even looking at the preacher and continuing his work the farmer replied, "Naw, these are soybeans."

"You don't understand," said the preacher. "Are you lost?"

"Naw! I've lived here all my life," answered the farmer.

"Are you prepared for the resurrection?" the frustrated preacher asked.

This caught the farmer's attention and he asked, "When's it gonna be?"

Thinking he had accomplished something the young preacher replied, "It could be today, tomorrow, or the next day."

Taking a handkerchief from his back pocket and wiping his brow, the farmer remarked, "Well, don't mention it to my wife. She don't get out much and she'll wanna go all three days."

BIBLE QUIZ ANSWERS

1. B (Matthew 3:4)
2. D (John 2:15)
3. C (Matthew 10:30)
4. A (Matthew 2:13)
5. A (Matthew 15 and Mark 8)

The Daily Lectionary

December 2021

12/1	Isaiah 7:10-8:8 / 1 Peter 3:1-22
12/2	Isaiah 8:9-9:7 / 1 Peter 4:1-19
12/3	Isaiah 9:8-10:11 / 1 Peter 5:1-14
12/4	Isaiah 10:12-27, 33-34 / 2 Peter 1:1-21
12/5	Isaiah 11:1-12:6 / 2 Peter 2:1-22
12/6	Isaiah 14:1-23 / 2 Peter 3:1-18
12/7	Isaiah 24:1-13 / 1 John 1:1-2:14
12/8	Isaiah 24:14-25:12 / 1 John 2:15-29
12/9	Isaiah 26:1-19 / 1 John 3:1-24
12/10	Isaiah 26:20-27:13 / 1 John 4:1-21
12/11	Isaiah 28:14-29 / 1 John 5:1-21
12/12	Isaiah 29:1-14 / Jude 1-25
12/13	Isaiah 29:15-30:14 / Revelation 1:1-20
12/14	Isaiah 30:15-26 / Revelation 2:1-29
12/15	Isaiah 30:27-31:9 / Revelation 3:1-22
12/16	Isaiah 32:1-20 / Revelation 4:1-11
12/17	Isaiah 33:1-24 / Revelation 5:1-14
12/18	Isaiah 34:1-2,8-35:10 / Revelation 6:1-17
12/19	Isaiah 40:1-17 / Revelation 7:1-17
12/20	Isaiah 40:18-41:10 / Revelation 8:1-13
12/21	Isaiah 42:1-25 / Revelation 9:1-12
12/22	Isaiah 43:1-24 / Revelation 9:13-10:11
12/23	Isaiah 43:25-44:20 / Revelation 11:1-19
12/24	Isaiah 44:21-45:13, 20-25 / Revelation 12:1-17
12/25	Isaiah 49:1-18 / Matthew 1:1-17
12/26	Isaiah 49:22-26; 50:4-51:8, 12-16 / Matthew 1:18-25
12/27	Isaiah 51:17-52:12 / Matthew 2:1-12
12/28	Isaiah 52:13-54:10 / Matthew 2:13-23
12/29	Isaiah 55:1-13 / Luke 1:1-25
12/30	Isaiah 58:1-59:3,14-21 / Luke 1:26-38
12/31	Isaiah 60:1-22 / Luke 1:39-56

(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.*