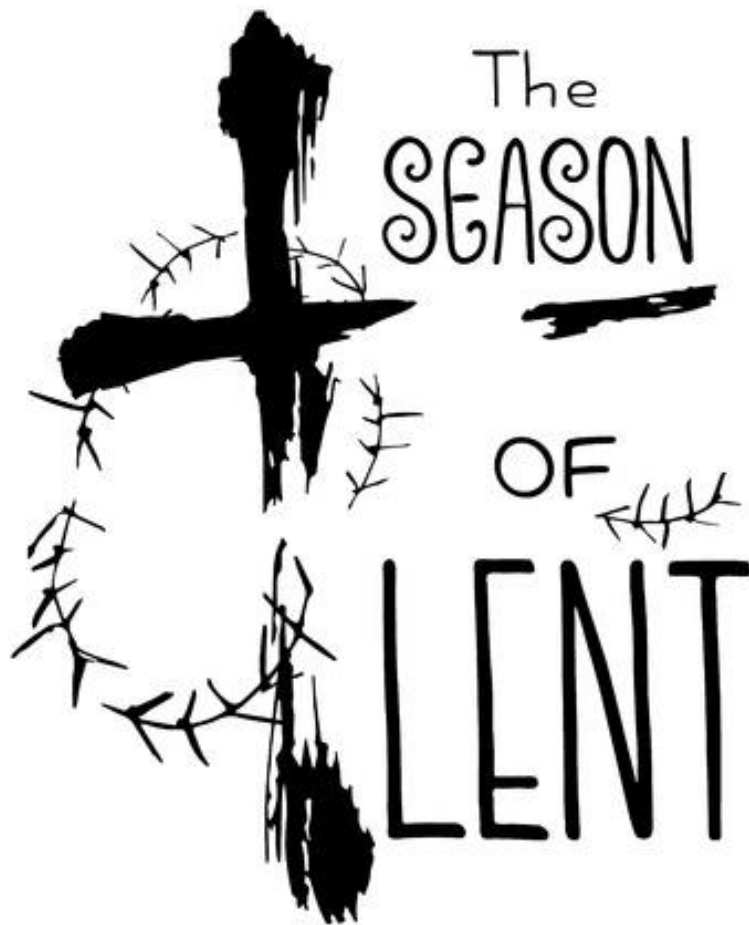


RESURRECTION NEWS



March 2023

Pastor's Letter

March 2023

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

Having been prepared for the Great Forty Days by the Pre-Lenten season, we enter Lent on Ash Wednesday (February 22 this year). During this season, the Church single-mindedly focuses on the approaching Passion and Resurrection of our Lord. I will offer some reflection on the Sunday morning readings here, as we prepare ourselves for the remembrance of our Lord's Passion and Resurrection, which we will celebrate during Holy Week.

The Gospel Reading for the First Sunday in Lent is Matthew 4:1-11. In this reading, our Lord does battle with Satan in the wilderness, as the adversary tries to tempt our Lord to abandon His salvific work for humanity. The Old Testament Reading for this day is the Fall account from Genesis 3:1-21, which serves to highlight the contrast between sinful humanity and the Lord Jesus. We, like our first parents, repeatedly fail in the face of temptation. But our Lord Jesus overcame the assaults of the devil in the wilderness on our behalf so that He could make atonement for our sins on the cross as the perfect, sinless Lamb of God. And so, because of our Lord's perfect sacrifice, the Apostle Paul writes in our Epistle: *"Now is the day of salvation"* (2 Corinthians 6:2).

The Gospel Reading for the Second Sunday in Lent is Matthew 15:21-28. In this reading, our Lord praises the great faith of the Canaanite woman in a bizarre, and even troubling, story. Paired with the Old Testament Reading from Genesis 32:22-30, we recognize that there are times when our Lord tests our faith in order that He might refine it, teaching us to trust in His goodness more fully: *"For this is the will of God, your sanctification"* (1 Thessalonians 4:1-7).

The Gospel Reading for the Third Sunday in Lent is Luke 11:14-28. In this reading, our Lord is accused by His opponents of working in league with the devil. Jesus, however, instructs that He is the *"stronger man"* (Luke 11:22) who has come to overthrow the devil, just as the Lord overthrew the power of Pharaoh in the Exodus (see our Old Testament Reading from Exodus 8:16-24). And so, we rejoice with Saint Paul, who reminds us in our Epistle: *"for at one time you were in darkness, but now you are light in the Lord"* (Ephesians 5:8).

The Gospel Reading for the Fourth Sunday in Lent is John 6:1-15. In this reading, our Lord feeds the 5,000, showing us that He is the *"bread that came down from heaven"* (John 6:41; see also the Old Testament Reading from Exodus 16:2-21). As the bread of heaven, our Lord Jesus meets all our needs in this life but especially in the life to come. Because of His provision for us in the Bread which is His Body in the Holy Communion, we have freedom and eternal security. *"Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free"* (Gal. 5:1).

The Gospel Reading for the Fifth Sunday in Lent is John 8:46-59a. In this reading, our Lord reminds us of His true identity: *"Before Abraham was, I am"* (John 8:58). He is the God of Abraham, who not only upholds the universe by the power of His Word, but our Lord Jesus also became the perfect, spotless Lamb to be sacrificed for our sins. He is the substitute foreshadowed by the story of the testing of Abraham in Genesis 22:1-19. And so, we rejoice and marvel at His goodness because *"Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption"* (Hebrews 9:12).

This Lenten season we are reminded that by our Lord's Passion and Resurrection, we have been granted eternal life. Thanks be to God! May our Lord richly bless this Lententide for you.

Peace in Jesus,
Pastor Akers

Notes from your Deaconess

Dear Brothers and Sisters of LCR,

This month I've been drawn to contemplation of blindness and eyes being made to see. Blindness results in confusion and misdirection. God opens our eyes to certain truths which we can't see without his action.

Adam and Eve listened to the serpent and believed him that their eyes would be opened if they took and ate what had not been given to them. The scriptures do tell us that their eyes were opened (Genesis 3:7), but they then did not have the kind of sight which God had intended – they proceeded to hide themselves from God and wanted to hide themselves from each other.

God opened the eyes of Hagar, Ishmael's mother, to see a well of water (Genesis 21:19)..

Jacob took advantage of the blindness of his father Isaac in order to deceive him into thinking he was his brother Esau and receive his blessing (Genesis 27).

The ninth plague on Egypt was one of darkness and so dark that people could not see each other – except where the people of Israel lived (Exodus 10:23).

The LORD opened the eyes of Balaam to see the angel of the LORD which Balaam's donkey had seen already (Numbers 22:31).

The prophet Elisha prayed that his servant's eyes would be *opened* to see the heavenly army protecting them from the Syrian army, and he also prayed that the LORD would strike those enemies with blindness, and later to open their eyes again (2 Kings 6:16-23).

Isaiah prophesies that the LORD's chosen servant will open the eyes that are blind (Isaiah 42:7).

We see Jesus do just that in several passages of the gospels – found in Matthew 9 and 20, Mark 8 and 10, Luke 18, John 9.

Jesus references Isaiah's prophesies when he explains parables to his disciples – saying: "This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand" (Matthew 13:13).

Saul experienced blindness for three days after his encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus, preparing him for the work ahead given by the Lord (Acts 9:8-9).

St. Paul writes that "The god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God" (2 Corinthians 4:4).

I plan to hold two women's Bible studies in March, on 3/4 and 3/18 from 8:30am to 10am 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 Dinah, and also women encountered in the book of Exodus. 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 M. Conover

Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law. Psalm 119:18

Mid-Week Lent Divine Service

Divine Services will be held at 12 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Wednesdays throughout the season of Lent. The noon 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, March 18**. Breakfast will be served at **8 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall with a discussion to follow at 9 a.m.

Save the Date

This year the **Annual Paddle for Pine Tree Camp** is Saturday, June 3. More information will be made available soon on joining the LCR paddling team or sponsoring the team.



March Stewardship

	<u>March 5</u>	<u>March 12</u>	<u>March 19</u>	<u>March 26</u>
<u>Acolyte</u>	Hayley Farr	Evan Farr	Matthew Akers	Elizabeth Akers
<u>Worship Asst.</u>	Brad Fitzpatrick	Dan Callahan	Charlie MacPherson	Dan Callahan
<u>Usher</u>	Seth Carlson	Glenn Carlson Jr.	Rick Drageland	John Ayotte
<u>Greeters</u>	James Breslin	Tyler & Corina Wilson	Kemp & Rachel Anderson	Rev. & Vary Fischer
<u>Altar Care</u>	Lee Anne Larsen	Lydia Bendas	Avis Grant	Joan Drageland
<u>Fellowship</u>	The Goldsmiths	Open	Open	The Fischers

Defending the Faith

Sometimes the Best Defense is a Good Defense

There are things that are objectively wrong for all people, in all times, in all places, in all circumstances and we all know it.

In fact, every human being that has ever lived knows it, whether Christian, atheist, Muslim, Jew, animist or the uncontacted tribe of Sentinel Island.

To clarify, the term “objective” means that the source of determining the wrong thing lies outside of ourselves. Conversely, “subjective” means that it is determined by us – the subject.

Here’s an example. *It is always wrong to torture babies just for the fun of it.*

Do you need a Ph.D. to know that’s wrong? Of course you don’t and that’s because that the law is written on your heart! (Romans 2:15). It’s objectively wrong, even if you’re not a Christian and everybody knows it.

This is a moral law. So where did this moral law come from?

Like all laws, it comes from a “law giver”. If you get a speeding ticket, it’s because you broke the law. Who is the law giver there? The state or municipality that posted the speed limit.

Who is the law giver that wrote the moral law on your heart? Easy. That’s God Himself.

Now what about our atheist friends? They reject the notion of God. They deny that He exists at all, sometimes referring to Him derisively as the “Flying Spaghetti Monster” or other insults that I suspect they’ll be called to answer for when Christ returns.

If you went to this atheist’s house intentionally broke his TV, I don’t think he’d like it very much. But what is his objection based on?

Without a moral law that is grounded in an objective source, his dislike is just his opinion. He’s certainly entitled to it, but your response could just be “so what”?

Christians know that we don’t do things like that. From Luther’s explanation of the 7th Commandment: “*We should fear and love God, so that we do not take our neighbor’s money or goods, nor get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his goods and means of making a living.*” We don’t do such things because we not only know that they’re wrong, we also know why they’re wrong.

History is replete with tyrants who, in the absence of an objective moral authority, thought they were entitled to run roughshod over innocent people. Hitler believed he was doing the right thing for Germany by invading other countries to gain “Lebensraum” of “living space”.

The wholesale slaughter of others was not a moral problem for him because his morality was subjective. Had he been rooted in Christianity and its objective moral authority, he would never have gone beyond being just another crazy politician.

So let’s bring this around to our world of today and the topic of abortion. It’s something we’ll all have to deal with as our Governor has proposed a bill that will allow abortion **up to the moment of birth**.

We need to be part of the effort to kill this atrocious bill. (More will follow soon)

- It is objectively wrong to kill a human being without proper justification.
- Abortion kills a human being without proper justification.
- Therefore, abortion is objectively wrong.

Those, like our Governor, who deny God’s moral law, substitute their own desires and operate under their own “law”, which isn’t a law at all. It’s just their opinion. They say that we can kill that unborn child for convenience, birth control or just because Mom feels like it.

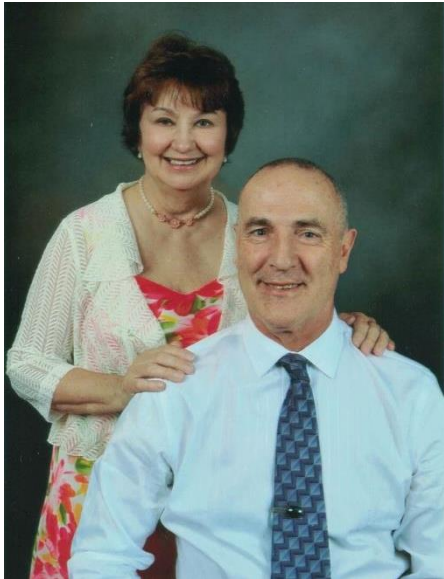
It’s up to us to engage them in conversation and start changing hearts and minds. One person at a time – until abortion becomes morally repugnant to all.

As always, I’m open to comments, suggestions and especially criticism at charles.j.macpherson@gmail.com.

Charlie MacPherson, SDG

Member of the Month –

Anna Rowe



Anna was born to Anna and John Hacik in Bound Brook, New Jersey. She was the youngest of four, with twin brothers, Walt and John (16 years older) and Bob (three years older). Early in life, the family moved to Warren Township (now called Warren). Anna was confirmed at Messiah Lutheran Church in Plainfield, New Jersey and graduated from Watchung Hills Regional High School. She was athletically oriented and loved sports of all kinds! Her desire was to teach physical education.

Following high school, Anna earned an Associate Degree in Applied Science (Medical Secretary) from Concordia Bronxville. Her mother had passed, so Walt and his wife, Lois, coordinated with Anna to be sure she could earn her Bachelor's Degree. Anna earned a B.A. in Education at Concordia Teacher's College, River Forest, Illinois (now Concordia University Chicago), then immediately headed back to Concordia Bronxville to teach physical education as her first call in the LCMS!

Because Anna was basically the same age as her students, this was a challenging call for her in the classroom/lecture area. However, she corralled them and had them laughing and having a delightful time in activity classes with dancing, gymnastics, etc. Her philosophy was that as long as you show up and try, you'd pass the class even if you didn't have the skill or desire to do so! Anna became the coach for the badminton team and won the opportunity to take her team to Nationals in California. There was a flurry of bake sales and fundraisers to get the team there. However, when they got on the courts, they were so in awe of the advanced players on other teams, with all of their finesse and professionalism, that they sort of froze and didn't do well...but just having the experience was their trophy!

As a young woman, Anna faced a life-altering experience. She was engaged to a young man who was killed in a snowmobile accident. Anna's faith upheld her—and she wondered exactly what God *did* have planned for her. After three years at Concordia, Anna moved to New Jersey to go into the sewing business with her sister-in-law, Lois: They did alterations for many cleaners in their region.

As years went on, she met and married a different fellow and they had two sons, Robbie and Brian. Anna would walk the boys to school then walk on to her part-time job at a local church's preschool program. She worked her way up from an aide to the 3-4 year olds, teacher to 3 year olds, teacher to 3-4 year olds, then director/teacher and finally full-time director of the program. She took the little school from two classrooms of students to 4 classrooms and a latchkey program for middle school.

Again, life struggles brought Anna to another difficult time in her life. Her oldest son had been diagnosed with temporal lobe epilepsy, which manifested in serious/dangerous anger issues. Anna turned her hope to God, and He did see her through. However, Anna's marriage ended in divorce and years later, Robbie died as a victim of suicide. Again, Anna clung to God for her help.

Anna's younger son, Brian, was challenged in school, but with much help, graduated. He tried working in the computer world, but it wasn't for him. He found his true self in cooking: Brian graduated from the Manhattan Culinary School (NY), and now is the chef at an upscale restaurant in New Jersey. Anna's pride in him is well placed!

As years went on, two of Anna's brothers, Bobby and Walt, and Walt's wife, Lois, moved to Maine. In 2000, Anna came to Maine to visit her family. Lois was a real-estate agent and wanted to show Anna a darling little house that had just come on the market. That very day, Anna, who had not even had a thought of moving to Maine, purchased the house! She gave notice back in New Jersey that when the school year was over, she'd be leaving for Maine!

Once here, Anna set about looking for an LCMS congregation, determined to get back to her roots. She found Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, and felt right at home. At the dedication of the new wing, she sat by Andrea Watson who was lamenting about LWML's future since Vesta was stepping down from the presidency. Anna asked the fateful question, "What do you have to do?" Faster than she could bat an eye, she became the LWML president and didn't step down until after she'd passed her 70th birthday...serving about 14 years in office!

She found a job as a customer service advocate at what is now Bank of America. It was a difficult job, but after about 3 years, it was made a bit nicer by sharing with a car-pooling buddy, Ed Rowe. Anna and Ed alternated weeks of driving for almost six years. Along the way, a dear friendship developed...and at some point a deep love came forth. They were married at a little chapel in Unity.

Anna says, "Late in life I found a friend, a soulmate, and a husband. We have such fun—we laugh every day. Ed's a hard worker, very supportive, and well...I just cannot say enough about him!"

Anna's current hobbies include sewing, quilting, and crafts. She does three Christmas craft fairs each year. Her craft work is a combination of country and primitive. She loves working with many mediums—wood (barn wood) and trees, pine cones, acorns, and seeds she finds on the ground. Anna also works with old jewelry, buttons, metal, beads, and just anything that comes to catch her fancy! Their routine for working with wood has become that Ed cuts things out and Anna works them up until they're finished. Anna also loves gardening, but alas, those knees and joints say, "No more!"

When Anna thinks of the young just starting out, she implores them to keep God in their lives as without Him, all else can consume you. To seniors she suggests to do the same, but in addition—keep moving, stay active!



Monthly Worship

March 1

Midweek Lent 1

Psalm: 91

Holy Gospel: Matthew 12:38-50

March 5

Second Sunday in Lent

Psalm: 121

First Reading: Genesis 32:22-30

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-7

Holy Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28

March 8

Midweek Lent 2

Psalm: 25

Holy Gospel: Matthew 20:17-28

March 12

Third Sunday in Lent

Psalm: 4

First Reading: Exodus 8:16-24

Epistle: Ephesians 5:1-9

Holy Gospel: Luke 11:14-28

March 15

Midweek Lent 3

Psalm: 25

Holy Gospel: Matthew 15:1-20

March 19

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Psalm: 132:8-18

First Reading: Exodus 16:2-21

Epistle: Galatians 4:22-5:1a

Holy Gospel: John 6:1-15

March 22

Midweek Lent 4

Psalm: 122

Holy Gospel: John 9:1-38

March 26

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Psalm: 43

First Reading: Genesis 22:1-19

Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-15

Holy Gospel: John 8:46-59

March 29

Midweek Lent 5

Psalm: 91

Holy Gospel: John 10:22-28

BIBLE QUIZ

1. Who committed the first murder?

- A. Adam
- B. Cain
- C. Lot
- D. Jacob

2. Who was Boaz's wife?

- A. Sarah
- B. Rebekah
- C. Ruth
- D. Hannah

3. What animal did God provide for a sacrifice in place of Abraham's son, Isaac?

- A. Lamb
- B. Ram
- C. Goat
- D. Toad

4. Which of Jesus' disciples was a former tax collector (also known as a publican)?

- A. Peter
- B. Paul
- C. Judas
- D. Matthew

5. How many of Job's sons died during his trials?

- A. All of his sons
- B. One third of his sons
- C. Half of his sons
- D. None of his sons

6. Who was the first martyr?

- A. Phillip
- B. Stephen
- C. Timothy
- D. Paul

7. Who said this: "How are the mighty fallen"?

- A. King David (when King Saul died)
- B. King Nebuchadnezzar (when Jerusalem was destroyed)
- C. Queen Esther (when Haman plotted to kill all the Jews in the world)
- D. King Herod (when he thought he killed baby king Jesus)



- 3/4 Esther Gould
Karen Mattson
3/5 Evan Farr
3/6 Beth Morris
3/11 Bjorg Boschen
3/12 Wayne Pelletier
3/14 Charlie MacPherson
3/17 Miriam Schiebel
3/21 Glenn Carlson Sr.
3/25 Kari Farr
Mike Hein
3/30 John Gould



- 3/4 Tyler Wilson
3/13 Fernando Gouvea
3/15 Vary Fischer
3/20 Fred Ouellette
Fred Ouellette Jr.
3/22 Wayne Pelletier
3/?? Kemp Anderson
Kari Farr
Steven Farr
Evelyn Gilbert



Anniversaries

- 3/16 Becky Cote
3/17 Gail Carrano
3/27 Mark Larsen
Benjamin Schiebel
3/28 Jessie Shaw



- 3/18 Kevin and Sharon Kinter
3/23 Rev. Robert and Vary Fischer



Dividing Spoils In Cemetery

On the outskirts of a small town, there was a big, old pecan tree just inside the cemetery fence. One day, two boys filled up a bucketful of nuts and sat down by the tree, out of sight, and began dividing the nuts.

"One for you, one for me. One for you, one for me," said one boy. Several dropped and rolled down toward the fence.

Another boy came riding along the road on his bicycle. As he passed, he thought he heard voices from inside the cemetery. He slowed down to investigate. Sure enough, he heard, "One for you, one for me. One for you, one for me." He just knew what it was. He jumped back on his bike and rode off.

Just around the bend he met an old man with a cane, hobbling along. "Come here quick," said the boy. "You won't believe what I heard! Satan and the Lord are down at the cemetery dividing up the souls."

The man said, "Beat it kid, can't you see it's hard for me to walk." When the boy insisted though, the man hobbled to the cemetery. Standing by the fence they heard, "One for you, one for me. One for you, one for me..."

The old man whispered, "Boy, you've been tellin' the truth. Let's see if we can see the Lord."

Shaking with fear, they peered through the fence, yet were still unable to see anything. The old man and the boy gripped the wrought iron bars of the fence tighter and tighter as they tried to get a glimpse of the Lord.

At last, they heard, "One for you, one for me. That's all. Now let's go get those nuts by the fence and we'll be done."

They say the old man made it back to town a full 5 minutes ahead of the boy on the bike.

BIBLE QUIZ ANSWERS

1. B (Genesis 4:8)
2. C (Ruth 4:9-10)
3. B (Genesis 22:13)
4. D (Matthew 10:3)
5. A (Job 1:18-19)
6. B (Acts 7:54-60)
7. A (2 Samuel 1:25)