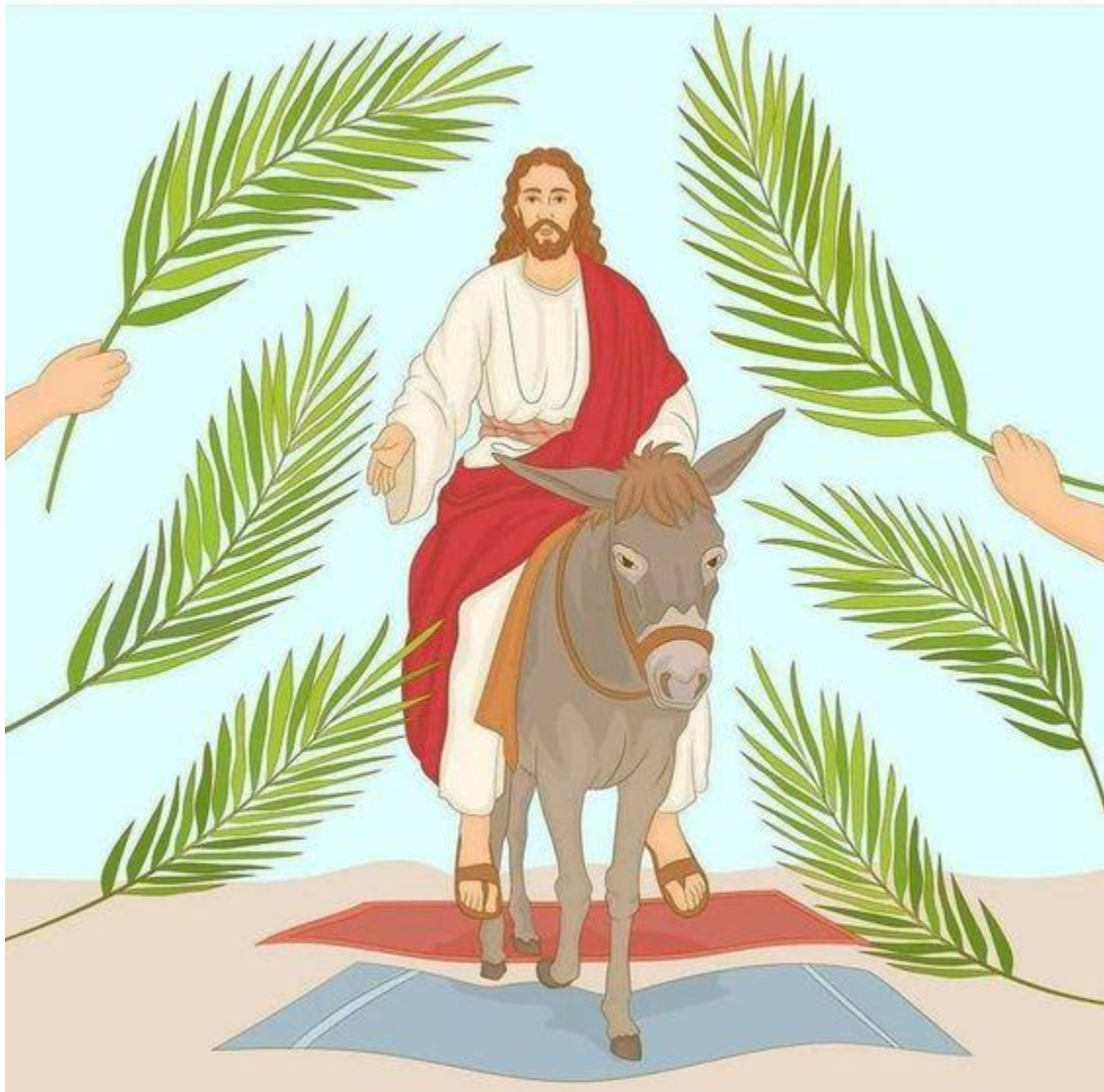


RESURRECTION NEWS



March 2024

Pastor's Letter

March 2024

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

Last month, we began to consider the four adjectives used in the Nicene Creed to describe the Church: one, holy, Christian (catholic), and apostolic. We considered the first two adjectives, noting particularly that the “oneness” and the “holiness” of the Church is often not a reality we can observe with our senses. The Church is filled with divisions and sin. And yet, it is by Christ’s work, not our own, that the Church is made “one” and “holy.” That is to say, the Church is “one” and “holy” by virtue of faith, not by virtue of sight. Now we turn to consider the final two adjectives: “Christian (catholic)” and “apostolic.”

The third adjective used by the Nicene Creed to describe the Church of Christ is Christian (catholic). You may be wondering why I have included the word “catholic” in parenthesis after each use of the adjective “Christian.” Our Lutheran Service Book provides a helpful answer to this question inside the back cover (and, indeed, in every place in which the Creed is listed). It gives this note regarding the word “Christian”: *“The ancient text [of the Nicene Creed] reads: ‘catholic’, meaning the whole Church as it confesses the wholeness of Christian doctrine.”*

When our fathers in the faith at the Ecumenical Council of Nicaea first penned the words of the Nicene Creed, they used the word “catholic”, which means “pertaining to the whole.” When the Nicene Creed was translated into the German language (long before Luther or the Reformation), the word “catholic” was translated as “Christian” because German possessed no such word equivalent to the Greek word “catholic.” Since the name “Christian” encompasses all in the Church who believe in Christ, it was seen as a fitting substitute. Because our Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is descendant primarily of German-speaking Christians, we have retained the German tradition of confessing the Nicene Creed with the word “Christian.”

But to speak the Creed with the word “Christian” rather than “catholic” is not to deny the catholicity of the Church—far from it! Our Lutheran fathers in the faith always insisted that they were not starting something new. We believe the same as all orthodox Christians who came before us, as can be attested by the substantial number of citations from the church fathers in our Book of Concord. The faith of the Church does not belong to our time in history any more than it belongs to our place in the world. As our Proper Preface says, as a part of the Church catholic, we worship *“with all the company of heaven”*, especially those faithful saints who have gone before us.

The fourth and final adjective used by the Nicene Creed to describe the Church of Christ is the word apostolic, which is to say, the Church of Jesus Christ is founded upon the teaching of the apostles in the sacred Scriptures. Christ Himself is the Lord of the Church, but our faith rests upon the words which He has given to His apostles (and prophets), as recorded in the Holy Bible. Our faith in Christ starts and stops with the words of the apostles (New Testament) and of the prophets (Old Testament) which they affirmed. Christ is the Lord of the Church, but He has ordained to speak to His Church through the apostolic and prophetic Scriptures. Any congregation whose doctrine is not solely based on the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament cannot be said to be a part of the “one, holy, Christian (catholic), and apostolic Church.”

Or, to say it differently, it is the apostolic nature of the Church which assures her catholicity, sanctity (holiness), and unity (oneness), as Saint Paul attests: *“Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit”* (Ephesians 2:19-22).

Thanks be to God that He makes His Christian (catholic) Church One and Holy through the apostolic witness of sacred Scripture!

In Christ,
Pastor Akers

Notes from your Deaconess

Dear Brothers and Sisters of LCR,

Recently we finished reading Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon in our “Read the Bible in Two Years” schedule. The Apocryphal book “The Wisdom of Solomon,” while named for that wise son of David, comes from the time between the testaments much closer to the birth of Jesus.

Written in Greek and quite likely by a Jew living in Egypt where a large community of Jews had fled and then settled around the time of Jerusalem’s destruction (see Jeremiah 43), portions of it echo themes of Ecclesiastes and parts of the Proverbs. It begins with contrasting the lives and ends of righteous and wicked men, and urging rulers to seek wisdom. The writer’s personification of Wisdom found also in Proverbs (chapters 3, 4, 8, and 9) winds through several chapters. We also read discussions of the foolishness of idolatry and nature worship, and interesting commentary on events of Exodus and Numbers regarding the plagues in Egypt, and the time of Israel in the wilderness (akin to Psalms 78, 105 and 106).

Luther’s introduction to this book included the following:

“There are many good things in this book, and it is well worth reading...This book is timely for our day, because tyrants are now cocksurely abusing their authority against him from whom they have it...It pleases me beyond measure that the author here [Wisdom 6:22] extols the Word of God so highly, and ascribes to the Word all the wonders God has performed, both on enemies and in his saints...

Finally, this book is a proper exposition and illustration of the first commandment. For here you see that the author throughout is teaching you to fear and trust God; he terrifies with examples of divine wrath those who are not afraid and who despise God, and he comforts with examples of divine grace those who believe and trust him.”

We will meet for Saturday women’s Bible studies on March 9 and 16. We have begun studying St. Paul’s epistle to the Romans. You certainly are welcome to join whenever you can, and not to worry about not always attending, as study of any portion of God’s word with others always bears fruit! I can add you to my email list if you let me know. I send an email during the week prior to each meeting. I also can provide a Zoom link if you’d like to join that way instead of in person. We meet downstairs in classroom 104 at 8:30 a.m. for a time of fellowship, Bible study, and sharing of prayer concerns.

Under his mercy,
Sharon M. Conover

Those who trust in [God] will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones, and he watches over his chosen. Wisdom 3:9

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. Romans 1:16

Sunday Morning Bible Class

Sunday morning Bible Class meets weekly at 8:45 a.m. in Room 201. Each week, Pastor will lead a deeper study of the Epistle Reading to help us prepare for the Divine Service. We will also have time to discuss your questions from the Read the Bible in Two Years readings.

Thursday Bible Class

Thursday Bible Class is on break for the season of Lent. We will resume meeting at 10:30 a.m. on April 4.

Men's Breakfast

The next men's breakfast is scheduled for **Saturday, March 16**. Breakfast will be served at 8 a.m. with a study to follow at 9 a.m.

Wednesday Lenten Services

Wednesday Lenten Divine Services are held weekly on Wednesdays at noon & 7 p.m.

Holy Week Service Schedule

Holy Week is the week of March 24. The service schedule will be:

- Palm Sunday (3/24) – normal Sunday schedule
- Holy Monday (3/25) – Divine Service (spoken) at noon
- Holy Tuesday (3/26) – Divine Service (spoken) at noon
- Holy Wednesday (3/27) – Divine Service (spoken) at noon
- Holy Thursday (3/28) – Divine Services at noon & 7 p.m.
- Good Friday (3/29) – Divine Services at noon & 7 p.m.
- Vigil of Easter (3/30) – Divine Service at 6:30 p.m.
- Easter Sunday (3/31) – Divine Service at 10 a.m., with Easter Breakfast served beginning at 8:30



March Stewardship

	<u>March 3</u>	<u>March 10</u>	<u>March 17</u>	<u>March 24</u>	<u>March 31</u>
<u>Acolyte</u>	Elizabeth Akers	Hayley Farr	Matthew Akers	Callum Goldsmith	Evan Farr
<u>Subdeacon</u>	Steve Farr	Charlie MacPherson	Chris Batson	Brian Watson	Charlie MacPherson
<u>Ushers</u>	Rick Drageland Mo Cote	Glenn Carlson Jr. John Ayotte	Steve Applebee Brad Fitzpatrick	Mike Hein Rick Kubeck	Jeff Sammons Rick Kubeck
<u>Greeters</u>	Sharon Klipp & Christine Thomas	Rick & Marie Kubeck	James Breslin & Adolph Galonski	Gail Maestas & Julie Kohl	Amber, Matthew & Elizabeth Akers
<u>Altar Care</u>	Lydia Bendas	Amber Akers	Amanda Goldsmith	Sasha Fitzpatrick	Lee Anne Larsen
<u>Fellowship</u>	The Zahners	Dan & Sharon Callahan	Open	The Akers Family	Easter Breakfast

Holy Week

		March 28 Maundy Thursday (noon and 7 p.m.)	March 29 Good Friday (noon and 7 p.m.)	March 30 Easter Vigil (6:30 p.m.)
Acolyte	Noon 7 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Matthew Akers Callum Goldsmith	Matthew Akers Evan Farr	Allison Farr
Subdeacon	Noon 7 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Brian Watson Dan Callahan	Chris Batson Steve Farr	Mark Larsen
Ushers	Noon 7 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Chris Batson Jeff Sammons & Glenn Carlson Jr.	Rick Drageland Jeff Sammons	Steve Applebee
Greeters	Noon 7 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Chris & Yvonne Batson		Avis Grant
Altar Care		Krista Carlson	Kitty Carlson	Andrea Watson

Defending the Faith

Sometimes the Best Defense is a Good Defense

This month, we'll talk about the Mormon Church – or as they now prefer to be called “The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints” (abbreviated “LDS”). The name “Mormon” has a lot of negative baggage associated with it and they are trying to rebrand.

While they emphatically claim to be Christian, they are not. Comparing beliefs will make this clear. This is not meant to be a complete survey. Rather, it's just skimming the surface.

Views of:	Orthodox Christians	Mormon Church
Jesus	The eternal, uncreated Son of God. Fully human and fully divine. Died on the cross to pay the price for the sins of all those who would accept His free gift of salvation. Will come again to judge the living and the dead. His kingdom will have no end.	Created by an act of physical sex between God the Father and Mary. The “spirit brother” of Satan. The firstborn spirit-child of the Heavenly Father and Mother. He “progressed” into deity and inherited divine powers from God the Father. Came to North America to minister to native Americans.
God the Father	Eternal. Comprised of spirit, not flesh. All-powerful, all-knowing, omnipresent, all-loving.	God was created by another God who was above him. Started as a mortal man but “progressed” to an exalted being. Still made of flesh and bone.
Man	Fallen. Will return to dust, but will arise from the grave at the last day, solely because of grace through faith. Not because of merit or works.	Can become a god and rule over his own planet, populated by spirit babies. We all lived in a pre-existence (before birth).
Salvation	We are saved by Grace through Faith because of Christ alone. We have assurance of salvation because it does not depend on our works. We trust in the Gospel and not ourselves.	Saved by grace <i>after all that we can do</i> . No assurance of salvation is given. (2 Nephi 25) Christ's atonement redeems everyone and grace is a reward for those who obey him. You can accept God after you die and still be saved.
Trinity	Three persons in one Godhead. Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Co-equal, co-eternal.	Three separate gods – and there are an infinite number of gods. Father, Son and Holy Spirit all have both spiritual and physical bodies. The doctrine of the Trinity is rejected.
Heaven	Attained through faith in Jesus only. <i>“I am the way the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father, but by Me.”</i> Jn 14:6	Belief in Jesus or even God the Father is not necessary. There are three different heavenly kingdoms, set aside for those of different accomplishments.
Sin	All have sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God. (Rom 3:23)	Children have no sinful nature. We are not accountable for original sin.
Sacred texts	The Bible.	The Bible, the Book of Mormon, Doctrines and Covenants, the Pearl of Great Price.
Archaeology	Hundreds of discoveries that support people and places found in Scripture. None that oppose classical Christianity.	No support whatsoever.

Mormons can be quite disarming for a couple of reasons. First, they may very well be the nicest neighbors that you will ever have. They are characteristically friendly, polite and conservative in what they wear and how they act. They drink no alcohol, coffee or tea, (except herbal tea).

It really goes against the grain to think that such nice people are believe, teach and confess damnable heresy.

Second, they are very well trained to evangelize. Young adults are very strongly encouraged (though not required) to accept a 2-year mission assignment, where they go into the world and evangelize. These are the very polite young men and women who knock on your door to try to convert you to Mormonism.

They come well-armed to demolish your faith, and they can be very convincing. When they call on you, it's best to ask them to come back next week and prepare to spend a couple of hours with them. While in conversation, be ready

to respond with “I need some time to consider that point. Can we revisit it later?” Generally, they will be happy to come back – but be aware that they are taught that any opposition to Mormonism is satanic.

Lutheran Satire is a YouTube channel by Hans Fiene, an LCMS pastor with a very sharp sense of humor. I strongly recommend that you look him up and watch some of his videos.

In one video, two Mormon missionaries came calling on Donall and Conall (Twin 5th century Irish peasants – and his favorite characters). You can search on the title of the video: “*Donall and Conall Convince the Mormon Missionaries They're Going to Hell in 40.305 Seconds.*”

A quick summary. The missionaries share the wonderful news that they are saved by grace *after all that we can do*.

The twins tell them that this is terrible news and that the missionaries are going to burn in Hell for all of eternity.

Why they ask? Here’s a summary of the rest of the conversation:

Twins: Is it better to work in a homeless shelter or to watch a movie?

Missionaries: To work in a homeless shelter, of course.

Twins: Have you ever watched a movie?

Missionaries: Sure.

Twins: Well then while you watched that movie, you were not able to work in the homeless shelter. Therefore, you have not done all you could do. Therefore you’re damned to an eternity burning in a lake of fire.

It's presented in a humorous manner, as is Pastor Fiene’s specialty, but the underlying message is true – and powerful.

I hope I’ve given you some things to think about when those missionaries come knocking.

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

Charlie MacPherson, Defending the Faith. SDG



Monthly Worship

March 3

Third Sunday in Lent

Psalm: 25

First Reading: Exodus 8:16-24

Epistle: Ephesians 5:1-9

Holy Gospel: Luke 11:14-28

March 10

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Psalm: 122

First Reading: Exodus 16:2-21

Epistle: Galatians 4:22-5:1a

Holy Gospel: John 6:1-15

March 17

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Psalm: 43

First Reading: Genesis 22:1-19

Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-15

Holy Gospel: John 8:46-59a

March 24

Palm Sunday

Psalm: 22

First Reading: Luke 19:29-40

Epistle: Philippians 2:5-11

Holy Gospel: Matthew 26:1-27:66

March 28

Holy (Maundy) Thursday

Psalm: 67

First Reading: Exodus 24:3-11

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 11:20-32

Holy Gospel: John 13:1-15

March 29

Good Friday

Psalm: 140

First Reading: Hosea 5:15b-6:6

Second Reading: Exodus 12:1-11

Holy Gospel: John 18:1-19:42

March 31

The Resurrection of Our Lord

Psalm: 139

First Reading: Job 19:23-27

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 5:7-8

Holy Gospel: Mark 16:1-8

BIBLE QUIZ

- 1. On a Sunday before Passover, less than a week before His crucifixion, Jesus made His grand public entry into Jerusalem as Messiah. He was greeted by the cheers and adoration of a multitude of people. How did Jesus obtain the colt he rode into Jerusalem?**
 - A. He borrowed the colt from a man passing by on the road.
 - B. He told his disciples to look behind a nearby barn and they would find a colt.
 - C. He sent two disciples into Jerusalem for the colt.
 - D. He sent two disciples into a village for the colt.
- 2. What did the people do to greet Jesus as he rode into Jerusalem?**
 - A. They danced and sang.
 - B. They had a feast to celebrate Jesus' arrival.
 - C. They lit bonfires to greet Jesus.
 - D. They spread palm branches on the road ahead of Jesus.
- 3. What did the people do as a sign that they truly considered Jesus to be their king?**
 - A. They spread their garments on the road before Him.
 - B. They bowed low as He passed.
 - C. They threw coins on the road ahead of Jesus' colt.
 - D. They shouted, "Jesus is king!"
- 4. As Jesus entered Jerusalem the people shouted, _____.**
 - A. "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!"
 - B. "Crucify Him!"
 - C. "Truly, this is the son of God!"
 - D. "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"
- 5. Which Christian feast day is a celebration of Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem?**
 - A. Ash Wednesday
 - B. Easter
 - C. Palm Sunday
 - D. St. Patrick's Day
- 6. What is another name for Palm Sunday?**
 - A. Passion Sunday
 - B. Holy Sunday
 - C. Resurrection Sunday
 - D. Crucifixion Sunday

Happy Birthday!

- 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
- 3/20 Fred Ouellette
Fred Ouellette Jr.
- 3/22 Wayne Pelletier
- 3/?? Kemp Anderson
Kari Farr
Steven Farr
Evelyn Gilbert

A stylized logo for Confirmation featuring a white dove with its wings spread, set against a background of colorful rays. Below the logo, the word "Confirmation" is written in a large, blue, serif font, and "Anniversaries" is written in a smaller, blue, serif font below it.

Confirmation Anniversaries

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



Easter Holiday Mashup

One Easter morning, a Sunday school teacher decided to see how much her class knew about the true meaning of Easter. One of the little girls quickly raised her hand. "Yes, Sarah?" the teacher called.

"Easter is when all of my aunts and uncles come to my house to eat turkey, watch football, and take naps," she said.

"No, Sarah, that's Thanksgiving." Another student raised his hand. "Yes, Billy?" she asked.

"Last Easter, we decorated a tree, sang songs, and got lots of presents," he answered.

"No, Billy, that was Christmas," she replied. Now the teacher was getting a bit nervous. "Does anyone know what Easter is?"

"I know," little Emily said, confidently standing to her feet. "Easter is a special day to remember that Jesus was hung on a cross, died, and put in a tomb for three days."

"Very good, Emily!" the teacher said with a sigh of relief. "Now, class, we're going to..."

"And on the third day, everyone gathers around the tomb," Emily continued. "And they wait to see if Jesus comes out, and if he sees his shadow, that means six more weeks of winter. If not..."

The teacher interrupted Emily before she could finish her speech, "Class dismissed!"

BIBLE QUIZ ANSWERS

1. C (Matthew 21:1-6)
2. D (Matthew 21:8)
3. A (Matthew 21:8)
4. D (Matthew 21:9)
5. C
6. D