

RESURRECTION NEWS



February 2022

Pastor's Letter

February 2022

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

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

You shall not steal.

What does this mean? Answer: We should fear and love God so that do not take our neighbor's money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

Beginning in the early fourth century AD, the monastic lifestyle began to increase in popularity. This was due, in large part, to the Edict of Milan issued by Emperor Constantine in AD 313. This edict didn't legalize Christianity, as some claim, but it did establish religious toleration for Christianity. In other words, the Edict of Milan put an end to the organized, empire-wide persecution of Christians. As persecution and martyrdom decreased in the years that followed, monasticism increased as Christians sought a way to express their complete dedication to Christ.

You're probably familiar with the three monastic vows: poverty, chastity, and obedience. There is much that could be said about these vows, but for the purpose of this discussion, the poverty vow is of particular note. The ultimate aim of the monastic life was to discipline the body so it would become totally devoted to Christ. Poverty was one of the chief weapons in disciplining the body. This deprivation of physical possessions has been viewed by Christians throughout the centuries as the pinnacle of the Christian faith.

In his discussion of the Seventh Commandment in the Large Catechism, Martin Luther observes that "*God also wants property protected.*" The implications of this are clear: God values physical possessions. He wants us to enjoy the "things" of this world. We can debate the value of the monastic vow of poverty another time, but the Seventh Commandment makes it clear that poverty is not the pinnacle of the Christian faith because God values physical possessions.

The thing is, most of us don't have the monastic "problem" of not valuing physical possessions. In the consumerist society in which we live, our temptation is usually to place too high of a value on physical possessions. (The Netflix documentary titled *Minimalism* does an excellent job of chronicling our society's unhealthy obsession with "stuff.")

So, how are we as Christians to live in this world while striking a balance between not valuing "stuff" and valuing it too much? Luther's explanation to the Seventh Commandment offer's some wise counsel.

First, *we should fear and love God*. For Luther, this is the primary calling of Christians. This is why he begins his explanation to each of the commandments with these words. If a Christian fears and loves God, then everything else will fall into place.

Next, Luther notes that we should not *take our neighbor's money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way*. Why does he feel the need to make this explicit? Because this is our sinful human tendency. We see something that we want, so we are tempted to take it. But if we truly fear and love God, we will recognize that God has given it to our neighbor, not to us, and so it is not our place to play God and take it for ourselves.

Finally, Luther notes that we are to help our neighbor to *improve and protect his possessions and income*. Fearing and loving God is not just about refraining from doing the wrong thing. It's also about upholding God's good order in this world. We are to help and serve our neighbor in all things.

To truly fear and love God means that we should not be inwardly focused, but that we should value our neighbor over and above ourselves. In short, to have a proper relationship with physical possessions means that we live generously. When we live generously, we not only exhibit proper fear and love of God, but we bear witness to others of our generous God, who continues to give us all that we need for this body and life and for the life to come.

Peace in Jesus,
Pastor Akers

Notes from your Deaconess

*O time of God appointed, O bright and holy morn!
He comes, the king anointed, The Christ, the virgin-born,
Grim death to vanquish for us, To open heav'n before us
And bring us life again.
(LSB #402:2)*

Dear Brothers and Sisters of LCR,

While the second of February brings thoughts of groundhogs and the possibility of winter ending to many around us, the church celebrates the Purification of Mary and Presentation of Our Lord at the temple in Jerusalem where Simeon blessed God with the song we now often sing as we finish the service of the Lord's Supper – the Nunc Dimittis. He acknowledged that he now could die in peace having beheld (and held) the promised savior. Indeed, that savior Jesus later told Martha when her brother Lazarus had died, *"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live"* (John 11:25). In our baptism, in our being clothed in him and adopted as sons of God, we have a sure hope of participating in his resurrection (rising up alive again from death) – physically like him – on that last day. In Luke's gospel, Jesus told the Sadducees, who didn't even believe there would be a resurrection of the dead, that those who would be resurrected would be "sons of God, being sons of the resurrection" (Luke 20:36).

On the fourth of February our daily lectionary readings take us to the Old Testament book of Job who fairly clearly had a belief in the resurrection (Job 19:25-26), and to the gospel according to John, which we will read until Ash Wednesday (March 9 this year). While this season of Epiphany focuses on the revelation of who Jesus is for the world, Job struggled with the hidden ways of God – those difficult circumstances which from our point of view seem contrary to a loving God. (*"Oh the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!"* Romans 11:33) The apostle John helped to unveil some of that mystery of our Lord's work and ways with his unique telling about Jesus's life, ministry, death, and resurrection. He also brings us the "I am" statements of our Lord. (We will read the account of Jesus raising Lazarus in early March.)

I plan to hold Saturday morning Bible studies for women on February 5 and 19 downstairs at church from about 8:30 to 10. We have begun spending time with the prophet Ezekiel, and you would be most welcome to join if and when you are able – either in person or via Zoom. Just let me know if you wish to have a link sent to you.

Under his mercy,
Sharon M. Conover

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." 1 Peter 1:3

Sunday Morning Schedule

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

Midweek Bible Study & Services

10:30 a.m. - Bible Class (in person only)
12:00 p.m. - Prayer Service—Matins (in person or Facebook live stream)
6:30 p.m. - Prayer Service—Vespers (in person or Facebook live stream)
7:00 p.m. - Bible Class (in-person & Zoom)

Thank You's

Your generous gift to Issues, Etc. enables us to proclaim this "good tidings of great joy" to all people. Thank you.
Wir sind alle Bettler,
Todd Wilken, Host

We are glad to be your "northern partners" in mission. May our Lord Jesus grant us a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
Pr. Charles, Deborah, Olivia & Sophia St. Onge.

Thank you for your very generous donation of \$1,080 for three Garuna Kid Sponsorships. Your contribution will bring the grace, mercy, and compassion (Garuna) of Jesus Christ to the multitudes of those in Thailand, Cambodia and surrounding countries.
Sincerely in Christ,
Rev. Jeffery J. Ehlers, Chairman

Our mission is to provide support to people experiencing homelessness by providing shelter, food, and services to low income and vulnerable members of the Mid-Maine community. Your support allows us to achieve our goals and expand our outreach.
Yours in partnership,
Tanya Fossett
Development & Communications Director
Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter & Services

We are honored to have your support of our Veterans and their families. We accomplished so much in 2021, and it's all because of YOU.
Very respectfully,
US Army SSG (Ret.) Travis Mills and the Travis Mills Foundation Team

We are very grateful for your support and send a BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU for helping us in aiding people in need.
May God bless all of you for your kindness,
Clara Watson, Treasurer
Oakland Food Pantry

Thank you for your donation of \$500 to help purchase food for distribution to our clients. Your support is appreciated.
Sincerely,
Sandra Hammond, President
Waterville Food Bank

February Stewardship

	<u>February 6</u>	<u>February 13</u>	<u>February 20</u>	<u>February 27</u>
<u>Acolyte</u>	10:00 Evan Farr	10:00 Hayley Farr	10:00 Evan Farr	10:00 Hayley Farr
<u>Worship Assistant</u>	8:30 Dan Callahan	8:30 Mark Larsen	8:30 Dan Callahan	8:30 Mark Larsen
	10:00 Charlie MacPherson	10:00 Brad Fitzpatrick	10:00 Chris Batson	10:00 Glenn Carlson Sr.
<u>Ushers</u>	8:30 Mo Cote	8:30 Wayne Pelletier	8:30 Mo Cote	8:30 Wayne Pelletier
	10:00 John Ayotte	10:00 Glenn Carlson Jr.	10:00 Rick Drageland	10:00 Jeff Sammons
<u>Cantor</u>	8:30 Sharon Conover	8:30 Sharon Conover	8:30 Sharon Conover	8:30 Sharon Conover
	10:00 Fernando Gouvêa	10:00 Allison Farr	10:00 Steve Farr	10:00 Jared Goldsmith
<u>Greeters</u>	8:30 Dorthy McAllister	8:30 The Andersons	8:30 Julie Kohl	8:30 Christine Thomas
	10:00 The Dragelands	10:00 The MacPhersons	10:00 Sharon Klipp	10:00 The Wilson Family
<u>Altar Care</u>	Amanda Goldsmith	Amy Ouellette	Sasha Fitzpatrick	Krista Carlson
<u>Flowers</u>	Julie Kohl	Gail Carrano	Gail Carrano	Christine Thomas
<u>Fellowship</u>	The Wilson Family	The Keefes	Open	Open

Defending the Faith

Sometimes the Best Defense is a Good Defense

The reliability of Scripture, Part 3.

In the first part of this series, we talked about the early dating of Scripture and the very strong evidence that the Book of Acts was written prior to the destruction of the Temple, which occurred in 70 A.D. Last month we looked at just a few of the non-Christian (and in some cases, anti-Christian) historians who confirmed aspects of Scripture in their writings.

This month, we'll look at confirmations of parts of Scripture from archeology. These discoveries don't necessarily prove that all of Scripture is true, but they're evidence that confirms parts of it, and that helps us to build a cumulative case for the reliability of Scripture.

Recommended reading: www.biblicalarchaeology.org and type "People" into the search bar, there is a fantastic article written by Purdue University scholar Lawrence Mykytiuk (Sept. 14, 2021) that details 53 people named in the Old Testament who have had their names confirmed by archeological finds.

Another good article is one from Erik Manning (May 2, 2019) at www.isJesusAlive.com. Type "Skeptics" into the search bar and scroll down to read "3 Times Archaeology has Confirmed the Gospels and Shut the Mouths of the Skeptics". It's a fun read and is written with a pinch of snark, directed at skeptics who like to ridicule Christianity. A few highlights:

Luke 7:1-5 – the story of Jesus healing the Centurion's servant, who Scripture states had taken part in building the synagogue. A skeptic and supposed scholar named Robert Price argues that there would have been no synagogues in pre-70 A.D. Galilee since the Pharisees fled there only after the fall of Jerusalem.

However, according to archaeology cited in this article, "*Remains of the First Century Jewish synagogue where Jesus spoke and performed a miracle has been excavated [in Galilee]. The synagogue also marks the beginning of His public ministry.*"

The Pool of Bethesda from John 5. This is where Jesus healed a paralyzed man on the Sabbath, creating a ruckus.

John has been repeatedly accused of inventing the story and the pool itself. John wrote about the existence of a pool of Bethesda (John 5:1-9) and said that it was located in the region of Jerusalem, near the Sheep Gate, surrounded by five porticos. In 1888, archaeologists began excavating the area near St. Anne's Church in Jerusalem and discovered the remains of the pool, complete with steps leading down from one side and five shallow porticos on another side. It was exactly as described in Scripture.

Thomas Paine (US founding father), was a serious skeptic. He claimed that there could not have been a King Herod as written in Scripture. He claimed that there were no kings in that time because the region was ruled by Roman Emperors, Tetrarchs and Governors, not kings.

That claim was firmly defeated in 2019 when a student on a school trip to the northern West Bank discovered a coin that was inscribed "King Agrippa".

Here are a few more discoveries to consider:

In Romans 16:23, Paul wrote, "Erastus, the city treasurer greets you." A piece of pavement was discovered in Corinth in 1929 confirming his existence.

Luke described a tetrarch named Lysanias and wrote that this man reigned over Abilene when John the Baptist began his ministry (Luke 3:1). Two inscriptions have been discovered that mention Lysanias by name. One of these, dated from AD 14–37, identifies Lysanias as the tetrarch in Abila near Damascus.

In Acts 13:51, Luke described Iconium as city in Phrygia. Some ancient writers (like Cicero) wrote that Iconium was located in Lycaonia, rather than Phrygia, but a monument was discovered in 1910 that confirmed Iconium as a city in Phrygia.

In Acts 13, Luke identified Sergius Paulus, a proconsul in Paphos. Skeptics doubted the existence of this man and claimed that any leader of this area would be a "propraetor" rather than a proconsul. But an inscription was discovered at Soli in Cyprus that acknowledged Paulus and identified him as a proconsul.

So that's a brief overview of what archeology tells us about some people and facts found in Scripture. Another point to keep in mind is that there has never been a single archeological discovery that has disproven any aspect of Scripture.

As always, I welcome comments, questions and criticism at charles.j.macpherson@gmail.com.

Charlie MacPherson, SDG

Member of the Month - Natalie Crowley

Natalie Crowley is one of our members with the longest membership longevity—having come to Lutheran Church of the Resurrection in 1988. She was born Natalie Derau (1935) in Dedham, Massachusetts—where she grew up and attended public schools. After graduating high school, Natalie worked for the County Registry of Deeds, but left her position when she became engaged to be married (a policy at the time).



Natalie is a life-long Lutheran. As a young adult, she began teaching Sunday School at her church and continued until she left Dedham. Her marriage ceremony to William Crowley (who had been raised as a Roman Catholic) took place in the old German Lutheran Church (St. Luke's) in Dedham in 1955. (The founding date of the church is not known. However, their chapel was expanded in 1917, and a new church was built in 1960.)

Natalie and William built a home in Sharon, MA, where they raised their family until 1981. During that time, William traveled extensively around the world as an engineer. They moved to Ohio for advancement of William's career while their three sons were still at home. The Crowleys built a home in what was then the rural outskirts of Cincinnati, and remained there as their boys grew into adulthood. During this time, they belonged to a small Lutheran congregation in the country where they developed many strong friendships. Though the larger more urban church was the same distance from them, they preferred the rural life and setting.

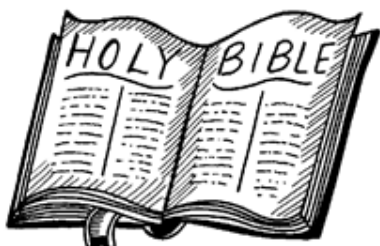
Following William's retirement, Natalie wished to return to New England. They moved to Maine—spent a year searching for their current property—then designed, and finally built their current house. It's a beautiful lakefront home overlooking China Lake. The Lord took Natalie's husband home to Himself only a few years after he had finished building the house.

Natalie's oldest son, Gary, lives in Binghamton, NY; her middle son, Wayne, keeps her company in their lakefront home; and her youngest son, Harlan, died at age 34 after moving to Maine from Ohio.

Natalie has taken various adult education classes over the years in order to explore her wide variety of interests. Her most consistent interests outside the home have been nature and dogs. She enjoys dogs very much, and has always had at least one dog at any given time—usually a large breed—and currently has a Great Pyrenees mix, Bella. Natalie has enjoyed getting to know the lay of the land, exploring back roads, hiking, swimming, canoeing, and studying wildlife use on her property in Palermo—and also at her primitive-type camp north of Farmington that the family has totally enjoyed.

Natalie was a long-term, consistent, and significant volunteer with the Audubon Society and with Avian Haven in Freedom; and is still keen on reading their newsletters. Since enduring and healing from two hip fractures over the past few years, Natalie spends more time reading. She often selects books from the LCR library. She also keeps up with the Lutheran Witness and reads things that will generally help her “keep up on what's happening!” When watching TV, Natalie likes PBS's All Things Great and Small, National Geographic, and Doc Martin.

Though Natalie is not able to physically be with us in worship on all Sundays—when she is able to be in church, it is a blessing. Tina Baker gives Natalie a beautiful gift in the form of rides to/from church with visiting during the ride. Last month, Tina and Natalie used their visit time to provide us with the information for this month's Member of the Month column. Thank you for sharing your story Natalie! And many thanks for compiling it Tina!



Monthly Worship

February 6, 2022
The Transfiguration of Our Lord

Psalm: 2
Old Testament: Exodus 34:29-35
Epistle: 2 Peter 1:16-21
Holy Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

February 13, 2022
Septuagesima

Psalm: 95:1-9
Old Testament: Exodus 17:1-7
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 9:24-10:5
Holy Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

February 20, 2022
Sexagesima

Psalm: 84
Old Testament: Isaiah 55:10-13
Epistle: 2 Corinthians 11:19-12:9
Holy Gospel: Luke 8:4-15

February 27, 2022
Quinquagesima

Psalm: 89:18-29
Old Testament: 1 Samuel 16:1-13
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Holy Gospel: Luke 18:31-43

BIBLE QUIZ

1. **When the Roman commander arrested Paul in Jerusalem, who did he (rather humorously) think Paul was?**
 - A. The high priest in the temple
 - B. Moses
 - C. Jesus
 - D. Peter
2. **Who sold his birthright for a bowl of stew?**
 - A. Esau
 - B. Isaac
 - C. Cain
 - D. Ishmael
3. **When Joseph was put into prison, how was he treated?**
 - A. He was allowed to come and go, because the wife of Potiphar looked after him.
 - B. He was whipped and thrown into a pit without water.
 - C. He was put in charge of all the other prisoners.
 - D. He was chained to the wall for forty days.
4. **According to Colossians, what binds everything together in perfect harmony?**
 - A. Faith
 - B. Forgiveness
 - C. Love
 - D. Hope
5. **Did Joseph know that Mary was pregnant when he married her?**
 - A. No, he thought Jesus was the child of his body until he was born.
 - B. Yes, but an angel appeared to him in a dream and explained the situation.
 - C. No, and he was going to divorce her until an angel came to him to explain the situation.
 - D. Yes, but he loved her so much he did not care.



2/5 Darryll Zahner
 2/9 Kemp Anderson
 2/10 Elizabeth Reed
 2/11 Steve Farr
 Chester Gilbert
 2/12 Rachel Anderson
 2/20 Brad Fitzpatrick
 Jenifer MacPherson
 2/22 Kay Gideon



2/1 Caden Fitzpatrick
 2/7 Jo Schiebel
 2/13 Becky Cote
 2/24 Andrew Farr
 2/25 Lee Anne Larsen
 2/29 Natalie Crowley

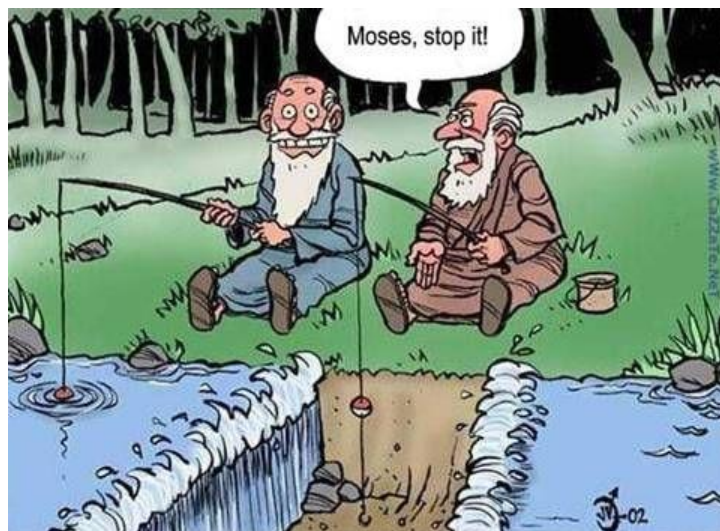


Confirmation

2/7 Fernando Gouvea
 Mari Gouvea
 2/20 Elizabeth Reed
 Taylan Thomas
 Tiana Thomas

BIBLE QUIZ ANSWERS

1. B. (Acts 21:37-40)
2. A (Genesis 25:29-34)
3. C. (Genesis 39:21-22)
4. C. (Genesis 3:12-15)
5. B. (Mark 1)



Adam was hanging around the garden of Eden feeling very lonely.

So, God asked him, "What's wrong with you?"

Adam said he didn't have anyone to talk to.

God said that He was going to make Adam a companion and that it would be a woman.

He said, "This pretty lady will gather food for you, she will cook for you, and when you discover clothing, she will wash it for you.

She will always agree with every decision you make and she will not nag you, and will always be the first to admit she was wrong when you've had a disagreement. She will praise you!

She will bear your children and never ask you to get up in the middle of the night to take care of them.

Adam asked God, "What will a woman like this cost?"

God replied, "An arm and a leg."

Then Adam asked, "What can I get for a rib?"

Of course, the rest is history....

A well-worn one-dollar bill and a similarly distressed fifty-dollar bill arrived at a Federal Reserve Bank to be retired. As they moved along the conveyor belt to be burned, they struck up a conversation.

The fifty-dollar bill reminisced about its travels all over the country. "I've had a pretty good life," the \$50 proclaimed. "Why I've been to Las Vegas and Atlantic City, the finest restaurants in New York, performances on Broadway, and even a cruise to the Caribbean."

"Wow!" said the one-dollar bill. "You've really had an exciting life!"

"So tell me," says the fifty, "where have you been throughout your lifetime?"

The one dollar bill replies, "Oh, I've been to the Methodist Church, the Baptist Church, the Lutheran Church..."

The fifty-dollar bill interrupts, "What's a church?"

The Daily Lectionary

February 2022

2/1	Zechariah 11:4-17 / 2 Timothy 4:1-18
2/2	Zechariah 12:1-13:9 / Titus 1:1-2:6
2/3	Zechariah 14:1-21 / Titus 2:7-3:15
2/4	Job 1:1-22 / John 1:1-18
2/5	Job 2:1-3:10 / John 1:19-34
2/6	Job 3:11-26 / John 1:35-51
2/7	Job 4:1-21 / John 2:1-12
2/8	Job 5:1-27 / John 2:13-25
2/9	Job 6:1-13 / John 3:1-21
2/10	Job 6:14-30 / John 3:22-4:6
2/11	Job 7:1-21 / John 4:7-26
2/12	Job 8:1-22 / John 4:27-45
2/13	Job 9:1-35 / John 4:46-54
2/14	Job 10:1-22 / John 5:1-18
2/15	Job 11:1-20 / John 5:19-29
2/16	Job 12:1-6, 12-25 / John 5:30-47
2/17	Genesis 1:1-19 / Mark 1:1-13
2/18	Genesis 1:20-2:3 / Mark 1:14-28
2/19	Genesis 2:4-25 / Mark 1:29-45
2/20	Genesis 3:1-24 / Mark 2:1-17
2/21	Genesis 4:1-26 / Mark 2:18-28
2/22	Genesis 6:1-7:5 / Mark 3:1-19
2/23	Genesis 7:11-8:12 / Mark 3:20-35
2/24	Genesis 8:13-9:17 / Mark 4:1-20
2/25	Genesis 11:27-12:20 / Mark 4:21-41
2/26	Genesis 13:1-18 / Mark 5:1-20
2/27	Genesis 15:1-21 / Mark 5:21-43
2/28	Genesis 16:1-9,15 – 17:22 / Mark 6:1-13

(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.*