

RESURRECTION NEWS



January 2023

Pastor's Letter

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Brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we begin a new calendar year, we move into a new season of the church year as well. The season of Epiphany begins on January 6th. Epiphany comes from the Greek word meaning “to reveal, manifest, or show oneself.” The season of Epiphany naturally follows the twelve days of Christmas as an extension of the Christmas season. The Christmas season is all about the birth of God in the flesh of the baby Jesus. The Epiphany season is all about the revelation to the world (the Gentiles) that this man, Jesus, is God. In what follows, we will see an overview of how the Gospel Readings for the Epiphany season highlight this revelation of the man Jesus as God.

We begin the Epiphany season on January 6th with the visitation of the Magi from Matthew 2:1-12. In many ways, this is the “classic” Epiphany text. Many of the Epiphany hymns in our hymnal (hymn numbers 394-412) focus on the visitation of the Magi and/or on the image of the star/light which led the Magi to Bethlehem. This text is rightfully the foundation of the Epiphany season because it records the first story when Gentiles (non-Israelites) came to see the manifested glory of the God-man Jesus and to worship him as such.

This year, on the first Sunday after the Epiphany, we will read the story of the twelve-year-old Jesus in the temple from Luke 2:42-52. This text captures wonderfully the revelation of Jesus as God in at least two ways. In a veiled way, Jesus is revealed as something more than he appears to the teachers in the temple. In a fuller, yet still veiled, way, he is revealed as the Son of God to his parents, especially to Mary, who treasures this in her heart, despite her lack of complete understanding in the moment.

On the second Sunday after the Epiphany, we will read the account of our Lord's first miracle at the Wedding of Cana in John 2:1-11. Through this “sign”, we are told that Jesus “manifested his glory” to his disciples. The crowd which was gathered for the wedding celebration had no knowledge of our Lord's miracle. But for the disciples, this was a significant moment of revelation.

On the third Sunday after the Epiphany, we read of two healing miracles from Matthew 8:1-13, where our Lord heals a leper and the servant of a centurion. At the wedding of Cana, our Lord revealed his power as God over earthly elements. But now, he reveals his power over the sicknesses and ailments of men.

Finally, on the fourth Sunday after the Epiphany, we celebrate the Transfiguration of Our Lord from Matthew 17:1-9. In this Gospel text, the fullness of our Lord Jesus' divinity begins to be revealed as he prepares for his impending suffering and death. Peter, James, and John see the full glory of our Lord, as his very body glows like the sun. In the Old Testament Reading, we hear of how Moses' face shone when he departed from the presence of the Lord—but only for a time, and only as a reflection of the Lord's glory. But now, the fullness of the Lord's glory has come and has been revealed, shining like the sun.

Throughout the season of Epiphany, we see quite clearly the revelation of the man Jesus as God. Each of our Gospel texts reveals a different facet of our Lord's divinity—from the wonder of the Magi to the boy in the temple to the miracles to the transfiguration, our Lord's divinity is clearly manifested. This revelation of our Lord Jesus as the God-man prepares us for the pre-Lenten and Lenten journey that we begin in February, where we will be reminded of the reason why our Lord Jesus came to earth. He came to earth so that he might suffer, die, and rise again to atone for the sins of man so that we might live with him forever. As we journey through Epiphany and see the divinity of Jesus manifest, may we never forget where our Lord was heading for us.

Peace in Jesus,
Pastor Akers

Notes from your Deaconess

Dear Brothers and Sisters of LCR,

Some musings as we enter Epiphany--

Sitting in front of a fire on cold winter evenings has drawn me to thinking about how fire burns through scripture, and its connection to our God and his work.

Moses met and spoke with the angel of the Lord at a burning bush..

The Lord went before the people of Israel in the wilderness in a pillar of cloud by day, and a pillar of fire by night.

The appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire at Mount Sinai.

Elijah departed this life in a whirlwind as chariots of fire and horses of fire separated him from Elisha.

In a vision, Isaiah's lips were cleansed by a coal from the altar before the Lord.

Ezekiel's vision of the glory of the Lord included fire-like parts constantly in motion.

Daniel's three friends Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did NOT die in an incredibly hot fire—and had company of a fourth individual “like a son of the gods.”

John the Baptist spoke of the one coming after him as one who would baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire.

When the Holy Spirit descended at Pentecost, divided tongues of fire appeared to rest on each of those present.

We also find many descriptions of God's fire of judgment which destroys and consumes (especially in the prophets), as well as refines and purifies. Jesus speaks of hell as a place of unquenchable fire.

Women's Bible studies will continue in the New Year with meetings on January 7 and 21 at 8:30 a.m. at church downstairs. You may also join via a Zoom link which I would be happy to send if you would like to participate. Most recently we have looked at themes of singing and of trees in scripture, but I don't yet know what we will study next.

Under his mercy,
Sharon M. Conover

Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire. Hebrews 13:11

Thursday Bible Study

Thursday Bible Study resumes on **Thursday, January 5.**

Epiphany Divine Service

A Divine Service for the Epiphany of Our Lord will be held at **12 p.m. on January 6.** The service will be live streamed on Facebook.

Winter Cancellation 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 cancellations.

Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast is scheduled for **Saturday, January 21.** Breakfast will be served at **8 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall with a discussion to follow at 9 a.m. Pastor Akers will lead our discussion topic on Christian engagement with transgenderism. Men's Breakfasts are held on the third Saturday of the month.

Thank You's

As we wait patiently together for Jesus' return this Advent, thank you for your congregational support.

Wir sind alle Bettler,

Todd Wilken, Host

Issues, Etc.

Receive our gratitude for your gift. Your fellowship and encouragement affirm that life issues involve real people, precious treasures, and not simply political controversy or personal choice.

In truth and love,

Pastor Michael Salemink, Executive Director of Mission and Ministry

Lutherans for Life

Thank you so much for your recent gift! We are able to continue to offer assistance and support to members of the community who are in need.

Thank you,

Tanya Fossett, Development & Communications Director

Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter & Services

Thank you for your gift of hope in support child-focused programs that support mental health, adoption, parenting support, trauma-informed education, and holiday assistance.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Barron, Director of Philanthropy & Community Engagement

Maine Children's Home

January Stewardship

	<u>January 1</u>	<u>January 8</u>	<u>January 15</u>	<u>January 22</u>	<u>January 29</u>
<u>Acolyte</u>	Evan Farr	Matthew Akers	Hayley Farr	Evan Farr	Matthew Akers
<u>Worship Assistant</u>	Charlie MacPherson	Glenn Carlson Sr.	Brad Fitzpatrick	Mark Larsen	Chris Batson
<u>Usher</u>	Rick Drageland	Seth Carlson	Chris Batson	Glenn Carlson Jr.	Jeff Sammons
<u>Greeters</u>	Akers Family	James Breslin	Rev. & Vary Fischer	The Andersons	Christine Thomas
<u>Altar Care</u>	Lydia Bendas	Avis Grant	Amber Akers	Joan Drageland	Sharon Conover
<u>Flowers</u>	Sharon Klipp	The Bendas	The Bendas	The MacPhersons	The MacPhersons
<u>Fellowship</u>	Open	Open	The MacPhersons	Open	Open

Sometimes the Best Defense is a Good Defense.

The argument for God's existence from the fine tuning of the universe is an absolutely devastating argument against atheism. Here's a very brief summary;

One quick example from www.DiscoveryInsitute.org: *If the initial explosion of the big bang had differed in strength by as little as 1 part in 10 to the 60th power (10 followed by 60 zeroes), the universe would have either quickly collapsed back on itself or expanded too rapidly for stars to form. In either case, life would be impossible.*

According to an article in Scientific American – a firmly non-theist organization, (Jan 10, 2021), physicist Lee Smolin has calculated the odd of life-compatible numbers for the fundamental constants in physics (gravity, strong nuclear force, weak nuclear force, expansion rate of the universe, etc.) all coming together completely at random, in precisely the strength required to make our life-supporting universe possible, as 1 chance in 10^{229} .

0
0
0
Those are not good odds,
especially when your life depends on them!

Enter the “multiverse”.

Like a lot of atheist arguments, that sounds good if you say it fast. But let's look deeper.

Where's the evidence that even one other universe exists? There is not even a shred of evidence that there is anything resembling another universe. By definition, there can't be.

The dictionary defines the universe as: “*the totality of known or supposed objects and phenomena throughout space.*”

In other words, the universe contains *everything*, so **they're proposing another everything**, which completely defies logic. But even that Scientific American article concludes with this: “*But on closer examination, the inference from fine-tuning to the multiverse proves to be [an] instance of flawed reasoning. So, what should we make of the fine-tuning? Perhaps there is some other way of explaining it. Or perhaps we just got lucky.*”

What that proposal reveals though is just how far atheists will go to deny the existence of God.

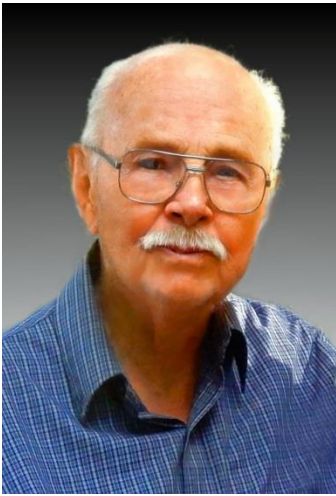
Of course, even if we grant their proposal for the sake of discussion, we're still left with the question of who created all those universes? And whether or not they're life-supporting like ours, they still have to be subject to enough of their own fine-tuned laws of physics that they can exist.

We don't grant their argument though. There's nothing charitable about granting an argument that is complete fantasy, especially when it's created specifically to argue against God.

As always, I welcome comments, suggestions and criticisms at Charles.j.macpherson@gmail.com.

Charlie MacPherson, SDG

Member of the Month – Donald Pryor



Don Pryor—in a current day selfie!

Don was born in Santa Rosa, California in 1932. (We don't normally ask dates...but Don's a pretty special guy at 90 years of age!) Don's father was an engineer for the State Mental Health Services, and relocated as promotions occurred. Don's growing up years saw him in Sonoma, Stockton, Norwalk, and Auburn—all in California! Don remembers jobs in his youth were working with smudge pots in the orange groves—and putting orange peels on the ground with poison at the trunks of the orange trees to keep bugs away; working vegetable fields pulling beets and celery; and serving sundaes at a soda fountain. He began junior college in Auburn, and finished in San Jose with a B.A. degree in business administration.

Don served in the Army during the Korean War. Eight weeks of his basic training was done in Fort Ord, California where he “marched in line, obeyed orders, and did KP.” The remainder of basic was at Fort Bliss, Texas where he did anti-aircraft training. Don says he didn't see combat, but served in Germany as an occupational force for 18 months. On his leave time, he and his buddies traveled to Switzerland, Italy, France, London, Amsterdam, and Denmark—and he has colored slides of all his travels!

“When did you become interested in photography?” Don said that in eighth grade he borrowed his parents' camera and took pictures of them and their dog. He took the film to the drug store—loved the results—and has been doing it ever since! After leaving the military, Don attended a photography school in Santa Barbara for two years; then was on to Redwood City in the San Francisco Bay area to Colorprint Corporation where his job was to reproduce architectural renderings.

While attending Brooks School of Photography, Don met a lovely woman named Marlene Paulette who was working at Sears in Santa Barbara—and they married in 1959. Marlene had two sweet little daughters whom Don adopted: Kathy and Debbie. Jim was born a few years later, followed by Donna a few years after that—all while the family was still in Redwood City and San Carlos. Marlene was born in Bangor and grew up in Waterville. Don and Marlene became dissatisfied with the fast-paced living in the Bay Area. They sold their home and moved the whole family to Maine--settling in Waterville. In 1975 Don opened his own photography shop—merging together his formal education of business administration and his lifelong love of photography...even building his own darkroom and lab! Don is still active in photography and loves the digital medium, photographing scenic, and nature photos—especially of birds at bird feeders! He's fond of the woodpeckers, cardinals, and even the blue jays that are the robbers of the bird feeder! Don downloads the photos to his computer, post-edits them and puts them on Facebook.

Upon retirement, Don and Marlene sold their home in Winslow and bought a double-wide trailer. They located it at the Averill Mobile Home Park in Benton. Jim and Donna live nearby and keep close connections with Don.

Music was a part of the Pryor home from the time Jim was a small boy: Debbie played piano and violin, Don was on banjo and harmonica, and Jim played guitar! Though Jim worked in photography with Don, guitar won his heart—and we know him today as a wonderful musician! Jim's son Justin is an officer in the Coast Guard Reserve and is now living with his wife, Abbie, in Salinas, California.

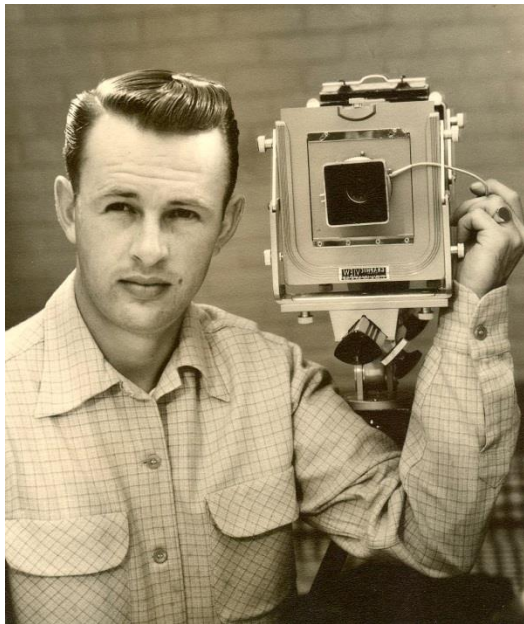
Donna works with children who are on the autism scale. She is married to Greg Wilson and they have two grown children: Daniel, who lives here in Waterville—working in road construction and playing keyboard in an area music group—maybe like Uncle Jim!; and Juli, with type 1 diabetes, who lives in Florida and works for Insulet Corporation—a medical device company specializing in diabetic needs. Donna is good about bringing nice meals to Don for him to reheat!

Don also has a great caregiver on Mondays and Fridays to help with light housework, laundry, and personal care. He and his caregiver watch *The Price is Right* and play cribbage! Don likes reading on his Kindle—showing his spirit of always advancing with the times. He describes a book he enjoys as being “*A Street Cat Named Bob!*” (Don's mobile home park does not allow pets, but Don has always had cats in the past.)

One of Don's avid interests is golf. After retiring, he played two-three times per week at the Natanis Golf Course. He and "the boys" played for bragging rights and small amounts of money. Don and Jim Grant (Avis' deceased husband) played together for a time.

Don and Marlene came to their Lutheran beliefs through a WELS pastor in Belmont, California. His membership here at LCR dates to 1993. Don feels he has been blessed many times in his own health: He survived an aneurism that burst in 2013 and had a stroke for which he entered rehab in 2018. He has voluntarily stopped driving now. The Pryor family has endured many heartaches in the past few years with Kathy and Debbie both passing (2014 and 2018), Marlene's passing (2020); and Debbie's son, Michael, passing. (Kathy was deprived of oxygen at birth, thus had many challenges in her life; Debbie, who succumbed to cancer, had four children, Michael, Danielle, Luke, and Amanda.)

Don says if he were to give advice to seniors, it would be to "live each day as a gift from God, and worry not what tomorrow will bring." Don prays God will enrich each of us and keep us and himself in God's care: Don says, "God is in control!" To the young, Don says: "Do not hang out with the wrong crowd; but regularly attend church and choose your friends carefully. Pray to not be influenced and taken over by the world, the devil, and sinful flesh—" "This is most certainly true."



Don titled this photo:
"Mr. Photographer (1952) age 20"
We (the editors) believe it may be the
original way to take a selfie!
Way to go, Don!



"Don Army Hiker"...
having just summited a mountain in
southern Germany.



Monthly Worship

January 1

The Circumcision of Our Lord

Psalm: 8

Old Testament: Genesis 17:3b-14

Epistle: Galatians 3:23-29

Holy Gospel: Luke 2:21

January 8

First Sunday after Epiphany

Psalm: 50:1-15

Old Testament: Isaiah 42:1-9

Epistle: Romans 12:1-6a

Holy Gospel: Luke 2:42-52

January 15

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Psalm: 67

Old Testament: Amos 9:11-15

Epistle: Romans 12:6-16a

Holy Gospel: John 2:1-11

January 22

Third Sunday after Epiphany

Psalm: 110:1-4

Old Testament: 2 Kings 5:1-15a

Epistle: Romans 12:16b-21

Holy Gospel: Matthew 8:1-13

January 29

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

BIBLE QUIZ

Who Am I?

1. God used me to create man. Who am I?

- A. Sand
- B. Dust from the ground
- C. Water

2. God Said to me: "Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known." Who am I?

- A. Jeremiah
- B. Moses
- C. Noah

3. I am the second king of Israel. Who am I?

- A. Saul
- B. Solomon
- C. David

4. I was the third king of Israel. Who am I?

- A. Solomon
- B. David
- C. Saul

5. I was swallowed by a big fish. Who am I?

- A. Joel
- B. Jonah
- C. Elisha

6. I was taken from the man's body to make the woman. Who am I?

- A. Rib
- B. Ankle
- C. Arm

7. I am a sacred book. My words talk of a man that was ordered not to weep. Who am I?

- A. Matthew
- B. Revelation
- C. Acts



- 1/7 Vary Fischer
- 1/8 Candace Schorr
- 1/10 Joan Drageland
- 1/12 Cieran Morris
- 1/17 Caden Fitzpatrick
- LeeAnne Larsen
- 1/22 Steve Love



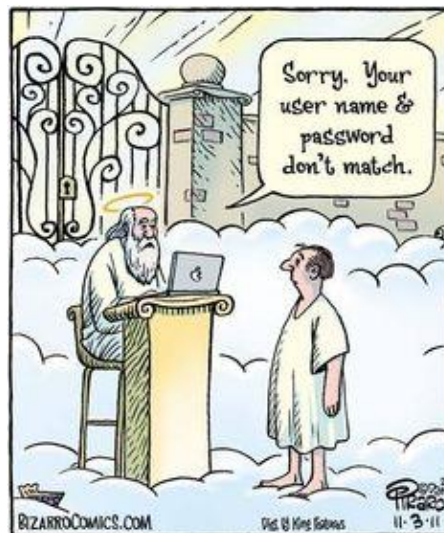
- 1/11 Elizabeth Akers
- Benjamin Schiebel
- 1/20 Joan Drageland
- 1/30 Maira Goldsmith
- 1/?? Yvonne Batson



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

BIBLE QUIZ ANSWERS

1. B. (Genesis 2:7)
2. A. (Jeremiah 33:13)
3. C. (2 Samuel 2:4)
4. A. (1 Kings 1:39)
5. B. (Jonah 1:17)
6. A. (Genesis 2:22)
7. B. (Revelation 5:5)



A little boy was saying his bedtime prayers with his mother:
 “Lord bless Mommy and Daddy, and God, GIVE ME A NEW BICYCLE!!!!”

Mom: “God’s not deaf, son.”

Boy: “I know, Mom, but Grandma’s in the next room, and she’s hard of hearing!”

The question has been posed by environmental groups: If Jesus were walking the earth today, what car would he drive if he got tired of walking? One theory holds that Jesus would tool around in an old Plymouth because the Bible says, “God drove Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden in a Fury.” Dodge pickup trucks were also popular in heaven’s carpool, as evidenced by the warning to Moses’ followers not to go up a mountain “until the Ram’s horn sounds a long blast.” But, most scholars agree that Jesus favored Honda, since it is written that, following his lead, “The Apostles were in one Accord.”

A little boy opened the large old family Bible, and he looked with fascination at the ancient pages as he turned them one by one. He was still in Genesis when something fell out of the Bible. He picked it up and looked at it closely. It was a very large old tree leaf that had been pressed between the pages of the Bible long ago. “Momma, look what I found!” the boy called out. “What do you have there?” his mother asked. With astonishment in his voice, the young boy answered, “I think it’s Adam’s underwear!”