

RESURRECTION NEWS



Photo Credit: Don Pryor

May 2024

Pastor's Letter

May 2024

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

This year, the third Sunday in May is Pentecost. It is unfortunate that this great feast day of the church is often neglected. This is partially because of its typical proximity to the great American holiday of Memorial Day. We should remember and give thanks to God for the brave men of the armed forces who have given their lives to defend us, but because Pentecost is a day of far greater significance, it ought to be celebrated with far greater vigor. Historically, the Church observed the feast of Pentecost with a series of services surpassed only by the Church's greatest feast of Easter. (Believe it or not, until the last two to three hundred years, the feast of Pentecost was celebrated more extravagantly than Christmas!)

If you have a fondness for the Vigil of Easter (which we have observed at LCR the last three years), you might be interested to learn that there is a historic Vigil of Pentecost (observed on the Saturday night before Pentecost). This Pentecost Vigil had some similarities to the Easter Vigil, though much simplified. The service would begin in a darkened sanctuary with a series of prophecies and collects being read. At the conclusion of the prophecies, the Great Litany would be sung. As the litany concluded, the pastor would change from his violet vestments into a red chasuble, and the service would continue with the Kyrie, Gloria in Excelsis, and the Divine Service (as at the Easter Vigil).

As a lover of the liturgy, I find these historical notes fascinating—not so much from an academic perspective but because the liturgy both confesses and shapes what we Christians believe. I don't have to think twice about confessing my sins (either the need or the method of doing so) because the Divine Services teaches me to confess my sins weekly (or more often!). I don't need to think twice about praying the Kyrie because the Church's liturgy teaches me to pray "Lord, have mercy" regularly. The Bible is a big book, but the liturgy of the Church teaches generations of Christians how to apply the Scriptures to their own lives in a practical way.

This is why it's a shame that the Vigil of Pentecost is no longer observed among us. If nothing else, the Vigil of Pentecost would teach us that Pentecost matters just as much as Christmas and Easter. On Christmas, our Lord Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be incarnate for us men and for our salvation. On Easter, our Lord Jesus Christ rose from the dead, conquering sin, death, and the devil for us. At Pentecost, our Lord Jesus Christ sent the Holy Spirit to be our Comforter until His return on the Last Day. Without the coming of the Holy Spirit, we would not be preserved in the faith until our Lord's return (never mind being brought to faith in the first place).

I realize that this may sound like an apologetic for the liturgy. Insofar as it is, that's fine. But that's not my primary concern. I share this with you because the history of the Church has much to wisdom teach us about applying the Scriptures to our lives. As we noted, the Bible is a big book, so allowing the lectionary to shape our reading of Scripture (especially at the key moments of the church year) allows us to read God's Word according to the wisdom of the saints who have gone before us.

With this in mind, I would like to offer you a suggested reading list for your own devotion on the day before Pentecost (Saturday, May 18 this year) so that your observance of Pentecost can be informed by the same texts that countless Christians before you have used to meditate on the Holy Spirit's coming—both His historic coming at Pentecost and His continual coming through the Word. Feel free to use all or some of these suggestions:

- Genesis 22:1-19 (The Holy Spirit seeks to sanctify our faith, like Abraham's.)
- Deuteronomy 31:22-32:4 (The Holy Spirit sustains faith in our stubborn hearts.)
- Isaiah 4:1-6 (The Holy Spirit makes us holy and washes us clean in Holy Baptism.)
- John 14:15-21 (The Holy Spirit is the Comforter, who teaches us to love Christ and obey Him.)

May your observance of Pentecost be blessed this year as you are filled with God's Word and Spirit!

In Christ,
Pastor Akers

Notes from your Deaconess

Dear Brothers and Sisters of LCR,

The Apocryphal book *Ecclesiasticus*, also known as *Wisdom of Jesus Son of Sirach*, was written in Hebrew, likely in the early second century B.C. Through most of the centuries since, however, it has been most often known in its Greek form (also dating from that century) as Hebrew copies did not surface until archaeology work in the 1800's. Luther wrote that "This is a useful book for the ordinary man." Similar to Proverbs in the Old Testament, it includes a wide range of sayings and instructions for godly living, and commentaries and descriptions of Wisdom. Luther wrote:

The author concentrates all his effort on helping a citizen or housefather to be God-fearing, devout, and wise; and on showing what the relationship of such a man should be to God, the Word of God, priests, parents, wife, children, his own body, his servants, possessions, neighbors, friends, enemies, government, and anyone else. So one might well call this a book on home discipline or on the virtues of a pious householder.

I enjoyed the descriptions of God's work in creation, sections which focused on control of the tongue, table etiquette (?!), and several chapters near the end of the book which "praise famous men and fathers" which reminded me of Hebrews 11. The book closes with a prayer to the Lord and a poem about wisdom. A benediction preceding the final prayer and poem inspired the text for a very well-known seventeenth-century Lutheran hymn by Martin Rinckart--"Now Thank We All Our God" (LSB 895). I've included those verses at the conclusion of this note.

I plan to hold a Saturday women's Bible study on May 4. We are working through St. Paul's epistle to the Romans. May 18 would typically be the second date I would plan for a study, but I would like to participate in the **Walk for Life** in Waterville supporting the pregnancy center "Resolve Life Center" – which takes place that morning. If any of you care to join me for that event, let me know. I may try to set up an alternate meeting time after consulting with those who often participate in the studies. I send an email during the week prior to each Bible study 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

And now bless the God of all, who in every way does great things; who exalts our days from birth and deals with us according to his mercy. May he give us gladness of heart and grant that peace may be in our days in Israel, as in the days of old. May he entrust to us his mercy! And let him deliver us in our days!

Ecclesiasticus 50:22-24

Ascension Day Divine Services

Ascension Day is Thursday, May 9. We will hold Divine Services at noon and 7:00 p.m. that day.

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. As time allows, we will also discuss your questions from the Read the Bible in Two Years readings.

Mid-Week Bible Class

In April and May, we have a special mid-week Bible class discussing the history theology, and implications of the 1974 Concordia Seminary Walk Out. On the 50th anniversary (this past February), a special edition of the Lutheran Witness was published on this topic. Concordia Historical Institute also recently published a book on the same topic, titled, “Rediscovering the Issues Surrounding the 1974 Concordia Seminary Walkout” (available from CPH).

The class meets in Room 201 on **Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. and Thursday mornings at 10:30 a.m.** Zoom is available for the Wednesday evening session. Please speak with Pastor Akers if you are interested in being on the distribution list.

The class will plan to cover the following historical and theological topics:

- What was the 1974 Concordia Seminary Walkout? (overview of the history)
- The Gospel and Scripture
- The Historical-Critical Method
- Confessional Subscription
- The Third Use of the Law
- Seminex and the Supernatural
- Abiding Effects of the Walkout

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. Mid-Week Bible class will not meet beginning Memorial Day. It will resume the week following Labor Day.

Annual Paddle for Pine Tree Camp

Join the LCR Board for Missions group raising money for scholarships to the Pine Tree Camp by taking an easy canoe or kayak paddle down the Kennebec River from Solon to North Anson on Saturday, June 1. If you are unable to paddle, you can still support the cause by donating funds. See Kemp or Rachel Anderson for details.

LWML

LWML distributed the 2023 craft fair proceeds in March to the following:

The Garuna Foundation	\$360	The Lighthouse	\$170
LWML NED	\$206	Maine Children’s Home	\$170
Capstone Ministries	\$170	LCMS (Disaster Response)	\$170
Lutheran World Relief	\$170	Lutheran Hour Ministries	\$170
Maine Children’s Cancer Program	\$170	New England District Support for Schools	\$170
Trinity First Lutheran School	\$170		

May Stewardship

	<u>May 5</u>	<u>May 12</u>	<u>May 19</u>	<u>May 26</u>
<u>Acolyte</u>	Evan Farr	Callum Goldsmith	Matthew Akers	Hayley Farr
<u>Subdeacon</u>	Steve Farr	Chris Batson	Fernando Gouvea	Charlie MacPherson
<u>Ushers</u>	Rick Drageland Brad Fitzpatrick	Jeff Sammons Mike Hein	Brian Watson Steve Applebee	Mo Cote John Ayotte
<u>Greeters</u>	Rick & Marie Kubeck	Adolph Galonski & James Breslin	Mark & LeeAnne Larsen	Goldsmith Family
<u>Altar Care</u>	Sharon Conover	Amy Ouellette	Sasha Fitzpatrick	Krista Carlson
<u>Flowers</u>	Mo & Becky Cote	Jayne Labbe	Jayne Labbe	Chris & Yvonne Batson
<u>Fellowship</u>	Wilson & Batson Families	Charlie & Jen MacPherson	Pentecost Potluck	Open

Defending the Faith

Sometimes the Best Defense is a Good Defense

It occurred to me that I've never explained the subtitle "*Sometimes the Best Defense is a Good Defense*". I think that most of us have heard the old saying that "the best defense is a good offense".

That may well be true in politics, sports and warfare – but when we're talking about our faith, "offense" is generally not the way to go. In fact, 1 Peter 3:15 says "*Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.*" That's why I point to defense, rather than offense.

For this month's look at what other religions and Christian denominations believe, let's examine the United Methodist Church.

The UMC was formed in 1968 as a joining of the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church. They are broadly informed by the teachings of John and Charles Wesley.

The term "Methodist" comes from Wesley's disciplined and methodical way of study of Scripture and in living a holy lifestyle.¹

This quote from John Wesley is illuminating: "*The Gospel of Christ knows of no religion, but social. No holiness but social holiness. Faith working by love is the length and breadth and depth and height of Christian perfection.*"² They even view themselves as a means of Grace³ as they do good works.

They are leaning politically left and are now publicly confessing past sins of racism, sexism, colonialism and systemic injustices.

The Methodist Church is (like others) wrestling with acceptance of homosexuality. Some churches want to be "open and affirming" while others rightly declare that as an affront to orthodox Christian teaching. In spite of a 1996 ruling prohibiting clergy from performing same-sex weddings, many do anyway. In 2016, the UMC elected an openly gay bishop, adding fuel to the fire.

A schism has begun, though not with as much vigor as many had predicted. In 2022, conservative Methodists announced a break with the UMC, forming the Global Methodist Church.⁴ There was a similar schism in 1844 over the issue of slavery. There's much more detail than I can include here, but this led to the formation of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, normally abbreviated "the AME Church".

On Christian teachings, they agree with many LCMS values, including the nature of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. They baptize babies, but mistakenly view baptism as a symbolic of repentance, an inner cleansing from sin and a rebirth in the Name of Christ. They also mistakenly view the Lord's Supper as symbolic, not as the Real Presence of Christ in, with and under the elements.⁵

One of the items I found most surprising as I studied Methodists is that they teach that people "must use logic and reason in all matters of faith." Knowing how imperfect and prone to evil that the human heart is by nature, this seems like a truly dangerous idea.

They correctly teach salvation by Grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

One final item that seems peculiar. Wesley taught that the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion are not only sacraments, but also a sacrifice to God.

In summary, while some of their ideas seem heterodox (outside the norms of Christian beliefs), none that I can find are anywhere near heretical.

I'm sure that we'll see a lot of Methodists in Heaven!

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

Charlie MacPherson, SDG

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Methodist_Church

² www.umc.org/en/rethink-church/topics/questioning/what-is-a-united-methodist

³ Dr. Ashley Boggan Dreff, General Secretary, General Commission on Archives and History, UMC. www.umc.org

⁴ www.religionnews.com

⁵ www.LearnReligions.com

BIBLE QUIZ



Monthly Worship

May 5

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Psalm: 66

Prophecy: Numbers 21:4-9

Epistle: James 1:22-27

Holy Gospel: John 16:23b-30

May 9

The Ascension of Our Lord

Psalm: 47

Prophecy: 2 Kings 2:8-15

Epistle: Acts 1:1-11

Holy Gospel: Mark 16:14-20

May 12

Sunday within the Octave of the Ascension

Psalm: 27

Prophecy: Ezekiel 36:23a, 23c-28

Epistle: 1 Peter 4:7b-11

Holy Gospel: John 15:26-16:4a

May 19

The Day of Pentecost

Psalm: 68

Prophecy: Genesis 11:1-9

Epistle: Acts 2:1-11

Holy Gospel: John 14:23-31a

May 26

The Feast of the Most Holy Trinity

Prophecy: Isaiah 6:1-7

Epistle: Romans 11:33-36

Holy Gospel: John 3:1-15

- 1. The Bible books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are known as the gospels, (meaning "good news") of Jesus Christ. Almost everything we know about Jesus' life, ministry, death and resurrection comes from these four books. Which of the four books was the first one written?**
 - A. Matthew
 - B. Mark
 - C. Luke
 - D. John
- 2. Which of the four gospels shows a much different picture of Jesus than the other three?**
 - A. Matthew
 - B. Mark
 - C. Luke
 - D. John
- 3. The "kingdom of God" was the centerpiece of Jesus' teachings, but one of the gospels substitutes the phrase "kingdom of heaven." Which one?**
 - A. Matthew
 - B. Mark
 - C. Luke
 - D. John
- 4. True or False? The Gospel of John was written by John the Baptist.**
 - A. True
 - B. False
- 5. Which two books tell the story of Jesus' birth?**
 - A. Matthew and Mark
 - B. Matthew and Luke
 - C. Mark and Luke
 - D. Luke and John
- 6. Which of these stories about Jesus is in all four gospels?**
 - A. Jesus turns water into wine at the wedding at Cana.
 - B. Jesus walks on water.
 - C. Jesus feeds 5000 with a few loaves of bread and fish.
 - D. Jesus talks with a Samaritan woman at Jacob's well.
- 7. True or False? All four gospel books tell of Jesus' arrest, trial, crucifixion, and resurrection.**
 - A. True
 - B. False



- 5/1 Brian Watson
- 5/3 Don Pryor
- 5/4 Emily-Lynn Carlson
- 5/12 Carl Mattson
- 5/14 Kitty Carlson
- 5/16 Kenneth Zahner
- 5/18 Rick Dostie
Fenn Ouellette
- 5/19 Joshua Schiebel
- 5/20 Tyler Wilson
- 5/22 Sasha Fitzpatrick
- 5/23 Michelle Hein
Anna Rowe
- 5/24 Amanda Goldsmith
- 5/27 Christine Thomas
- 5/29 David Morris
- 5/30 Rev. Ted Evertsen
- 5/31 Jared Goldsmith



- 5/4 Gail & Art Carrano
- 5/5 Mo & Becky Cote
- 5/25 Chris & Yvonne Batson

BIBLE QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1. B
- 2. D
- 3. A
- 4. B
- 5. B
- 6. C
- 7. A



Anniversaries

- 5/8 Mo Cote
- 5/10 Angie Carlson
Matthew Esculano
Amanda Goldsmith
Jared Goldsmith
Krys Paules
- 5/11 Avis Grant
- 5/14 Steven Bendas
- 5/18 Peter Doran
- 5/20 Joshua Schiebel
- 5/21 Rick Drageland
- 5/27 Rev. Benjamin Akers
- 5/31 Lee Anne Larsen
- 5/?? Sharon Callahan
Lois Doran



- 5/1 Ruth Milhous
- 5/11 Avis Grant
- 5/10 Jared Goldsmith
- 5/13 Karen Mattson
- 5/17 Callum Goldsmith
- 5/20 Allison Farr
- 5/24 Fenn Ouellette
- 5/28 Miriam Schiebel
- 5/30 Joshua Schiebel
- 5/?? Gail Carrano
Rick Dostie
Carl Mattson

ABRAHAM.COM

And, lo, it came to pass that the trader by the name of Abraham Com did take unto himself a young wife by the name of Dot. And Dot Com was a comely woman, broad of shoulder and long of leg. Indeed, she had been called Amazon Dot Com. And she said unto Abraham, her husband, 'Why doth thou travel far from town to town with thy goods, when thou can trade without ever leaving thy tent?'

And Abraham did look at her as though she were several saddle bags short of a camel load, but simply said, 'How, dear?' And Dot replied, 'I will place drums in all the towns and drums in between to send messages saying what you have for sale and they will reply telling you which hath the best price. And the sale can be made on the drums and delivery by Uriah's Pony Stable (UPS).'

Abraham thought long and decided he would let Dot have her way with the drums. And Dot said, 'There will be a lot of banging in the land.'

And Abraham replied, 'It is my most fervent wish that this be so.' And the drums rang out and were an immediate success. Abraham sold all the goods he had, at the top price, without ever moving from his tent.

But his success did arouse envy. A man named Maccabia did secret himself inside Abraham's drum and was accused of insider trading.

And the young did take to Dot Com's trading as doth the greedy horsefly to camel dung. They were called Nomadic Ecclesiastical Rich Dominican Siderites, or NERDS for short.

And, lo, the land was so feverish with joy at the new riches and the deafening sound of drums that no one noticed that the real riches were going to the drum maker, one Brother William of Gates, who bought up every drum company in the land. And indeed, did insist on making drums that would only work if you bought Brother William's drumsticks.

And Dot did say, 'Oh, Abraham, what we have started is being taken over by others.' And as Abraham looked out over the Bay of Ezekiel, or as it came to be known, 'eBay,' he said, 'We need a name of a service that reflects what we are.' And Dot replied, 'Young Ambitious Hebrew Owner Operators.'

'Whoopee!' said Abraham.

'No, YAHOO!' said Dot Com.



Thanks to Stephen March (See Genesis 6-8) 06-30-2003
NOBODY IS LEAVING THIS ARK UNTIL YOU TWO
TELL ME WHAT YOU DID WITH THOSE
CATERPILLARS

A Lutheran Pastor was teaching his confirmation class about the sacraments of the church when he noticed that little Johnny was not paying attention in the back. He decided he would call the boy out in order to get him to start paying attention.

"Little Johnny," he cried. Little Johnny looked up. "Pay attention, the sacraments are very important to the church."

"I know," Little Johnny said.

"Then how many sacraments are there in the Lutheran church?" the Pastor asked.

Little Johnny panicked and thought of what his parents considered very important in church. Then he took a breath and replied, "Two."

The pastor was impressed, he could not believe he got it right. "And what are those two sacraments?" he asked.

Confident now that he had it right little Johnny replied, "Coffee and potlucks."

A little girl was sitting on her grandfather's lap as he read her a bedtime story. From time to time, she would take her eyes off the book and reach up to touch his wrinkled cheek. She was alternately stroking her own cheek, then his again. Finally she spoke up, 'Grandpa, did God make you?'

'Yes, sweetheart' he answered, 'God made me a long time ago.'

'Oh,' she paused, 'Grandpa, did God make me too?'

'Yes, indeed, honey,' he said, 'God made you just a little while ago.' Feeling their respective faces again, she observed, 'God's getting better at it, isn't he?'