

# **RESURRECTION NEWS**



**June 2024**

# Pastor's Letter

June 2024

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

Genealogies play important roles in our lives. Recalling the names of our ancestors or studying our heritage helps us to understand our history. Indeed, the study of genealogies help to shape our identity as we learn about the people whose genes have literally made us who we are. Genealogies also play a critical role in the Scriptures—both in the Old and New Testaments. Like our own family histories, the genealogies of the Scriptures help us to understand our faith history and to form our identity as those who have received a faith heritage shaped by these men and women.

By and large, the genealogies of the Scriptures function in one of two literary manners: 1) To act as a summary, wrapping up a story before moving on. 2) To bring to memory men and women of the past whose lives are relevant to the story which is about to be told.

The book of Genesis (whose name shares an etymological root with the word genealogy), primarily uses genealogies in the first manner. In fact, scholars have suggested that the organizational structure of Genesis is based around its genealogies. After the introductory story of creation (Gen. 1), chapters 2 through 5 form a unit centered around the life and family of Adam. This story is concluded by the genealogy in Genesis 5. In chapters 6 through 10, the life and family of Noah takes the stage. Noah's story is concluded by the so-called "Table of Nations" in chapter 10. Chapter 11 gives an interlude with the story of the dispersing of the nations at the Tower of Babel, leading up to Abra(ha)m. This pattern is followed for the patriarchs through the remainder of the book of Genesis. Because the Scriptures cannot devote space to tell the story of each individual who is mentioned, genealogies become an important way for the memory of the less-well-known people of God to be preserved.

The Evangelists Matthew and Luke use genealogies in the second manner to bring to memory men and women of the past whose lives were significant in preparation for the coming Messiah. St. Matthew's genealogy (chapter 1) preserves for us the royal lineage of Jesus and presents Christ as the fulfillment of God's promises to His Old Testament people. Therefore, when we read Matthew 1:1-2, we should be reminded of God's promise to Abraham to grant him a son through whom the nations of the earth would be blessed. While Isaac was a partial fulfillment of this promise, the ultimate seed of Abraham (cf. Galatians 3:16) was our Lord Jesus Christ. St. Luke's genealogy (chapter 4) presents the lineage of Mary. Note, though, that this lineage does not stop with Abraham, as did St. Matthew's. This is because St. Luke wants us to see the lineage of our Lord Jesus Christ going all the way back to Adam, to whom God had also made a promise that the seed of the woman would one day crush the serpent who deceived Adam (Genesis 3:15). While the Lord granted a seed to Adam through his wife Eve (cf. Genesis 4:25), Seth was also not the promised "seed of the woman." This promise points forward to the virgin birth of Christ, as foretold by the angel Gabriel (Luke 1:26-38) and fulfilled in Bethlehem (Luke 2:1-20).

So it is that the genealogies of the Scriptures play a crucial role in God's story of salvation by inviting us to remember. The Lord is always at work in His world in profound ways. Nothing happens on accident, and nothing is recorded for us in sacred Scripture without a Divine purpose.

May the Lord grant you eyes to see His goodness and appreciate his plan of salvation in the smallest of scriptural details—even genealogies!

In Christ,  
Pastor Akers

*"Remember the former things of old, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done."*

-Isaiah 46:9-10a

## *Notes from your Deaconess*

Dear Brothers and Sisters of LCR,

The next pair of short books of the Apocrypha, *Baruch* and *The Letter of Jeremiah*, clearly connect them to the Biblical prophet Jeremiah. However, neither Jeremiah nor Baruch, the servant and scribe for Jeremiah, likely penned these books. Neither has the style of, and both have historical conflicts with the canonical book contained in the Old Testament. See the introduction to these books in [The Apocrypha: the Lutheran edition with notes](#) for a full explanation.

*Baruch* includes a recounting of God's law along with the consequences of neglecting that law and the reasons for punishment, as well as some useful admonitions to regular confession and prayer. A poetic description of the wisdom of God follows (a common feature in several of the apocryphal books), as well as assurances of God's future plans of restoration and salvation.

*The Letter of Jeremiah* focuses on the absurdity of idol worship and may remind the reader of passages in Isaiah 44, Jeremiah 10, and Psalms 115 and 135. One might also recollect the account of Elijah's challenge to the prophets of Baal in 1 Kings 18. We may regard the worship of idols described in these texts (constructed of wood and stone) as unrelated to our lives at all. Still, as Martin Luther reminded us in the Small Catechism's explanation to the first commandment, "We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things." In his Large Catechism's treatment of this commandment he wrote: "Mammon...is the most common idol on earth." Mammon could be updated to 'financial security.' Luther also notes that "great learning, wisdom, power, prestige, family, and honor" can become gods to us. I might add that good health, and believing that medical and technological advances will secure our well-being can occupy our time, energy, and attention in a god-like way. ("What can be done should be done.") Sometimes I worry that our phones and screens verge on becoming gods to us – some can't get along without them as they connect, inform, correct, and guide us. The serious and oldest idol of self looms large in our culture, too. "Be true to yourself," "Trust your feelings and gut instincts," "You deserve a break"... Remember (from Luther) "that to have a god is to have something in which the heart trusts completely."

I plan to take a break this summer (June through August) from the Saturday morning women's Bible studies. I would be very glad to make time to visit and meet up with individuals interested, though. Just contact me! Most Fridays you can find me at church at 10 a.m. for a prayer time – I send an email regarding that each week if you'd like to know more or whether I will be there.

Under his mercy,  
Sharon M. Conover

*Righteousness belongs to the Lord our God, but shame to us and our fathers, as at this day.*  
Baruch 2:6

*[Thus says the LORD:] "Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. By myself I have sworn; from my mouth has gone out in righteousness a word that shall not return: 'To me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear allegiance.'"*  
Isaiah 45:22-23

### **Sunday Morning Bible Class**

Sunday morning Bible Class meets weekly at 8:45 a.m. in Room 201. Each week, we do a deeper study of the Epistle Reading to help us prepare for the Divine Service.

### **Mid-Week Bible Class**

Mid-Week Bible class is on break for the summer. We will resume the week after Labor Day.

### **Summer Schedule**

The Sunday morning schedule will remain the same throughout the summer: Bible class at 8:45, Divine Service at 10:00, and Fellowship following.

### **Banner Committee Opportunity**

In the coming months, church banners for the sanctuary will be refurbished and some new ones added. If you are interested in being a part of this effort, please contact Jo Schiebel. There will be a preliminary meeting after worship on Sunday, July 7.

### **Thank You**

Thank you for your amazing gift and your dedication for those who cannot speak for themselves and for helping us help them in the name of Jesus Christ.

For life,

Wendy Merrill, Executive Director  
RESOLVE life center

## **June Stewardship**

	<u>June 2</u>	<u>June 9</u>	<u>June 16</u>	<u>June 23</u>	<u>June 30</u>
<u>Acolyte</u>	Evan Farr	Callum Goldsmith	Elizabeth Akers	Matthew Akers	Hayley Farr
<u>Subdeacon</u>	Chris Batson	Brian Watson	Mark Larsen	Fernando Gouvea	Steve Farr
<u>Usher</u>	Rick Drageland	Jeff Sammons	Mo Cote	Glenn Carlson Jr.	Steve Applebee
<u>Greeters</u>	Akers Family	Sharon Klipp & Julie Kohl	Avis Grant & Christine Thomas	James Breslin & Gail Maestas	Kemp & Rachel Anderson
<u>Altar Care</u>	Kitty Carlson	Andrea Watson	Lee Anne Larsen	Julie Kohl	Lydia Bendas
<u>Flowers</u>	Chris & Yvonne Batson	Akers Family	Akers Family	Sharon Klipp	Sharon Klipp
<u>Fellowship</u>	Ted & Dottie Evertsen	Schiebel Family	LWML	Open	Sharon Klipp

A special thank you note from MOST on the eyeglass donations



**MISSION OPPORTUNITIES SHORT TERM**

*Impacting the World for Jesus Christ Through Short Term Missions*

655 Phoenix Drive Ann Arbor, Michigan 48108

most@mostministries.org 734.994.7909 www.mostministries.org

May 2, 2024

Resurrection Lutheran Church  
36 Cool St  
Waterville, ME 04901-5220

Dear Pastor Nielsen,

Thank you so much for your recent donation of eyeglasses to MOST Ministries. This year we are sending sixteen eyeglass teams to ten countries. Your donated eyeglasses will bring clear vision to someone who comes through one of these MOST clinics. Each clinic helps fill a physical need and draws people in who might never step foot in a Christian church otherwise. Pictured to the right is one of my favorite pictures so far this year. While a Muslim mother registers for the clinic with one of our translators, her son is hearing about Jesus from our local Christian Pastor. The seed of faith has been planted for mother and son. Glory be to God!! This is the reason we go!



With the swirling dust, intense sun and cooking over an open fire, eye protection becomes an important part of our eyeglass clinics. Sunglasses reduce some of the preventable eye diseases we routinely encounter. Each person coming into the clinic receives a pair of non-prescription sunglasses, if we have them. We have depleted our stock. If you have some around your house, please consider donating them or even holding a drive at your church for non-prescription sunglasses. We also have some on our Amazon Gift Catalog list if you are interested in purchasing some.

Another immediate need is for team members. Each year we receive more requests to serve than we have team members to go. If you have ever considered serving on a mission team, now is a great time. The 2024 Team Schedule is available on our website: MOSTMinistries.org. If you know anyone who is interested in serving on a team, or if your church is interested in sending a mission team, please pass on our information.

As a sender, you make it possible for team members to serve and bring sight to people worldwide. Thank you for your support and prayers. You are precious in His sight and in ours.

Kelly Bone  
Business Manager and Volunteer Coordinator

**LWML Update on Mites**

Thank you for your continued support to Mites. The monies donated from the 2024-2026 Mite collections will go to the following mission grants:

<b>Priority</b>	<b>2024-2026 LWML-NED MISSION GRANTS</b>	<b>Grant Amount</b>
1	Pads & Pencils - Gbarnga Mission – Jon Rossman <b>PAID</b>	\$5,000.00
2a	Short term mission scholarships - LWML NED	\$2,000.00
2b	Living Stones Homeschool Cooperative - Redeemer Lutheran, Gorham ME	\$1,115.00
3	Sanford Maine Preaching Station - Redeemer Lutheran Church Gorham ME	\$5,000.00
4	Christ in Their Homes - Open Arms Christian Preschool Bedford MA	\$1,500.00
5	Groceries & Gospel - Hands of Grace CT	\$4,500.00
6a	Food and Clothing Co-op – Concordia Theological Seminary	\$2,000.00
6b	Bethel Oromo - New LCMS congregation serving Ethiopian people Boston area	\$5,000.00
7a	Ministry of Early Childhood - Immanuel Lutheran School Bristol CT	\$5,000.00
7b	FLC Peer Fellows Pilot Program – First Lutheran Church of Boston MA	\$5,000.00
7c	Elaina's Lift - Christ Lutheran Church, Amston CT	\$1,500.00
8a	How Can I Understand? Lutheran Books for Southeast Asia - Lutheran Heritage	\$2,500.00
8b	Capstone Ministries, Escalon CA Assistance to Kenyan poor families	\$2,500.00
9a	Return to Shephard of the Valley in Navajo NM – Our Savior Lutheran, Topsfield MA	\$2,000.00
9b	Give a Chance to Learn Christ's Love – Immanuel Luth School, Danbury CT	\$5,000.00
10a	Supporting LCMS Missionaries in the field - Mission Central LCMS	\$704.00
10b	Educating Lutherans and proclaiming God's Word around the world - Issues, Etc.	\$704.00
10c	Lutheran Seminarians for Haiti's Future - Ministry in Mission LCMS	\$1,761.00
10d	Unequally yoked workshop - Poblo International	\$1,761.00
10e	Freezer Friends - Our Savior Lutheran Church, Topsfield MA	\$704.00

## Defending the Faith

### *Sometimes the Best Defense is a Good Defense.*

Continuing the series on what other religions & denominations believe, this month – and mostly out of my own curiosity – we’ll take a look at Christian Science, also known as “The Church of Christ, Scientist”.

Christian Science was founded by Mary Baker Eddy in 1879. She was asked if Christian Scientists had a religious creed. She answered, “They have not, if by that term is meant doctrinal beliefs”.<sup>1</sup> However, she did say that they have six tenets (which is another term for a creed!) You can research these on your own, but like all of the best fabrications, there are little seeds of truth mixed in with some – to put it mildly – “interesting” ideas.

Eddy described Christian Science as a return to "primitive Christianity and its lost element of healing."<sup>2</sup>

Christian Science has two texts that it relies on. The Holy Bible and “Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures”, written in 1875 by Mary Baker Eddy. It was repeatedly revised over the ensuing 35 years.

An excerpt from the church’s website: *Christian Science explains the spiritual laws of Love that Jesus relied on to heal sickness and sin. These laws are reliable and can be proven. People are doing the same kind of healing today as they learn more about what God really is.*

This is simply false. Jesus did not rely on a “set of laws” to heal sickness or to forgive sin. He accomplished those things through the power of His divinity. He is the second person of the triune Godhead.

Some of Mary Baker Eddy’s teachings include that diseases are mental in nature<sup>3</sup>, so given that reasoning, prayer is her obvious answer to disease. Indeed, she drew on Jesus’ miraculous healings found in Scripture as a “how-to” guide, without grasping that the power of Jesus’ divinity was the force behind His healings.

She was also an adherent to homeopathy – a universally discredited pseudo-science<sup>4 5</sup> where an active compound (drug or medication of some sort) is diluted, then that dilution is further diluted again and again to the point where the active compound is so diluted that not a single molecule remains in the end substance. Literally a “less is more” practice taken to an illogical extreme.

I have to ask, if you believe that prayer is the answer to illness, why engage in the practice of homeopathy?

Adherents to Christian Science believe that reality is purely spiritual, and the material world is an illusion. It seems to me that anybody who has stubbed their toe on the nightstand would disagree!

So are they Christians? Not by any orthodox definition.

They acknowledge God the Father (but misidentify Him by using the term “Father-Mother God”) and Jesus Christ as His son – but not as divine. They hold Him to be the “way shower” between humans and God. They reject Jesus’ atonement on the cross for the forgiveness of sins. They acknowledge Scripture as their sufficient guide for life, but do not hold it to be infallible. Eddy rejected the Genesis account beyond Gen 2:6 and disavowed the Trinity, stating that it was suggestive of polytheism.

My personal read on all this is that they’re like the Mormons in some sense. They use the words “God” and “Jesus” and “Christian”, but they mean very different things by them. Of course, their final fate is up to Jesus on Judgment Day.

May He lead them to the truth before it’s too late – and may He have mercy upon their souls!

As always, I’m open to suggestions, comments and especially criticism at [charles.j.macpherson@gmail.com](mailto:charles.j.macpherson@gmail.com).

Charlie MacPherson, SDG

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.christianscience.com/what-is-christian-science/beliefs-and-teachings>

<sup>2</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian\\_Science](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_Science)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Christian-Science>

<sup>4</sup> <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homeopathy>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.nccih.nih.gov/health/homeopathy>



## Monthly Worship

June 2

The Holy Trinity

The First Sunday after Trinity

Psalm: 13

Prophecy: Deuteronomy 6:4-13

Epistle: 1 John 4:8b-21

Holy Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

June 9

The Second Sunday after Trinity

Psalm: 18

Prophecy: Proverbs 9:1-10

Epistle: 1 John 3:13-18

Holy Gospel: Luke 14:16-24

June 16

The Third Sunday after Trinity

Psalm: 25

Prophecy: Micah 7:18-20

Epistle: 1 Peter 5:6-11

Holy Gospel: Luke 15:1-10

June 23

Vigil of the Nativity of St. John the Baptizer

Psalm: 21

1<sup>st</sup> Prophecy: Jeremiah 1:5-10

2<sup>nd</sup> Prophecy: Isaiah 49:1-7

Holy Gospel: Luke 1:5-17

June 30

Commemoration of St. Paul

Psalm: 139

First Reading: Acts 9:1-19

Epistle: Galatians 1:11-24

Holy Gospel: Matthew 19:27-30

## BIBLE QUIZ

- 1. How much older was John the Baptist than Jesus?**
  - A. One month
  - B. Six months
  - C. One year
  - D. Two years
- 2. Who came to Zacharias to tell him that his wife would have a son?**
  - A. An angel
  - B. A maidservant
  - C. A king
  - D. A prophet
- 3. Where was John the Baptist when the word of God came to him?**
  - A. In the temple
  - B. In the wilderness
  - C. On a boat
  - D. At his mother's home
- 4. In which wilderness region did John the Baptist preach?**
  - A. Judea
  - B. Shur
  - C. Negev
  - D. Zin
- 5. Which Old Testament prophet spoke of John the Baptist when he said "The voice of one crying in the wilderness"?**
  - A. Amos
  - B. Jeremiah
  - C. Micah
  - D. Isaiah
- 6. In what river did John the Baptist baptize?**
  - A. Jordan
  - B. Gihon
  - C. Nile
  - D. Euphrates
- 7. Who did John the Baptist call a "brood of vipers"?**
  - A. Pharisees and Sadducees
  - B. The royal family
  - C. The Publicans
  - D. The Jews





- 6/2 Lydia Bendas  
Angie Carlson  
Sharon Klipp
- 6/7 Mo Cote  
Krys Paules
- 6/9 Donald Schorr  
Jake Huesers
- 6/11 Katie Huesers
- 6/14 Callum Goldsmith
- 6/16 Sharon Callahan
- 6/17 Amber Akers
- 6/26 Jon Boschen



- 6/6 Jeff Sammons
- 6/12 Jon Boschen
- 6/13 Marie Kubeck
- 6/14 Allison Farr  
Andrew Farr  
Emily-Lynn Carlson  
Ethan Carlson  
Caden Fitzpatrick  
Mia Fitzpatrick
- 6/19 Cianan Morris



- 6/3 Steve & Kari Farr
- 6/10 Rev. Ted & Dottie Evertsen
- 6/11 Anna & Ed Rowe
- 6/15 Brian & Andrea Watson
- 6/18 Mike & Michelle Hein  
Wayne & Laverne Pelletier
- 6/23 Ray & Ruth Milhous
- 6/29 Jon & Bjorg Boschen



- 6/3 Emily-Lynn Carlson
- 6/4 Eleanor Keefe
- 6/7 Mo Cote
- 6/8 Rev. Ted Evertsen

#### **BIBLE QUIZ ANSWERS**

1. B. (Luke 1:26)
2. A. (Luke 1:13)
3. B. (Luke 3:2)
4. A. (Matthew 3:1)
5. D. (Matthew 3:3)
6. A. (Matthew 3:7)
7. A. (Matthew 3:7)

## Humor on Father and Father's Day Jokes

Why do fathers take an extra pair of socks when they go golfing?  
In case they get a hole in one!

What do you call a dad who is also a doctor?  
A "padre-tician"!

What do you call a dad who can't tell jokes?  
A faux pa!

What's a dad's favorite kind of music?  
"Dad" rock!

Why did the dad cross the road?  
To get to the dad joke on the other side!

Why don't dads ever tell jokes in elevators?  
Because it's wrong on so many levels!

Why do dads always have a stash of corny jokes?  
For emergency laughter situations!

What do you get when you cross a dad and a computer?  
A dad-a-base!

Why did the dad wear running shoes to the cookout?  
Because he meant business!



Here is the CHURCH, here is the STEEPLE..  
Open the DOOR and see all the PEOPLE.  
**YIKES!** Someone please SHUT THE DOOR!



Sunday after church, a Mom asked her very young daughter what the lesson was about. The daughter answered, 'Don't be scared, you'll get your quilt.' Needless to say, the Mom was perplexed. Later in the day, the pastor stopped by for tea and the Mom asked him what that morning's Sunday school lesson was about. He said 'Be not a afraid, thy comforter is coming.'

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A church is holding a bake sale to raise funds. On the bake sale counter, a sign reads: "Cupcakes: \$9 for a dozen, or \$30 for three dozen."

A man approaches the volunteer working the counter and exclaims, "That's absurd! It's cheaper to buy each dozen individually, don't you get it?"

The volunteer smiles patiently and asks if that's what he wants to do. He agrees and points out to the volunteer that he has saved \$3 by purchasing them individually.

Once again, she smiles patiently and after he leaves, she leans over to the pastor and says, "I told you I could get visitors to buy more than a dozen cupcakes at a time."

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A little child in church for the first time watched as the ushers passed the offering plates. When they neared the pew where he sat, the youngster piped up so that everyone could hear: "Don't pay for me Daddy, I'm under five."