

RESURRECTION NEWS



February 2023

Pastor's Letter

February 2023

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

This year, February 5th begins another season of the church year. This season is called “Pre-Lent.” This season of the church year begins roughly seventy days before Easter, and therefore is seen as a parallel to 70-year exile of the Israelites in Babylon/Persia.

The great eleventh century Transfiguration hymn, “*Alleluia, Song of Gladness*” (LSB 417), explains the significance of this seventy-day period. In this hymn, which is sung as the closing hymn of Transfiguration Sunday, we bid farewell to the word “alleluia” until Easter. That hymn’s second stanza says:

*Alleluia, thou resoundest, True Jerusalem and free;
Alleluia, joyful mother, All thy children sing with thee,
But by Babylon’s sad waters Mourning exiles now are we* (LSB 417:2).

In short, as this hymn instructs us, the season of “Pre-Lent” and the seventy-days leading up to Easter remind us of our own exile here on earth as we await our Lord Jesus’ return to grant us freedom from the bondage of sin and to bring us to the true Jerusalem, that is, the Jerusalem of the new creation (Revelation 21:1-2).

The first Sunday of “Pre-Lent” is *Septuagesima* (from Latin, meaning “seventy”). The Gospel Reading for *Septuagesima* is Matthew 20:1-16, which is our Lord’s parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard. In this reading, we are reminded that we are sustained in this life by God’s grace alone. Our focus in reading this parable is often on the “un-fair” nature of the master’s treatment of the workers, giving equal pay for unequal work. However, the focus of this parable ought to be on the absurd generosity of the master. Who goes out to hire workers with only one hour of the day remaining and then gives them a full day’s wage? And yet, this is the generosity of our Lord, who showers us in generosity daily in our exile of this life.

The second Sunday of “Pre-Lent” is *Sexagesima* (from Latin, meaning “sixty”). The Gospel Reading for *Sexagesima* is Luke 8:4-15, which is our Lord’s Parable of the Sower. In this reading, we are reminded that we are sustained in this life by Scripture alone. It is the Word of God which the Lord sows in our hearts in order that we might come to faith in him. He sustains us during our exile in this life through his life-giving Word, reminding us of the promise of eternal life that is ours in Christ. And in due time, by God’s grace, the seed of faith grows up to yield fruit in us one hundredfold.

The third Sunday of “Pre-Lent” is *Quinquagesima* (from Latin, meaning “fifty”). The Gospel Reading for *Quinquagesima* is Luke 18:31-43, where our Lord heals the blind beggar. In this reading, we are reminded that we are sustained in this life by faith alone. The blind man is granted healing because of his faith. So, too, will we be granted healing from sin on the last day because of our faith. And yet, even this faith is God’s gracious gift to us.

In this short season of “Pre-Lent”, we are reminded that during our time of exile in this world of sin, our Lord does not leave us alone. He sustains us by grace alone, faith alone, and Scripture alone. Even as we prepare to celebrate Easter on April 9th, our hearts look forward to the final Easter, the resurrection on the last day:

*Therefore in our hymns we pray Thee, Grant us, blessed Trinity,
At the last to keep Thine Easter With Thy faithful saints on high;
There to Thee forever singing Alleluia joyfully* (LSB 417:4).

Peace in Jesus,
Pastor Akers

Notes from your Deaconess

Dear Brothers and Sisters of LCR,

Some musings this month as we near and enter Lent...I've been thinking lately about rocks and stones.

Jacob set up the stone he'd used as a pillow after his night vision of the ladder connecting heaven and earth (Genesis 28:18).

Jacob refers to God as "the Stone of Israel" in the final blessing of his sons (Genesis 49:24).

A rock (or rocks) provided water for the thirsty and complaining people of Israel in the wilderness (Exodus 17, Numbers 20).

Moses calls God "the Rock" in his song near the end of his life (Deuteronomy 32:4, 30, 31).

Joshua had a man from each of the twelve tribes of Israel take a large stone from the middle of the Jordan River and construct a memorial to remind them of how the waters of the Jordan were parted as they entered the promised land (Joshua 4).

David and the other Psalm writers refer often to God as their Rock. Psalm 118 includes the verse often quoted by the New Testament writers: "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone."

Isaiah speaks of the Lord as a "stone of offense and a rock of stumbling" (8:14) which also receives comment by New Testament writers, as does 28:16.

Nebuchadnezzar dreams of a huge stone which destroyed a large image and then filled the earth (Daniel 2).

Jesus concluded his Sermon on the Mount with a story of contrasting builders—commending the "wise man who built his house upon the rock" (Matthew 7).

Jesus instructed servants at the wedding in Cana (John 2) to fill the large *stone* jars with water—which then became wine.

St. Paul says that the rock which provided water for the people of Israel *followed* them and was Christ (1 Corinthians 10:4).

St. Peter speaks of believers as being like living stones, being built up as a spiritual house (1 Peter 2:5).

I plan to hold two women's Bible studies in February, on 2/4 and 2/18 from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. in a downstairs classroom at church. We will be looking at texts about the women we are encountering as we move through the scriptures following the schedule from Pastor Akers. This coming month we expect to study Rebekah and Jacob's wives. Let me know if you'd like to join via a Zoom link and be included on my email list before each meeting. You are welcome to join in at any time! We enjoy the fellowship of sisters in Christ, and we also share prayer concerns with each other.

Under his mercy,
Sharon

The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. Psalm 18:2

Winter Cancelation Policy

In the event of bad weather over the winter, Sunday School may be canceled. However, the Divine Service will not be canceled unless *absolutely* necessary. Check the church website or Facebook page for an announcement about any cancelations.

Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast is scheduled for **Saturday, February 18**. Breakfast will be served at **8 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall with a discussion to follow at 9 a.m.

Ash Wednesday & Mid-Week Lent Divine Service

Divine Services with imposition of ashes for Ash Wednesday will be held at **noon and 7 p.m. on February 22**. The noon service will be live streamed on Facebook. Throughout the season of Lent, Wednesday Divine Services will also be held at **noon and 7 p.m.**

Thank You's

It is only through the continuing support of faithful friends like you that we are able to continue God's work with the street children and their families in Kenya.

Blessings,

Dan and Patty

Capstone Ministries, Inc.

Thank you for your gifts to Concordia Seminary for adopting student as well as a Deaconess. Our students study diligently to learn sound Lutheran doctrine and practical ministry skills to preach and teach.

Most cordially yours,

Vikki Biggs, Sr VP Seminary Advancement

Concordia Seminary

Thank you for your very generous donation of \$1,680 for three Garuna Kid Sponsorships and a LISA Student Sponsorship. 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

The Garuna Foundation

Thank you for being a Lutherans For Life champion, partner, and advocate since 1998! Your thoughts, prayers, and stewardship offerings are a wonderful blessing to all of us, and we thank God for you. Thank you for assisting us in applying the Gospel message of Jesus Christ to sanctity of life issues.

In Christ,

David A. Probst, Director of Development

Lutherans For Life

Thank you for your donation to help purchase food for distribution to our clients in the greater Waterville area.

Sincerely,

Sandra Hammond, President

Waterville Food Bank

Thank you for all of our prayers and continued support of our family through the Seminary's Student Adoption Program. Your support was especially felt through the Christmas season in relieving some financial stress.

Love,

Benjamin, Elizabeth, Nathaniel Janssen, and Baby #2

February Stewardship

	<u>February 5</u>	<u>February 12</u>	<u>February 19</u>	<u>February 26</u>
<u>Acolyte</u>	Matthew Akers	Hayley Farr	Elizabeth Akers	Callum Goldsmith
<u>Worship Assistant</u>	Charlie MacPherson	Brian Watson	Steve Farr	Dan Callahan
<u>Ushers</u>	John Ayotte	Mo Cote	Mark Larsen	Jeff Sammons
<u>Greeters</u>	Julie Kohl	Steve & Lydia Bendas	Sharon Klipp	Dorthy McAllister
<u>Altar Care</u>	Amanda Goldsmith	Amy Ouellette	Sasha Fitzpatrick	Kitty Carlson
<u>Flowers</u>	Akers Family	Akers Family	Christine Thomas	-----
<u>Fellowship</u>	The Callahans	Sharon Klipp	Open	Open

Stewardship for February 22 – Ash Wednesday

Noon: Worship Assistant – Brian Watson
 Usher – Mo Cote
 Altar Care – Krista Carlson

7 p.m.: Worship Assistant – Dan Callahan
 Usher – Chris Batson

Defending the Faith

Sometimes the Best Defense is a Good Defense

God's Fingerprints.

I have long been a fan of the work of Steven C. Meyer, Ph.D. He is Director of Science and Culture at the Discovery Institute – an organization that promotes the idea of “intelligent design” (ID).

ID simply posits that the incredible complexity of life must be the result of an intelligent designer. They intentionally stop short of proclaiming God as the cause, but that's the only logical outcome of their argument.

It's one of many ways to get to the truth and this one is designed to engage those with scientific interests without making that final leap to deism – mostly because so many of the science-inclined will resist that conclusion with everything they have. One step at a time!

Dr. Meyer has authored a number of books, including Darwin's Doubt: The Explosive Origin of Animal Life and the Case for Intelligent Design, Signature in the Cell: DNA and the Evidence for Intelligent Design and most recently, Return of the God Hypothesis. All are worth a read!

One of Meyer's main points is that the information contained in every gene (of every plant and animal) can be compared to a computer code.

Like a line of programming code, each gene “codes” for a protein that is used to build a cell. It tells the cell how to build its structure.

Like a computer program, a random change (like a replication error) in a gene nearly always results in a degradation of the organism. From those errors we get genetic diseases like Parkinson's, cancer, Down Syndrome, Cystic Fibrosis, Sickle Cell Anemia, etc.

Likewise, guess what happens if you were to take your Windows operating system and start randomly changing lines of the underlying code. Your computer would crash.

Contrast that with Darwin's theory that says that those same kinds of random, unguided mutation, combined with natural selection (survival of the fittest) is responsible for the evolution of life.

Meyer is fond of saying that “our uniform and repeated experience” is that information like that found in DNA always comes from an intelligent source. Programs always come from programmers. Information always comes from a mind.

These are just some of the fingerprints of God. We can see them from the tiniest bits of DNA to the design of the billions of galaxies. They're clear and consistent and lead us to the inescapable conclusion that God really does exist, because no other explanation is sufficient to describe the incredibly precise design that we see all around us.

As always, I'm open for comments and criticism at charles.j.macpherson@gmail.com.

Charlie MacPherson, SDG

Members of the Month –
the FARR Family
Steve & Kari
Andrew, Allison, Evan, and Hayley

Steve was born in San Antonio, Texas, but doesn't remember a thing about it: Steve's dad, an Army Chaplain, was transferred a couple of times before any of Steve's earliest memories—which are actually of Korea. Denver, Colorado was the last stop in a long succession of moves; and it wasn't until his late 20's that Steve finally broke his childhood record for the longest time living in one house (four years).

Kari was born in Wisconsin—and moved several times while growing up as well. She is the oldest of four children, with one younger brother and two younger sisters. Kari has many happy memories of her childhood—especially of spending a lot of time playing outside with her siblings. Her family was always very close, and although she had to change schools several times, she was always comforted to know she could return home to her family at the end of each day. When Kari was in high school, her family moved to Anton, Colorado where she graduated from a class of 12 students at the local school and then went on to pursue a degree in business administration at Colorado Christian University (CCU).

Steve and Kari met while in college at CCU and married in June of 2000. After graduation, they enjoyed living in Colorado near extended family. However as the Farr's had children of their own, they desired for the children to have more time with Dad. Steve was working an IT job at the time and was gone from the house for long hours every day. He didn't want to miss out on so much of their lives and wanted to spend more time working together as a family.

After discussing many different options and praying about it, the Farr's decided to make a big move across the country to buy land in Maine where they could set up a family homestead. Not being from a farming background, they have learned a lot along the way: This included raising and breeding chickens, growing organic vegetables and fruits, and preserving all the fresh foods they grow. Although Steve still works remotely for an IT firm in Colorado, he is able to spend a lot more time working alongside the children, and helping with some of their school subjects as well.

Steve was briefly a music performance major in college, then a youth ministry major—before breaking someone's windshield in the campus parking lot while playing Frisbee golf. Out of cash after buying the first semester's books, he asked his advisor where he could earn some money on campus to pay for the damage and was told to apply for a job in the computer lab. After working there for a few months, he decided that there were worse ways to earn a living than being a computer technician, thus changed his major to that. So, in a way, the past 24 years of that career all started as an accident. "The only job I ever really knew I wanted for sure was being a father, and I've got that! I'm thankful I get to work with my kids on the farm and teach them in school instead of being gone all of the time."

Kari enjoys being at home teaching the children in homeschool and watching them grow in their own areas of interest. "I think one of the best things about homeschooling is that you get to watch each child learn in their own way and explore areas that they otherwise may not have time to learn about until they become adults." Kari's personal interests include watching birds, playing games, and baking. She loves to feed people good food and delights in finding the "best" recipe for everything. Since having to give up gluten and dairy this past year, Kari has had to relearn how to make good foods that she can eat. She still bakes almost all the breads that her family eats, but now is experimenting with how to make gluten free goodies that she can enjoy as well.



Evan, Allison, Steve, Andrew, Kari, and Hayley at the Treworgy Orchards corn maze in Levant, ME.



The Farris at the Bean's home property.

Andrew is a senior this year and stays busy working as a trainer at Chick-fil-A in Bangor. He loves the work and enjoys the challenge of working in a fast-paced environment. Recently Andrew was selected to travel to Georgia for a week to help train new employees at a Chick-fil-A opening in Americus. Along with his busy work and school schedule, Andrew is building himself a house on the Farr homestead right next to the organic apple orchard he is starting on the property. Steve and Kari bought their land hoping that one or all of the children may want to settle on part of the land, so they are very pleased. Andrew hopes to marry this coming summer and settle into his new home.

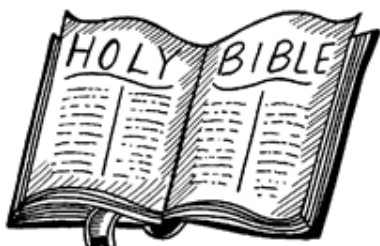
Allison is a junior this year and really enjoys reading and writing. She corresponds with several friends across the country and also spends time with creative writing. Her reading interests vary, but she

recently has begun to really enjoy memorizing scripture and studying books on Christian living and theology. Allison is an excellent help to Steve with the chickens and to Kari in the kitchen. She is a natural baker and makes many tasty foods to feed the active, growing, hungry family!

Evan is a 7th grader. Although he never struggles in school, he most enjoys his outside studies of machinery and heavy equipment. As soon as Evan is done with his basic school subjects, he's off to another project. Evan has built many detailed Lego models of farm machines and heavy equipment that he has observed. Each model has working parts and shows his creativity as well as knowledge of the inner workings of machines. Recently Evan has begun creating parts for his model tractors out of sheet metal and learning about using tools and soldering. If you ever wonder what to ask Evan about, just get him started talking about earlier model tractors!

Hayley is an enthusiastic 4th grader. She's always ready to have fun and eager to help others. Hayley enjoys spending time with kids of any age and tries her best to find ways to give them a fun time when they visit the Farr home. Hayley loves crafts and is always creating new things around the house. Recently, Hayley decided she wanted to raise money for children in the Compassion program: She has been working on making little pieces of jewelry and cards to sell to earn money to give to children in need.

The Farr family came to LCR in 2014 and shows us a beautiful example of serving the Lord with gladness! Evan and Hayley, organic members of LCR—having been baptized here—serve frequently as acolytes. Andrew and Allison also served for several years as acolytes, but are now “retired” from those duties. Andrew, a talented pianist, has filled in a few times for Rick when Rick couldn't play (a rare occasion!). Andrew also served as the semi-regular accompanist for Hope Lutheran a few years ago. Steve feels privileged to serve as an elder: It has given him opportunity to grow in many different ways. He has been able to spend quality time with the devout men who care so much about the spiritual care of the congregation and allowed him to gain a deeper appreciation for the work of the pastor and the administration of the Church. Steve's hope is that he serves faithfully as an elder. Not always as visible is the work Kari does for our Church: She takes turns at fellowship time and enjoys sharing her love of good food. In addition, she is the behind-the-scenes enabler of so much that the Farr's do. Her constant support to the members of her family gives each one strength to carry out their tasks!



Monthly Worship

February 5
Septuagesima

Psalm: 95:1-9
Old Testament: Daniel 9:2-10
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 9:24-10:4
Holy Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

February 12
Sexagesima

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

February 19
Quinquagesima

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

February 22
Ash Wednesday

Psalm: 51
Old Testament: Joel 2:12-19
Holy Gospel: Matthew 6:16-21

February 26
First Sunday in Lent

Psalm: 118:1-13
Old Testament: Genesis 3:1-21
Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:1-10
Holy Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

BIBLE QUIZ

1. **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
2. **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
3. **In the armor-of-God, what does the helmet represent?**
 - A. Righteousness
 - B. Faith
 - C. Salvation
 - D. Truth
4. **What foolish thing did Isaiah say King Hezekiah did with the Babylonian envoy's?**
 - A. poisoned their wine so as to only sicken them
 - B. handed over the temple's treasures instead of trusting God for deliverance
 - C. refused them entry into Israel at their border
 - D. showed them every single item in both his palace and the royal treasures
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



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



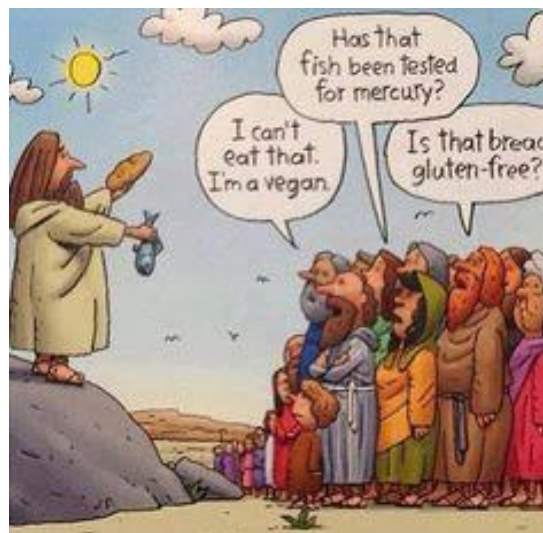
2/1 Caden Fitzpatrick
 2/7 Jo Schiebel
 2/13 Becky Cote
 2/24 Andrew Farr
 2/25 Lee Anne Larsen
 2/29 Natalie Crowley



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

BIBLE QUIZ ANSWERS

1. B (John 18:10)
2. A (Exodus 7:15-19)
3. C (Ephesians 6:17)
4. D (Isaiah 39:2-7)
5. B (John 11:35)
6. D (Luke 6:39)



A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin, 5, and Ryan, 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, "Let my brother have the first pancake. I can wait." Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, "Ryan, you be Jesus."

A father was at the beach with his children when his four-year-old son ran up to him, grabbed his hand, and led him to the shore, where a seagull lay dead in the sand. "Daddy, what happened to him?" the son asked. "He died and went to Heaven," the dad replied. The boy thought a moment and then said, "Did God throw him back down?"

After starting a new diet I altered my drive to work to avoid passing my favorite bakery. I accidentally drove by the bakery this morning and as I approached, there in the window were a host of chocolates, donuts, and cheesecakes.

I felt this was no accident, so I prayed ... "Lord, it's up to You. If You want me to have any of those delicious goodies, create a parking place for me directly in front of the bakery." And sure enough, on the eighth time around the block, there it was! God is so good!

A man who was sizing up God by asking, "God how long is a million years to you?"

God said, "A million years is like a second."

Then the man asked, "Well, then, how much is a million dollars to you?"

God said, "A million dollars is like a penny."

The man smiled and said, "Could you spare me a penny?"

God smiled back and said, "Sure, just wait a second."