

# **RESURRECTION NEWS**



SEPTEMBER 2020

## Pastor's Letter

September 2020

*So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:1-11, ESV)*

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

I've always found these words a bit strange on the surface. *If* there is any encouragement in Christ... *If* there is any comfort from love... *If* there is any participation in the Spirit... *If* there is any affection and sympathy... Of course, there is! But I think that's exactly St. Paul's point. Because there is encouragement in Christ, Paul encourages the Philippians to *be of the same mind*. Because there is comfort from love, Paul encourages them to *have the same love*. Because there is participation in the Spirit, Paul encourages them to *be in full accord* (harmony). Because there is affection & sympathy amongst Christian brothers and sisters, Paul encourages them to *be of one mind*.

What a timely reminder for you and me today as well! I think it's true that many of us expected to be back to some sort of normalcy by now. I know I certainly did! Back in March, I thought that if we would hunker down for a few weeks or months, this pandemic would be under control and we would be back to life as normal. Clearly that hasn't happened. But, to be honest, I don't think there's much good that will come from asking the *why?* question. Suffering, pain, and death are all around us. And the worst part is, it's outside of our control. That's the reality we live in.

Paul knew something about suffering, too. He's actually talking about suffering immediately before he writes the words above. Yet, he still believes that there is encouragement in Christ. He still believes there is comfort from love. And it is because of this that Paul says, "Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant..." Christ Jesus came to this earth for one purpose: to serve *us* and to give his life for *us*. And, so, Paul says, "Have this [same] mind among yourselves."

We are moving into a time of the year when things typically return to "normal." However, the pandemic, which is still very much at large in our country and world, is going to prevent us from resuming "normalcy" as we're used to it at church, at least for the immediate future. So, as Bible Classes & Sunday School resume and as we try to figure out what "normal" is going to look like for now, I ask that you remember these words of the Lord: "If there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love...complete my joy by being of the same mind...Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."

I know these times are stressful for many of us, but that's all the more reason to cling to the encouragement in Christ and the comfort from love that we have from being the body of Christ together. If you need someone to talk to, please don't hesitate to call (or otherwise contact) me — that's what I'm here for. If you're uncomfortable gathering with the whole congregation but would like a visit, I would be more than happy to visit you individually. We can chat outside, observe social distancing, and wear masks, but there's something comforting about being together. I would love to bring Communion to you at any time. Just let me know and I will be glad to find time to do that (safely, of course).

I love you. The other leaders of this congregation love you. I count myself incredibly blessed to be in Waterville with each one of you, as we continue LCR's mission "To open hearts through the message of Christ crucified" to the end that "at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Peace in Jesus,  
Pastor Akers

## *Notes from your Deaconess*

Dear Brothers and Sisters of LCR,

As the nights grow cooler, the sun rises later and sets earlier, and as the autumn approaches, we start to resume some of the activities which we've suspended over the summer months. Even in this time of limited gatherings and restrictions, we will start to meet for Sunday School after Labor Day. I love spending time in God's word – both on my own at home, and with groups of the church family. We'll continue to have our twice a month Saturday Women's Bible studies (working through Hebrews), and Pastor Akers will begin the Thursday Bible studies – in the morning, but now adding an evening session using Zoom for others. Sunday mornings we will have a brief time of thirty minutes meeting between the services for Sunday School for youth downstairs and adults upstairs.

We will begin to use the Enduring Faith Bible Curriculum from Concordia Publishing House. The upcoming three units for the year will focus on the Old Testament. We will begin in September with creation, and then explore God's gifts of his covenant to Abram, and then the promised son, Isaac. Every time I read through and talk about these Genesis stories (and all the ones in between), I see and learn new things about God's provision, love, and patience. How can we live and love our neighbors in more Christlike ways based on these who have gone before us and even now are among the "great cloud of witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1)? With a more thorough familiarity with God's word, can we speak more clearly in these confused days to those who don't know of the hope we have?

On your own at home, or with family, I do continue to encourage you to take time in God's word. You could use the "Portals of Prayer" devotions. The month of September will feature the writing of a missionary to the Jewish people who particularly focuses on Hebrew words and ideas found in the Old Testament, but fulfilled in Jesus. The daily lectionary readings will continue in Old Testament historical books. These include accounts of later kings of Israel and Judah, the ministries of Elijah and Elisha, the rebuilding of Jerusalem's wall *after* the exile, the prophet Malachi, and we'll start into Deuteronomy during the last few days. Through most of September we will read from various epistles of Paul in the New Testament. Then we will begin the gospel of Matthew, which we have been hearing and will continue to hear on Sundays.

A small group of your church family meets most Friday mornings for prayer at church. We pray for all of you – working through the directory, the bulletin's prayer list, and also for specific concerns of which we are aware. If any of you would like to join us, speak to me and let me know! You are very welcome to do so. Also, you can let us know of particular concerns which you would like us to include in our prayers.

Under his mercy,  
Sharon M. Conover

*These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. Hebrews 11:13*

Dear Brothers and Sisters of LCR,

I am writing to commend each of you for your faithful stewardship and patience as we pass through this very difficult time together. As you may remember, last December we passed the largest annual budget in the history of our congregation. It was also the largest increase in both percentage and dollars we have ever experienced. The increase was put in place to cover additional payroll expense we anticipated as we transition from one pastor to the next. We also added some overdue administrative support. I am pleased to report we are proceeding according to the plan we laid out last December.

This was a huge commitment for us to make together under the best of conditions..... Then the pandemic hit. We had to suspend our in-person services for a period of time and there was nervousness (at least on my part) that offerings would slow and we would soon be in a position to have to rely on our savings to get us through. I am not proud to admit I could not have been any more wrong. Our current financial report through July, shows offerings are in excess of our budget by nearly \$14,000!! That is wonderful news because it puts us right where we need to be to cover the substantially higher expenses we'll see in the months of August and September while we pay the salary of two pastors. Please keep up the good work.

There are many items worthy of praise. Included on this list is our attendance, as it is up compared to the same time last year and we are also adding new members at what seems to be a record pace.

Thanks again to each of you for continuing your faithful stewardship and your willingness to participate in our services, be it from home or in person. We are truly Blessed to have each other and I am thankful to be part of a very special group of God's people.

Peace and blessings,  
Brian Watson

**Fall Worship Schedule (begins 9/13):**

- 8:30am Worship
- 10:00am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class
- 10:45am Worship

*Please Note:* Gathering restrictions are still in place and masks & physical distancing will still be required for Worship (see below for notes about Sunday School and Adult Bible Class) until recommendations from the CDC are adjusted. Thank you for your cooperation and your continued willingness to RSVP prior to attending worship services.

**Sunday School & Adult Bible Classes (begin after Labor Day):**

- **Sunday Morning Sunday School & Adult Bible Class** will resume on Sunday, 9/13. We will be using CPH's *Enduring Faith Bible Curriculum* for all ages and will journey through the Old Testament, tracing God's plan of salvation, pointing to Jesus, our Savior. Due to COVID-19 protocols, there will be modifications to the "normal" schedule. Each will meet for a half an hour (from 10-10:30). It is our hope to return to a normal, full Sunday School/Bible Class schedule at some point, but the following plan will be used for the remainder of 2020, unless an outbreak requires us to scale back in any way:
  - Sunday School will meet in the Fellowship Hall where there is more space to maintain physical distancing. "In person" activities will be supplemented by "take home" packets, which will equip parents to reinforce and complete the weekly lesson at home. Masks will be required, and physical distancing will be maintained.
  - Adult Bible Class will meet in the Sanctuary, where the space & ventilation allows for a safer environment than Room 201 would. We will spend a half an hour digging into the week's Bible story, and supplemental study materials will be sent home for further study. Masks will be required, and physical distancing will be maintained.

- **Thursday Adult Bible Class** will resume on Thursday, 9/10. The class will meet at **two times: 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall and 6:00pm via Zoom. Masks and physical distancing will be required for the 10:30 class. Contact Pastor Akers for a Zoom invitation, if you'd like to attend the 6:00 class. The schedule of topics through the end of the year will be:
 
  - Sept. 10 – Oct. 8 – *Philippians*
    - Join Pastor Akers as we delve into St. Paul's letter to the Philippians and learn about what it means to have a maturing Christian faith.
  - Oct. 15 – Nov. 5 – *God's Two Realms*
    - Join Pastor Akers as we discuss Luther's understanding of God's Two Realms and what that means for Christian engagement with the world.
  - Nov. 12 – 19, Dec. 3 – 17 – *The Presence of God*
    - Join Pastor Akers as we trace the biblical theme of the Presence of God, beginning at Creation, fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ, and culminating in the New Creation.**

### LWML Meeting:

There will be a LWML meeting at the church on Thursday, September 17, at 10 a.m.

## September Stewardship

	<u>September 6</u>	<u>September 13</u>	<u>September 20</u>	<u>September 27</u>
<u>Acolyte</u>	10:30 Andrew Farr	10:30 Mia Fitzpatrick	10:30 Allison Farr	10:30 Evan Farr
<u>Worship Assistant</u>	8:30 Charlie MacPherson	8:30 Glenn Carlson	8:30 Brian Watson	8:30 Charlie MacPherson
	10:30 Chris Batson	10:30 Brad Fitzpatrick	10:30 Mark Larsen	10:30 Steve Farr
<u>Ushers</u>	8:30 Brian Watson	8:30 Charlie MacPherson	8:30 Rick Drageland	8:30 Glenn Carlson
	10:30 John Ayotte	10:30 Chris Batson	10:30 Wayne Pelletier	10:30 Tyler Wilson
<u>Greeters</u>	8:30 The Watsons	8:30 Gail Carrano	8:30 Sharon Klipp	8:30 Dorthy McAllister
	10:30 The Batsons	10:30 The Gouveas	10:30 The Larsens	10:30 The Goldsmiths
<u>Altar Care</u>	LeeAnne Larsen	Katie Huesers	Avis Grant	Deb Nielsen
<u>Flowers</u>	Avis Grant	Mo & Becky Cote	Mo & Becky Cote	Rick & Joan Drageland



## **Monthly Worship**

**September 6, 2020**

**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Psalm:** 32:1-7

**First Reading:** Ezekiel 33:7-9

**Epistle:** Romans 13:1-10

**Holy Gospel:** Matthew 18:1-20

**September 13, 2020**

**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Psalm:** 103:1-12

**First Reading:** Genesis 50:15-21

**Epistle:** Romans 14:1-12

**Holy Gospel:** Matthew 18:21-35

**September 20, 2020**

**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Psalm:** 27:1-9

**First Reading:** Isaiah 55:6-9

**Epistle:** Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30

**Gospel:** Matthew 20:1-16

**September 27, 2020**

**St. Michael & All Angels**

**Psalm:** 91

**First Reading:** Daniel 10:10-14, 12:1-3

**Epistle:** Revelation 12:7-12

**Holy Gospel:** Luke 10:17-20

## **BIBLE QUIZ**

**1. *Why was Jesus dismayed in regard to the epileptic boy who sometimes fell into a fire or water during a seizure?***

A) the disciples had first tried to heal the boy but failed due to their lack of faith B) there were so many demons in the boy that it was overwhelming (C) the Pharisee's were using the poor boy as a means to trick Jesus again (D) the crowd just wanted to see Jesus perform another miracle for "entertainment"

**2. *Where did the prophet Samuel find David so he could be anointed the next king?***

A) eating dinner with his father and brothers B) eating dinner by himself C) shepherding his father's sheep with his brothers D) shepherding his father's sheep by himself

**3. *For seven years, what did God condemn King Nebuchadnezzar to because of his pride?***

A) He became a POW to the hated enemy Egyptians B) he became a slave among his own people C) he became like a wild animal and ate grass D) he became a bed-ridden invalid who never left his palace

**4. *What was the early Christian sect originally called?***

A) the Way B) the Truth (C) the Life D) the Jesusonians

**5. *Why do we need to put on the whole armor of God?***

A) so we can correctly point out the errors and injustices around us B) so we can better pray and focus on godly matters C) so we can withstand in the evil day D) so we can be guaranteed of getting to heaven

**6. *Who said this: "For whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap"?***

A) Jesus B) Jacob C) Samuel D) Paul



9/2 Chris Batson  
 9/4 Adolph Galonski  
 9/12 Becky Cote  
 Andrew Farr  
 9/18 Frankie Ouellette  
 9/19 Olive Grierson  
 9/22 Alarik Morris  
 9/27 Siena Fitzpatrick



## BAPTISM BIRTHDAY

9/3 Nathanael Batson  
 9/20 Lois Doran  
 9/21 Chris Batson  
 9/30 Frankie Ouellette  
 9/?? Sharon Klipp



9/1 Charlie & Jenifer MacPherson  
 9/17 Paul & Deb Nielsen  
 9/19 Fred & Amy Ouellette  
 9/27 Jared & Amanda Goldsmith



## ANNIVERSARY

9/17 Therese Carter

### TICKLING THE FUNNY BONE

Four boys, ages 8 to 12 stood outside the church arguing just before the pastor was to perform a funeral.

“Come now, fellows,” said the pastor. “I can’t have this ruckus out here during Mr. Collins’ memorial service. What’s the problem?”

One of the boys spoke up, “It’s like this. We all want Mr. Collins’ good old hunting dog. We have come up with a way to settle who will get Ol’ Red, so we’ve decided that the one who can tell the best lie wins him.”

“Oh no, boys,” the pastor looked shocked. “That idea is straight from the pit of hell. Why, when I was your age, I never told a single lie.”

The boys stood silently, looking around at each other. The same boy spoke for the group. “All right, Pastor, you win.”

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A father brought his daughter to church. He sat in the very front row so that she could properly witness the service. During this particular service, the minister was performing the baptism of a tiny infant.

The girl was taken by this, observing he was saying something and pouring water over the infant’s head. Turning to her father, she asked, “Daddy, why is he brain-washing that baby?”

### Bible Quiz Answers

1. A (Matthew 17:16-20)
2. D (1 Samuel 16:11)
3. C (Danie 4:25)
4. A (Acts 9:2)
5. C (Ephesians 6:13)
6. D (Galatians 6:7)

# The Daily Lectionary

A guide to help you be in the Word daily

9/1	1 Kings 18:1-19 / Ephesians 1:1-23
9/2	1 Kings 18:20-40 / Ephesians 2:1-22
9/3	1 Kings 19:1-21 / Ephesians 3:1-21
9/4	2 Kings 2:1-18 / Ephesians 4:1-24
9/5	2 Kings 2:19-24; 4:1-7 / Ephesians 4:25-5:14
9/6	2 Kings 4:8-22, 32-37 / Ephesians 5:15-33
9/7	2 Kings 4:38-5:8 / Ephesians 6:1-24
9/8	2 Kings 5:9-27 / Philippians 1:1-20
9/9	2 Kings 6:1-23 / Philippians 1:21-2:11
9/10	2 Kings 9:1-13; 10:18-29 / Philippians 2:12-30
9/11	2 Chronicles 29:1-24 / Philippians 3:1-21
9/12	2 Chronicles 31:1-21 / Philippians 4:1-23
9/13	2 Chronicles 32:1-22 / Colossians 1:1-23
9/14	2 Chronicles 33:1-25 / Colossians 1:24-2:7
9/15	2 Chronicles 34:1-33 / Colossians 2:8-23
9/16	2 Chronicles 35:1-25 / Colossians 3:1-25
9/17	2 Chronicles 36:1-23 / Colossians 4:1-18
9/18	Nehemiah 1:1-2:10 / 1 Timothy 1:1-20
9/19	Nehemiah 2:11-20; 4:1-6 / 1 Timothy 2:1-15
9/20	Nehemiah 4:7-23 / 1 Timothy 3:1-16
9/21	Nehemiah 5:1-16; 6:1-16 / 1 Timothy 4:1-16
9/22	Nehemiah 7:1-4; 8:1-18 / 1 Timothy 5:1-16
9/23	Nehemiah 9:1-21 / 1 Timothy 5:17-6:2
9/24	Nehemiah 9:22-38 / 1 Timothy 6:3-21
9/25	Malachi 1:1-14 / Matthew 3:1-17
9/26	Malachi 2:1-3:5 / Matthew 4:1-11
9/27	Malachi 3:6-4:6 / Matthew 4:12-25
9/28	Deuteronomy 1:1-18 / Matthew 5:1-20
9/29	Deuteronomy 1:19-36 / Matthew 5:21-48
9/30	Deuteronomy 1:37-2:15 / Matthew 6:1-1

*(Daily lectionary readings taken from LSB #299-304)*

## Some helpful habits for home devotions:

- *Do one reading in the morning and the other in the evening.*
- *Keep a journal or make a mental note of one thought that you would like to remember from this reading.*
- *Read and discuss the daily reading with a family member or friend.*
- *Choose one verse to commit to memory, reciting it through the day.*
- *Speak to God in prayer about something from the reading that impressed or confused you in this reading.*
- *If you miss a day or two (or three) and fall behind, don't worry and don't quit! Either set aside some time to catch up or skip those readings and move on.*
- *If you're using another reading schedule or guide, stick with it. The important thing is to be in the Word daily.*