

# RESURRECTION NEWS



**October 2022**

## Pastor's Letter

October 2022

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

*"All things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be enslaved by anything* (1 Corinthians 6:12). Thus the apostle Paul writes to the church in Corinth. I wonder if the apostle would have written something similar about technology if he lived in our century. I suspect that he would have. The right use of technology has been the subject of our discussions in Sunday School these last few weeks, so I thought I would offer further reflection on the topic. The apostle Paul's words quoted above could easily be said of technology. Christians have no law for or against technology, and yet we recognize that while it is "lawful" to use it, so much of technology today is not neutral. Think about your smart phone or social media. These things are literally engineered to make you addicted to them. *All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful.*

But the question is, should these technologies be avoided because of their addicting nature? You probably have your opinion on the answer to this question, but I'm not sure that the answer is straight forward. In some respects, it would be easier to avoid the smart phone and social media technologies all together. That way you wouldn't have to deal with the negative impacts of the technologies. At the same time, to refrain entirely from these technologies is to remove yourself significantly from the world. While this might seem attractive on the surface, Martin Luther had strong words to say about those of his day (the monks) who removed themselves significantly from the world. Our Christian vocations call us into the world to engage with our neighbors in love. That is very difficult to do when we are isolated from the world.

This leads to another question that is worth pondering. When our Lord says, *"Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation"* (Mark 16:15), does "all the world" include the internet? Again, you probably have your opinion on the answer to this question. And, again, I'm not sure that the answer is straight forward. On the one hand, the internet isn't a physical place. At the same time, the internet is where people spend a significant portion of their time. Some statistics suggest that the average person spends 7-8 hours on the internet per day. Continue that trend, and it's nearly a third of your life! What better place is there to engage people than where they are most likely to be found?

Here's another question to consider. What place does technology have in the church? The answer to this question is a bit more straight forward. The place of technology in the church can't be nothing. Too much of our modern life revolves around technology for this to be the case. After all, there is virtually no person 50 years old or younger who would set foot into a church building without first checking out the church website. While the place of technology in the church can't be nothing, at the same time, it can't be everything. The COVID-19 pandemic taught us this clearly. Technology is a poor replacement for in person fellowship. And this shouldn't surprise us. As Lutherans, we believe strongly in an "Incarnational Theology." For us men and for our salvation, our Lord Jesus became man. We shouldn't underemphasize this fact. Our Lord came in person to be with us. We too should value being together in person. The question is, how can technology serve this "Incarnational Theology," inviting others into the in-person fellowship that we share?

I'll conclude my reflections with this. The technological world in which we live is complicated. Navigating this time in which we live faithfully requires discernment and wisdom. Thanks be to God that the Scriptures promise us: *"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him"* (James 1:5). I pray that each one of us would continue to ask the Lord for wisdom as we navigate this complicated time, trusting that he is with us to the end (Matthew 28:20).

Peace in Jesus,  
Pastor Akers

## *Notes from your Deaconess*

Dear Brothers and Sisters of LCR,

Hot cider, raking leaves, cool days and nights characterize this month of October. We also anticipate our observance of Reformation Day at the end of the month (and the All Saints Day following on its heels). The Lutheran Reformation happened over many years and through many meetings, councils, writings, and agreements. The next two portions of The Book of Concord have a related origin in what event they were prepared for, but different authors and different times when accepted as confessional documents.

Martin Luther penned the *Smalcald Articles* in anticipation of a February 1537 meeting in Smalcald of Lutheran theologians and lay leaders (known as the Smalcaldic League) as a statement which they might bring to a planned meeting of the Roman Catholic Church in May of that year. Luther suspected that he might be nearing death, and worked to encapsulate the most important points of disagreement between Romanism and Lutheranism which had been fully explored in the *Augsburg Confession* and *Apology*. He again cited biblical texts foundational for the points. Luther lay ill in a nearby house when the group met, not able to join in person, and the group did not formally adopt the articles during that meeting. He later revised them somewhat, and most Lutherans held them in such high regard that the group which assembled The Book of Concord in 1580 included these.

At this aforementioned meeting, not all of the leaders present wanted to adopt Luther's articles. They did, however, accept, sign, and adopt Philip Melancthon's *Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope*. This briefer document, in line with Luther's position regarding the papacy contained in his articles, focused on that point of contention between the Lutheran groups and the Roman church. The treatise first outlines Rome's understanding of the authority and power of the pope, and how these claims misrepresent the scriptures on which they rest. He even wrote of the pope as being the Antichrist, using the description of such an individual found in 2 Thessalonians 2, one who sets himself in the place of a god on earth. In the treatise he also discussed the roles and responsibilities of bishops and pastors.

Saturday morning women's Bible studies will continue this month. Right now each session contains a "stand-alone" study, so feel free to join any day you might like to do so. We will meet at 8:30 a.m. the first and last Saturdays of the month (10/1, 10/29) at church. You can also join via a Zoom link which I can send if you let me know you'd like to do that. A women's retreat will occur on the middle Saturday, October 15, at the Hueser's camp from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. More on that can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Under his mercy,  
Sharon M. Conover

*Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name. For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning. Psalm 30:4,5*  
*Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;*  
*let this be made known in all the earth. Isaiah 12:5*

### **Thanksgiving Food Drive**

It's hard to believe the time to begin planning for Thanksgiving dinner is here. There is a big need in our community to help those who may not be able to have a proper Thanksgiving dinner. Once again this year, our Board for Missions is partnering with the Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter and Thrivent to help fill this need. We will be hosting our annual food drive to provide the items necessary for 20 – 25 Thanksgiving feasts!! This drive will kick off in mid-October and run until mid-November. The meals will be delivered by the case workers and housing navigators from the shelter to those in need. More information, including a list of items, will be available as we near the kickoff date. Thanks for your participation. If you have any questions, please contact Brian or Andrea Watson.

### **LCR Ladies Book Club**

Mark your calendars, ladies! The new LCR Ladies Book Club is beginning in October! There will be snacks, books, and great discussion with our fellow sisters! It will be hosted by Katie Huesers at her house on October 4, 6:30-8 p.m. The book, "The Life We're Looking For: Reclaiming Relationships in a Technological World" by Andy Crouch can be purchased through Amazon. (Link: <https://a.co/d/2u0cnuo>). The book is an easy read and broken into two sections. We will be discussing the first half when we meet in October. If you are interested in joining the email list for all things Book Club related or have any questions, please email Amber at [amberakers9812@gmail.com](mailto:amberakers9812@gmail.com). Thanks!

### **LWML Sunday**

On October 23 LCR will be recognizing the Lutheran Women's Mission League. To their credit 80 years ago the women of the Missouri Synod Lutheran church decided that they would collect change (coins) in small mite boxes and use the money towards the needs of people throughout the world. They prayed together, shared Bible studies, made blankets and care packages, helped with the blind schools, and so much more. We here at LCR welcome all women to come pray, worship, grow in faith, and enjoy in the mission work of LWML; this amazing league. We meet the fourth Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall.

In Christ, Becky Cote

### **Reformation Potluck**

On Sunday, October 30, we will celebrate Reformation Day. As a part of our annual tradition, there will be a potluck in place of Fellowship following the service. Traditionally, the potluck is "German" themed, but all types of food are welcome. **Please bring a dish to share and join us after the 10 a.m. service in the Fellowship Hall for fun, food, and fellowship.**

### **Women's Retreat! October 15, 9am to 3pm**

Save the date and come if you can! Once again we will gather at the Huesers' camp for a day of fellowship, connecting with each other, and relaxation.

"Dancing in the Rain"--do you have those days when you wish the sun would come out and cheer? Or that you could just sit down with a friend to chat? We need each other for encouragement. We will enjoy brunch and snacks together, lots of conversation, a time of Bible study, a craft to make and take if you'd like, and some games will also be available. There will be no charge for this time together. If you would like to come, let Amber Akers, Katie Huesers, or Deaconess Sharon Conover know so we can be in touch about any changes, and for planning purposes. Certainly ride sharing can be arranged, and directions will be available.

If the sound of a women's retreat beyond our church fellowship, with other women from New England, appeals to you, and you have the time and ability to participate. Check out the LWML newsletters which are linked in the weekend announcement emails. November 4 and 5, a District-wide women's retreat will be held in CT with author Donna Snow leading Bible study about the book of Esther. (FYI: The deadline to get the special room rate for that retreat at the DoubleTree at Bradley Airport is 10/14.)

## October Stewardship

	<u>October 2</u>	<u>October 9</u>	<u>October 16</u>	<u>October 23</u>	<u>October 30</u>
<u>Acolyte</u>	Evan Farr	Matthew Akers	Hayley Farr	Evan Farr	Matthew Akers
<u>Worship Assistant</u>	Brad Fitzpatrick	Glenn Carlson Sr.	Charlie MacPherson	Brian Watson	Mark Larsen
<u>Ushers</u>	Rick Drageland	Seth Carlson	Chris Batson	Glenn Carlson Jr.	Jeff Sammons
<u>Greeters</u>	Sharon Klipp	Dorothy McAllister	Rev. & Vary Fischer	The Andersons	Christine Thomas
<u>Altar Care</u>	Krista Carlson	Kitty Carlson	Andrea Watson	LeeAnne Larsen	Julie Kohl
<u>Flowers</u>	Julie Kohl	Julie Kohl	Sharon Klipp	Sharon Klipp	Avis Grant
<u>Fellowship</u>	The MacPhersons	Julie Kohl & Jayne Labbe	Dorothy McAllister	LWML	Reformation Potluck

*Give Thanks to the Lord,  
for He is good.  
Psalm 107:1*



## **Defending the Faith**

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

Praise be to God that the Supreme Court has overturned the terrible Roe v. Wade decision!

That means that it is now up to each state to determine whether abortion will be allowed or prohibited. Sadly, Janet Mills has taken a firm pro-abortion stand and has passed a regulation to ensure abortion remains legal in Maine. Worse, her Republican opponent, Paul LePage in the upcoming gubernatorial race isn't going to fight back, having recently said "*I don't have time for abortion*".

That means that we have to play the long game. We need to do the slow, laborious groundwork of changing minds, one at a time, in preparation for when the time is right.

To that end, I want to start by addressing one of the pro-abortion crowd's favorite arguments: "*You just want the baby born and then you walk away, leaving Mom to fend for herself!*"

This, of course, is an outright lie – something you can always expect from the pro-aborts.

To do a little first-hand research, I recently visited with Wendy Merrill at First Choice Pregnancy Center at 295 KMD in Waterville. What I found there was a non-denominational but firmly Christian organization that cares deeply about providing no-cost support for pregnant women and encouraging them not to kill their child.

In terms of post-birth support, First Choice offers everything from car seats and cribs to clothing, diapers, baby food and more. In fact, they even offer financial support by helping with cash for food, rent and heat payments during and after pregnancy.

The center's goals are simple: Love the woman. Share the Gospel. Pray with the woman.

There is a straightforward workflow. First, the center confirms the pregnancy with a test. Then, with the woman's permission, performs an ultrasound to confirm that the pregnancy is not ectopic and to show the gestational age.

Unlike Planned Parenthood, they show the mother the ultrasound screen so she can see her baby and hear its heartbeat. Planned Parenthood turns the screen away from mom because they fear that if she sees her baby, she will decide against an abortion.

Report after report from former Planned Parenthood workers says that they are after the money as a first and only priority, including abortion quotas that each center must meet every month. That is just ghastly.

I asked Wendy about success rates, defined as someone who after coming in, decides to keep her baby. The numbers are astonishing.

When mom had an ultrasound, 80% elect to carry the baby to term.

Without ultrasound, 50% carry to term.

Of those who come in "abortion minded", 95% will agree to have an ultrasound.

**That means 76% (80% of the 95%) of abortion minded women who visit the center will elect to keep their child instead of killing it!**

What can we discern from these numbers? Simple. Women are largely being misinformed about what pregnancy is about, and exactly what that unborn child really is.

They're being told that it's no big deal. Easy in, easy out and your "problem" is solved. It's just a cluster of cells. (Fun Fact: We're ALL a cluster of cells.)

This is the first place we can intervene by reminding them that every single human being looked exactly like what she sees on the ultrasound at that phase of their lives. That image really is a person!

The pro-aborts are very, very well-funded and very, very loud and they'll push back hard.

But once women are faced with the reality that they are really carrying a baby – THEIR baby – the overwhelming majority choose life over death.

That's where our long game comes in. We have to be a voice in the debates, whether public, private or even in the tumultuous world of social media.

Our voices have to be compassionate, calm and polite - even while getting screamed at and called every name in the book. (1 Pet:14 - *If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.*)

We will not "win" a convert in every discussion, but we can put a stone in their shoe. A thought that really gives them pause and makes them think more clearly about the truth.

As a practical matter, if you come in contact with someone who is pregnant and not sure what to do about it, try the First Choice approach. Love the woman, share the Gospel and pray with the woman. Finally, suggest that they visit a crisis pregnancy center like First Choice.

You can leave them with this thought; "*God has chosen you to bring this child into the world. If He thinks you can do it, so do I.*"

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

Charlie MacPherson, SDG.



### **Monthly Worship**

October 2

The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

Psalm: 30

Old Testament: 1 Kings 17:17-24

Epistle: Ephesians 3:13-21

Holy Gospel: Luke 7:11-17

October 9

The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

Psalm: 2

Old Testament: Proverbs 25:6-14

Epistle: Ephesians 4:1-6

Holy Gospel: Luke 14:1-11

October 16

The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

Psalm: 34:8-22

Old Testament: Deuteronomy 10:12-21

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:4-9

Holy Gospel: Matthew 22:34-46

October 23

The Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity

Psalm: 84

Old Testament: Genesis 28:10-17

Epistle: Ephesians 4:22-28

Holy Gospel: Matthew 9:1-8

October 30

Reformation Day

Psalm: 46

First Reading: Revelation 14:6-7

Epistle: Romans 3:19-28

Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:12-19

### **BIBLE QUIZ**

1. What kind of feast did the people keep according to the book of Ezra, after they returned to Jerusalem and Judah?
  - A. Feast of booth
  - B. Feast of Passover
  - C. Feast of first fruit
  - D. Feast of weeks
2. How old was Joshua when he died?
  - A. 98 years old
  - B. 103 years old
  - C. 110 years old
  - D. 130 years old
3. According to Jesus, why are the meek blessed?
  - A. Because they shall inherit the earth
  - B. Because the kingdom of heaven is theirs
  - C. Because they shall be comforted
  - D. Because they shall be satisfied
4. How did Pharaoh reward Joseph for interpreting his dream?
  - A. 10 000 shekels of silver
  - B. He gave his oldest daughter's hand in marriage
  - C. He set Joseph as ruler over a city in Egypt
  - D. He set Joseph as ruler over all Egypt
5. How many generations are there between Abraham and David?
  - A. 1
  - B. 3
  - C. 4
  - D. 14
6. Who was so afraid that he drew marks on the doors and let spittle run down his beard?
  - A. Nebuchadnezzar
  - B. Jacob
  - C. David
  - D. Peter



10/1 Mari Gouvea  
 10/3 Julie Kohl  
 10/5 Jo Schiebel  
 10/8 Bill Schiebel  
 10/12 Sharon Kinter  
 10/15 Krista Carlson  
 10/21 Corina Wilson  
 10/23 Amy Ouellette  
 10/31 Dottie Evertsen



10/10 Glenn & Kitty Carlson  
 10/12 Seth & Angie Carlson  
 10/21 Sharon & Dennis Klipp  
 10/30 Rick & Joan Drageland

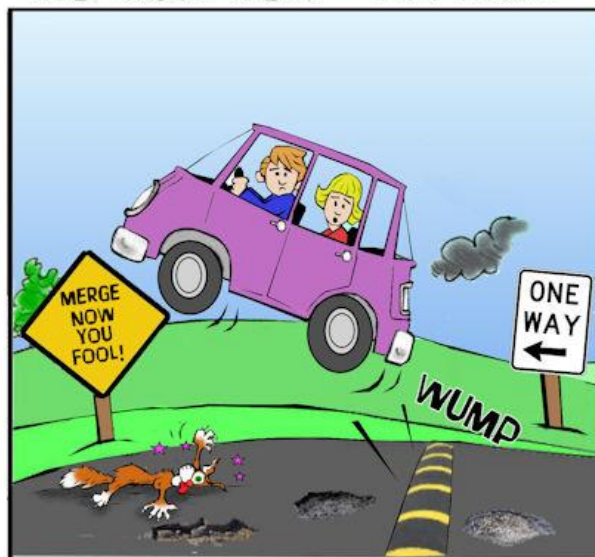


10/4 Bode Carlson  
 10/5 Mari Gouvea  
 10/8 Kathleen Paules  
 10/9 Steve Love  
 10/13 Richard Kubeck  
 10/15 Bill Schiebel  
 10/21 Olive Grierson  
 10/28 Mark Larsen

#### **BIBLE QUIZ ANSWERS**

1. A. (Ezra 3:4)
2. C. (Joshua 24:29)
3. A. (Matthew 5:5)
4. D. (Genesis 41:39-40)
5. D. (Matthew 1:17)
6. C. (1 Samuel 21:12-13)

#### **The Back Pew - Jeff Larson**



The start to my week is best described as.. an ON RAMP with POT HOLES, and a SPEED BUMP. **Js 1:12, Ro 8:28**

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#### **Elderly couple in church.**

Wife turns to husband and says "I've just done a silent fart, what should I do?"

Husband says "put new batteries in your hearing aid."

~ ~ ~

#### **Drunk in confession booth.**

A drunk staggers into a church, enters a confessional booth, sits down, but says nothing. The priest coughs a few times to get his attention, but the drunk continues to just sit there. Finally, the priest pounds three times on the wall. The drunk mumbles, "Ain't no use knockin, there's no paper on this side either!"

~ ~ ~

**Visiting his grandparents,** a small boy opened the big family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out. He picked it up and found that it was an old leaf that had been pressed flat between the pages. "Mama, look what I found," he called out.

"What have you got there, dear?" his mother asked.

With astonishment in his voice, the boy answered, "I think it's Adam's underwear!"

~ ~ ~

**Going over our church finances** I found a receipt from a local paint store signed by someone named Christian. I wasn't aware of anyone buying paint, so I called the store to point out its mistake.

"I'm sorry," I told the manager, "but there are no Christians here at this church."