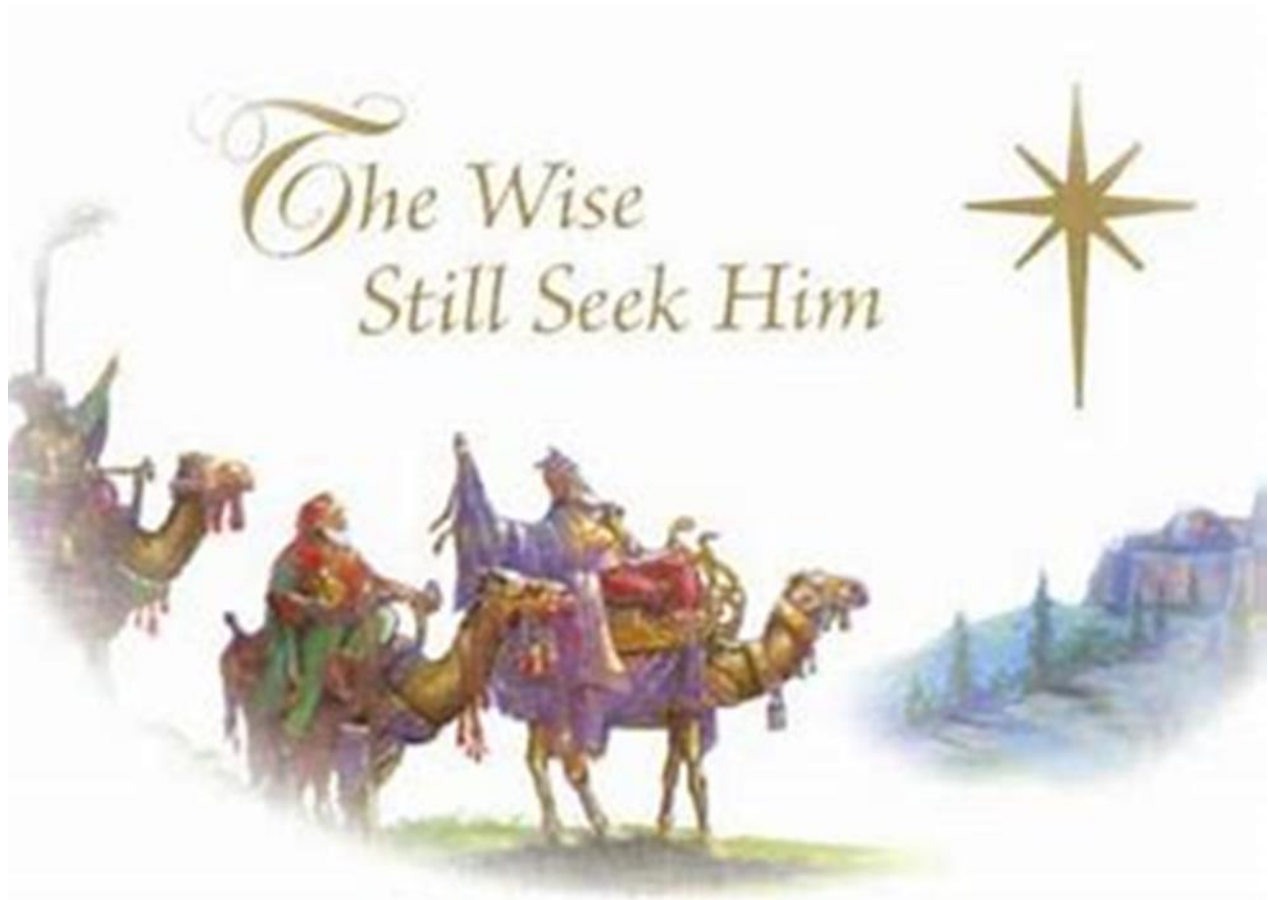


RESURRECTION NEWS



January 2021

Pastor's Letter
January 2021

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

When I was younger, my siblings and I had a computer game that we really enjoyed playing. Technically, it was what's called a "drawing program" called *Kid Pix*. I'm not sure that anyone today would be remotely interested in it though; it was fairly corny and had really horrible graphics and animation. But, in the early 2000's, we didn't know any better, so we loved it! Basically, *Kid Pix* was a lot like Microsoft Paint, but WAY more complex. There was what seemed like 1,000 buttons you could click at the top of the screen to insert into your creation a shape, an animal, an animated little person, or any number of other things. With all of those options, it was really easy to click on the wrong thing and accidentally insert a singing fairy princess into your drawing when you meant to insert a blue square. Thankfully, though, there was an "undo" button to correct those mistakes. The big problem was, hidden somewhere near the most frequently used buttons was the dreaded "reset" button. If you clicked this button, it would wipe out everything you had done and literally reset your creation back to nothing. And the major problem was the "undo" button wouldn't bring it back!

When my siblings and I played *Kid Pix*, we did everything that we could to make sure we didn't accidentally press the "reset" button. I wonder, though, how many of us would take the opportunity to willingly press the "reset" button on the year 2020 if we could. In a lot of ways, 2020 was a year to forget. And in a lot of ways, January 1, 2021 provides a natural reset button for us. We get to leave the disaster that was 2020 behind and forge on to something new. And there's a lot of hope in that—hope that the pandemic will subside, hope that the economy will stabilize, hope that we won't have to wear masks and distance anymore (!), hope that normal life will return.

And we should hope for these things. The Lord instructs us under the 5th Commandment to "help and support our neighbor in every physical need." The church always seeks the well-being of our neighbor and our world—it's what we are called to do. After all, Jesus himself healed the sick, comforted the mourning, and fed the hungry. But at the same time, as the year 2021 begins with all of these hopes in our minds, I want to remind you where our greatest hope lies:

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).

2021 might be a wonderful year (and I hope that it is!). Then again, 2021 might not be a wonderful year. The reality is, we have very little control over that. What we can control, however, is where we place our hope and trust. Will you place your hope in dreams for the future that may or may not materialize? Or will you place your hope in the living hope which is ours through the resurrection of Jesus?

When we confidently place our hope in the certain future that is ours—eternal life with Jesus—then the ebbs and flows of this world aren't as earth-shattering. If 2021 brings a plentiful year filled with blessings, then we will rejoice in Christ! But if 2021 brings sorrow and struggles, we will rejoice in Christ that this life is not the end—an eternal life of unending joys awaits us in the presence of our Heavenly Father. Thanks be to God that such a living hope is ours in Christ!

Peace in Jesus,
Pastor Akers

Notes from your Deaconess

Dear Brothers and Sisters of LCR,

In Epiphany
True Light dispels deep darkness.
He shines through us now.

Words, sound, light, space...poetry, prose, speech, song, vision – when the Word (heard throughout the Old Testament) became flesh and dwelt among us, we then began to be able to see clearly due to his light...

Our Sunday school and Bible study narratives in January speed us through the wanderings in the wilderness of the Israelites. The Lord's presence led with a pillar of cloud and fire (light!) and rested in their midst at the Tabernacle at each stop. Moses spoke God's word to the people, and the Lord's light even shone through him after their private conversations. (See *Exodus 34:29-35*.) Nearing the Promised Land, the Israelites again fail to trust their Lord who brought them out of Egypt and cared for them for over a year in their wilderness sojourning. Instead, they believe the reports of ten of the twelve spies sent into the land – who fearfully recount both the richness of the land and the size and numbers of its inhabitants. Their doubt results in an additional forty years of wandering.

At the end of those forty years, we learn that the light and word of the Lord's work for his people had made it to dark Jericho where Rahab lived within the yet-to-be-entered Promised Land. She had heard, believed, and then in faith protected spies who had come to her. The last two Sundays of the month we'll consider the Lord's work through unexpected actions and unlikely individuals.

As we begin the season of Epiphany, in the daily lectionary we turn to the prophet Ezekiel who had many vivid strange visions and prophecies given him by the Lord during the exile of Israel. The season of Epiphany relates to how Christ is revealed throughout the world – not just to the people of Israel through whom and by whom he came for us all. Prophets Ezekiel, Joel, and Zechariah, whose books of prophecy we will read during January, deal with this truth. Paul's epistle to the Romans, the New Testament reading for most of the month, shows clearly how he came for all people.

I plan to hold women's Bible studies (8:30 to 10am) on Saturdays January 2, 16, and 30 – weather and health permitting. I will continue to make available a way for remote participation, but also hope to continue to hold the in-person meetings (face-coverings and distanced in the fellowship hall).

Under his mercy,
Sharon M. Conover

"And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

Joel 2:32a

"The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light."

Romans 13:12

Letter from Vicar Alarik Morris

Lutheran Church of the Resurrection,

December 17, 2020

Merry Christmas! I hope that these past few months have been as relaxing and stress-free as possible for you all. This is truly a difficult and dark time not only for our world as we battle a pandemic, but for each and every one of us as we deal with all the tough decisions and realities that have affected our lives and the emotional toll that this has placed on all of us. But I don't need to remind you that it's in the darkest times when the light of Jesus seems to shine just a little bit brighter. Jesus came to earth in a time of unrest to bring peace, he entered into people's lives in times of pain and loneliness to bring healing and comfort, and he entered the tomb and died as one of us to bring all of us to life! It's around this time of Advent and Christmas that we get to remember the dark times when Jesus showed up in the history of the world, and to remember that he shows up in each of your lives now in the promise of forgiveness, and he will show up in person again soon to bring you out of the darkness of the world, into the light of his coming kingdom that he has promised to you! This is why I get to say to you with joy, merry Christmas!

I hope that you are all well during this time and that you are all kept safe during the Christmas season and in spite of any winter storms coming your way! As many of you might already know my wife Ang and I are currently serving at our vicarage congregation (St. Mark Houston in Houston, TX) and while it's definitely been an adventure for both of us, we have loved our last 5 months here in Texas. I have been put to work preaching about once a month, leading the liturgy on Sundays, helping organize volunteer-led Bible studies, and visiting homebound members of the congregation when possible. During Advent I have also been planning and leading midweek services as well as organizing a Christmas market to give away Christmas presents to families in the neighborhood that have been impacted severely by the pandemic and job losses this year. Ang has been playing piano every week for services here at St. Mark as well as assisting the Worship Director in planning music for Sundays and working in St. Mark's school with the extended childcare program and teaching an elective class to the middle schoolers on worship leading. It's safe to say that we have been kept very busy so far, but we have learned a lot and had a great time doing it!

We will currently be serving here at St. Mark until roughly the end of July, when we will then head back to the seminary in St. Louis for my last year of classes, and then I will receive my first call to a congregation (who knows where!). I want to be sure to thank you all for your continued financial support of Ang and I, it means more to us than you know and you have blessed us enormously with your support! Even more valuable however, are your continued prayers for Ang and I, the staff and congregation here at St. Mark, and for the Church at large as we all together and separately, navigate the difficulty that this past year has brought us. I hope that you will continue faithfully in your prayers for these and all concerns that we face as the Church today, because we certainly need it!

We will pray for you down here in Houston that you will be able to continue to be safe, to meet for worship in-person hopefully more frequently as conditions allow, and that you will stay warm this winter! I know that you are in great hands with Pastor Akers who I'm sure you know by now is an excellent preacher and a kind and loving brother in Christ, and I am excited to hopefully visit soon and spend a Sunday with all of you!

God's Peace,
Vicar Alarik Morris

January Stewardship

	<u>January 3</u>	<u>January 10</u>	<u>January 17</u>	<u>January 24</u>	<u>January 31</u>
<u>Acolyte</u>	10:45 Evan Farr	10:45 Mia Fitzpatrick	10:45 Andrew Farr	10:45 Allison Farr	10:45 Emmy Carlson
<u>Worship Assistant</u>	8:30 Charlie MacPherson	8:30 Glenn Carlson Sr.	8:30 Charlie MacPherson	8:30 Brian Watson	8:30 Charlie MacPherson
	10:45 Chris Batson	10:45 Brad Fitzpatrick	10:45 Dan Callahan	10:45 Mark Larsen	10:45 Dan Callahan
<u>Ushers</u>	8:30 Rick Drageland	8:30 Charlie MacPherson	8:30 Rick Drageland	8:30 Glenn Carlson Sr.	8:30 Brian Watson
	10:45 Mo Cote	10:45 John Ayotte	10:45 Wayne Pelletier	10:45 Dan Callahan	10:45 Glenn Carlson Jr.
<u>Cantor</u>	8:30 Sharon Conover	8:30 Jared Goldsmith	8:30 Sharon Conover	8:30 Jared Goldsmith	8:30 Sharon Conover
	10:45 Allison Farr	10:45 Steve Farr	10:45 Fernando Gouvea	10:45 Steve Farr	10:45 Allison Farr
<u>Greeters</u>	8:30 Sharon Klipp	8:30 The MacPhersons	8:30 The Watsons	8:30 Sharon Klipp	8:30 The Dragelands
	10:45 The Larsens	10:45 Dorthy McAllister	10:45 The Gouveas	10:45 The Batsons	10:45 The Cotes
<u>Altar Care</u>	Kitty Carlson	Andrea Watson	LeeAnne Larsen	Katie Huesers	Joan Drageland
<u>Flowers</u>	The MacPhersons	The MacPhersons	OPEN	OPEN	Christine Thomas

Defending the Faith

Sometimes the Best Defense is a Good Defense

If you've ever discussed your faith with others, chances are pretty good that you've heard this verbal bombshell thrown your way - which I did in an actual conversation.

"More people have been killed in the name of religion than anything else."

I asked "what do you mean by that?" A good first step is to ask questions to find out what the other person believes and why they believe it. It's only when we have that understanding that we can offer a reasoned response. Understanding precedes agreement.

My friend continued *"Look at the horrible things religious people have done - like the Crusades. You Christians killed thousands of innocent people in the name of your God!"*

The Crusades are a favorite weapon of atheists because they are a legitimate example of atrocities committed in the name of God.

Thoughtful Christians cannot deny evil committed during the Crusades. We have to be upfront and acknowledge that there were horrible crimes committed under the banner of Christianity - but we also have to remind others that **these acts were in no way consistent with Christianity.**

In fact, those Crusaders who murdered and pillaged stand condemned under God's law and will spend an eternity in Hell unless they repented and sought Christ's forgiveness.

That said, let's put things in perspective. Let's compare the actual number of deaths during the Crusades to the number of murders committed by atheists in the 20th century.

The number killed in the Crusades is hard to pin down. I've heard estimates from the low thousands to 900,000. Let's be generous and round it up to 1 million. Pretty horrible.

And now let's look at the record of just a few atheists. Hitler, Stalin and Mussolini. 80 million.

Add the genocide committed by the Communist Chinese (78 million since 1928), Pol Pot and his Khmer Rouge (2 million) and the Rwandan civil war (800,000).

That's over 160 million people murdered by atheists in the 20th century alone. And this list is by no means exhaustive.

So it can easily be demonstrated that far more people have died at the hands of atheists than Christians. But the far more important point is that it is impossible for a Christian who is acting in accordance with Christian principles to murder.

Sadly, we live in a soundbite society, where a pithy comment can seemingly win the day. So here's one to keep at the ready.

You can't judge a religion by the actions of its heretics.

That's a fair statement. Christianity simply never supports the unjustified taking of human life.

So there are two ideas to keep in your pocket for the next conversation when you get to share your faith and offer - with gentleness and respect - a reasonable defense (1 Peter 3:15) for our faith.

May Almighty God bless us by allowing us to speak his words to those who need them most.

Charlie MacPherson, SDG

Member of the Month !



Si Quæris Peninsulam Amœnam Circumspice, “If you seek a pleasant peninsula, look about you,” which is the official state motto of Michigan. One cannot help but think of this motto when talking with James Breslin. Talking with James is an experience that makes one think: If you seek a pleasant conversation, look around you at LCR! James came to LCR just prior to the initial lockdown in March, and is a faithful worshipper and prayer group member.

James was born in Staten Island, New York but grew up in Midland Beach on the ocean and Staten Island’s South Shore. James attended Catholic schools: Grammar school, taught by an Irish Order of Nuns; and high school, a Jesuit school. His B.A. in Philosophy and MSW were both earned at NYU (New York University). His education included a strong leaning toward government and political science as well. His childhood was difficult and filled with turmoil, but he has at last come to terms with it and learned to forgive.

During a very turbulent time in our nation’s history, James served in the Army National Guard at an Armory in Brooklyn, New York. He was activated briefly during the Nixon administration.

James married Linda in his senior year of studies and they’ve been married 54 years. James sums it up by saying, “I married a saint! She’s a wonderful gift—always supportive of me.” As James is an only child, having Linda as his mate is a special gift. They both worked for many years in the field of social work at first in Catholic agencies in New York and then for the Department of Mental Health—Linda branching into administration and taking on the homelessness project for the commissioner in New York; and James as a clinical social worker doing clinical and family therapy. When Linda was urged to consider coming to Maine, she became the Superintendent at the Augusta Mental Health Institute, eventually becoming a nursing home administrator. The Breslins owned a camp in Liberty at that time (and still do). They longed to move to Maine full-time and not be just summer residents! In Maine, James worked for the Department of Mental Health as an advocate for parents and children with mental illness. He has been retired for approximately 15 years. James and Linda, reside in Winslow.

The Breslins were blessed with a son, JB, who was a child with special needs. JB was challenged by Asperger syndrome, complicated by epilepsy: He died 12 years ago when he was 30 years of age, during a seizure. JB overcame many of his challenges and rose to the ability to have his own apartment and work for Wendy’s here in Waterville. His passing understandingly left the Breslins with a sense of emptiness, but James takes comfort in knowing JB had a Christian education. JB was a wonderful young man.

James is an intellectual: He studies very hard and loves to learn. He has published two books of poetry. James has an interest in theology and Bible study. He is personal friends with Schuyler Brown, a former Jesuit priest and author of works on the Bible. James and Linda enjoy Classic Art Films—his favorite being, “As Good As It Gets.” He felt a duty to study about the Holocaust and understand it in order to appreciate the suffering the Jews felt in that time. As a social worker, James related to folk’s suffering: He says, “It pains me to see someone in pain.”

James has been involved with several doctrinally different faith groups, but came to LCR because the Bible is preached here. He has studied the catechisms and was familiar with our liturgy. He struggled with never feeling he had done enough to be acceptable to God, and finds it liberating to understand that our efforts are futile as Christ did all the work for our salvation. For James, this has been really freeing.

James has sort of adopted a mantra: “Acceptance is the answer to all our problems.” He personally hopes to continue as a decent human being—assuming and hoping he is—and to always strive for a child-like faith.



Monthly Worship

January 3, 2021

The Epiphany of Our Lord

Psalm: 72:1-4, 10-11

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Epistle: Ephesians 3:1-12

Holy Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

January 10, 2021

The Baptism of Our Lord

Psalm: 29

First Reading: Genesis 1:1-5

Epistle: Romans 6:1-11

Holy Gospel: Mark 1:4-11

January 17, 2021

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Psalm: 139:1-10

First Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-20

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Gospel: John 1:43-51

January 24, 2021

The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Gradual: Song of Jonah (Jonah 2:2-9)

First Reading: Jonah 3:1-5,10

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 7:29-

Holy Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

January 31, 2020

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Psalm: 111

First Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Holy Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

BIBLE QUIZ

1. *How did the busy disciples accept the parents bringing their children to Jesus for a blessing?*

A) they welcomed them with open arms B) they told them to go away (C) they ignored the with forced indifference (D) they responded warily as any one of the could try to assassinate Jesus

2. *On which day did God create the Big Dipper?*

A) third B) fourth C) fifth D) sixth

3. *Why didn't God allow Moses to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land?*

A) he was too old—he was already 120 years old B) it was punishment for not believing in God's power over the complaining Israelites C) Joshua needed to start gaining experience as God's number-one man D) it was a lesson to teach Moses who was ultimately in charge of his life

4. *What did Jesus say when He stood before Herod during his trial?*

A) He answered all questions with one-or two-word answers B) all answers focused on how Jesus was of the heavenly kingdom C) He told parables, as they "heard but with no understanding" D) He spoke not one word

5. *Who is the Lamb's wife?*

A) the twelve tribes of Israel B) the faithful prophets (C) the believers living in the new Jerusalem D) there really is no such thing

6. *Who said this: "Come now and let us reason together"?*

A) God B) Jesus C) Moses D) Abraham



1/7 Vary Fischer
 1/8 Candace Schorr
 1/10 Joan Drageland
 1/12 Cieran Morris
 1/17 Caden Fitzpatrick
 Richard Guzman
 LeeAnne Larsen
 1/20 Vesta Holt
 Evelyn Gaug
 1/22 Steve Love
 1/27 Deb Nielsen



Baptism Birthday

1/11 Elizabeth Akers
 Benjamin Schiebel
 1/20 Joan Drageland
 1/30 Maira Goldsmith
 1/?? Yvonne Batson



Confirmation Anniversary

1/14 Ken Zahner
 1/21 Laverne Pelletier
 Wayne Pelletier

For a Few Chuckles!

Janice woke up her son one Sunday morning and told him he needed to get ready to go to church. The son pulled the covers over his head and moaned, "Leave me alone. I don't want to go to church this morning."

"Nonsense," she replied. "Get up and get dressed."

"But everybody hates me, the sermons are boring, and none of my friends ever come," he whined.

His mother sighed and said, "Son, you have to go—you're the pastor!"

-0-0-0-0-0-

A little girl was in church with her mother when she realized she was going to be sick. She tugged on her mom's arm and whispered "Mommy, I need to leave right now! I'm going to be sick."

"Oh, dear, run down the hall to the ladies' restroom. You know where it is. When you're done, come back quietly."

The little girl scurried out and soon returned to the pew. "Well, that was fast," her mom said. "Were you sick?"

"Yes, Mommy, but I didn't even have to go all the way down the hall. Right outside the chapel there is a box labeled, 'For the sick.'"

-0-0-0-0-0-

Dear God,

I think you'd be proud of me! So far today I've done all right. I haven't gossiped, lusted, lost my temper, or been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or overindulgent. I'm very thankful for that.

In a few minutes, though, I'm going to get out of bed. From then on I'm probably going to need a lot of help.

Amen.

Bible Quiz Answers

1. B (Luke 18:15)
2. B (Genesis 1:14-19)
3. B (Numbers 20:12)
4. D (Luke 23:9)
5. C (Revelation 21:2-3)
6. A (Isaiah 1:18)

The Daily Lectionary

A guide to help you be in the Word daily

1/1	Isaiah 61:1-11 / Luke 1:57-80
1/2	Isaiah 62:1-12 / Luke 2:1-20
1/3	Isaiah 63:1-14 / Luke 2:21-40
1/4	Isaiah 63:15-65:2 / Luke 2:41-52
1/5	Isaiah 65:8-25 / Luke 3:1-20
1/6	Isaiah 66:1-20 / Luke 3:21-38
1/7	Ezekiel 1:1-14,22-28 / Romans 1:1-17
1/8	Ezekiel 2:1-3:11 / Romans 1:18-32
1/9	Ezekiel 3:12-27 / Romans 2:1-16
1/10	Ezekiel 18:1-4, 19-32 / Romans 2:17-29
1/11	Ezekiel 33:1-20 / Romans 3:1-18
1/12	Ezekiel 34:1-24 / Romans 3:19-31
1/13	Ezekiel 36:13-28 / Romans 4:1-25
1/14	Ezekiel 36:33-37:14 / Romans 5:1-21
1/15	Ezekiel 37:15-28 / Romans 6:1-23
1/16	Ezekiel 38:1-23 / Romans 7:1-20
1/17	Ezekiel 39:1-10 / 17-29 / Romans 7:21-8:17
1/18	Ezekiel 40:1-4; 43:1-12 / Romans 8:18-39
1/19	Ezekiel 44:1-16, 23-29 / Romans 9:1-18
1/20	Ezekiel 47:1-13,21-23 / Romans 9:19-33
1/21	Joel 1:1-20 / Romans 10:1-21
1/22	Joel 2:1-17 / Romans 11:1-24
1/23	Joel 2:18-32 / Romans 11:25-12:13
1/24	Joel 3:1-21 / Romans 12:14-13:14
1/25	Zechariah 1:1-21 / Romans 14:1-23
1/26	Zechariah 2:1-3:10 / Romans 15:1-13
1/27	Zechariah 4:1-5:11 / Romans 15:14-33
1/28	Zechariah 6:1-7:14 / Romans 16:17-27
1/29	Zechariah 8:1-23 / 2 Timothy 1:1-18
1/30	Zechariah 9:1-17 / 2 Timothy 2:1-26
1/31	Zechariah 10:1-11:3 / 2 Timothy 3:1-17

(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.*