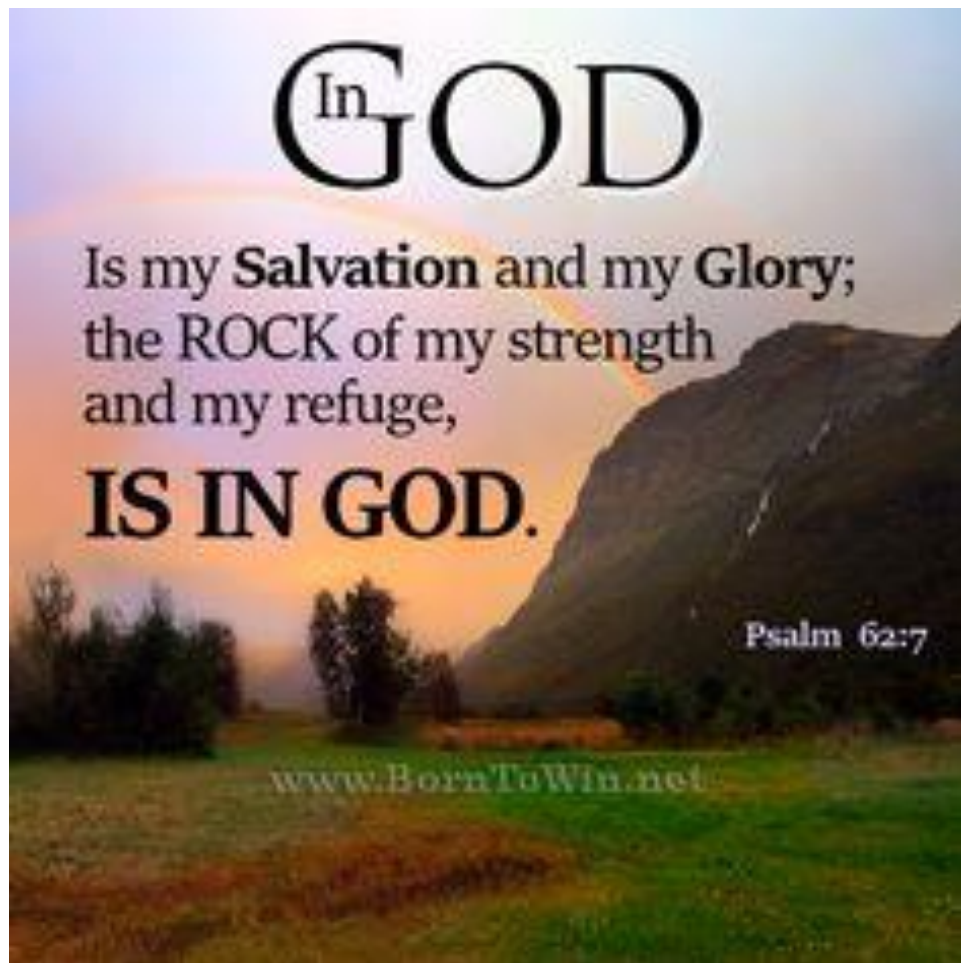


RESURRECTION NEWS



September 2023

Pastor's Letter

September 2023

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

You cannot truly love Jesus if you do not love His Church.

Many people claim to be Christians who love Jesus, yet they do not love the Church. They avoid church. They claim to commune with God in nature, so who needs an organized institution? Or then there are those who hold membership in a church, but they believe that the fullness of the Christian life is found when it's just "me and Jesus." So, they sit at home with their Bible, and they listen to their praise music thinking that they truly love Jesus. But to love Jesus in any of these ways is to not truly love Him. Imagine a wife who does not love her husband's body. Can such a wife be said to truly love her husband? Of course not! Neither can a person love Jesus without loving His Church.

The Church is the body of Christ. In fact, our Lord Jesus Himself goes so far as to identify the Church as Himself. In the early part of the book of Acts, Saul (the man who would come to be known as the Apostle Paul) was persecuting the Church: *"As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison"* (Acts 8:3). But when the Lord Jesus confronted Saul on the road to Damascus, He said this: *"Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"* (Acts 9:4). When Saul persecuted the Church, he persecuted Christ Himself. The Church is Christ. Or, as the New Testament states it more regularly, the Church is the body of Christ (see Romans 12:4-5, Colossians 1:24, Ephesians 5:29-30). And if the Church is Christ's body (and it is), then one cannot truly love Christ without loving His body, the Church.

When you love someone, it changes you—the way you spend your time, your priorities, and your desires. A young couple who has fallen in love desires nothing more than to be together. An old couple who has been married for 50 or 60 years can't bear the thought of being apart—even in death. If you truly love someone, you want to be with them—in the body. Since the Church is the body of Christ, those of us who claim to love Him must allow that love to change us such that our desire is to be with Christ's body, our priority is to be with His body, our time is spent with His body. If we truly love Christ, that love will manifest itself in a life that revolves around opportunities to be with His body, the Church.

With the new academic year coming upon us, now is as good a time as any to re-orient your priorities. If you love Jesus, but you don't find yourself at church every week, then now is as good a time as any to make time in your calendar to do so. If you love Jesus, but you don't make it a priority to attend Bible studies or Fellowship time, it's not too late to rearrange your schedule to prioritize time with Christ's body. If you find your Sunday mornings too busy or stressful to come to church, then perhaps this is a warning that your love for soccer, dance, or time at camp has surpassed your love for Jesus. If you're too tired on a Sunday morning to get out of bed in time to be at church, then perhaps this is a warning that your love for your work or your social life has surpassed your love for our Lord Jesus.

Our Lord said to His disciples: *"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing"* (John 15:5). This is the blessed news of the Church. When we walk through the doors, when we gather with our brothers and sisters in Christ around the Scriptures in study, around the Word and Sacraments in the Divine Service, or in discussion at the Fellowship table, we are with the body of Christ. Jesus is there. In the study, in the service, and, yes, at the Fellowship table, you are with Christ because you are with His body. Abide in Him. He desires to give you more abundantly than you could ask or imagine through the continual gift of His presence. Apart from Him you can do nothing.

If you truly love Jesus, you will love His Church. Jesus truly loves His Church: *"As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love"* (John 15:9).

In Christ,
Pastor Akers

Notes from your Deaconess

Dear Brothers and Sisters of LCR,

Where do you meet up with people who live in your town or area while obtaining things you need regularly in daily life? Grocery stores and gas stations come to mind for me. In scripture we see that community wells served such a purpose. We all need water of course, but nowadays we either have wells at our own homes or lines of water from a public supply.

Some notable events took place at wells. Disagreements about who could use certain wells did occur, but the more intriguing encounters included:

Abraham's servant met Rebekah in answer to prayer that he might find the wife for Isaac.

Jacob met Rachel and soon after that, her sister Leah, who both became his wives.

Moses, when he fled Egypt and Pharaoh for Midian, sat down by a well and there he met the daughters of the priest of Midian, one of whom (Zipporah) became his wife.

All three of these men had journeyed some distance from home when they went to these wells.

Jesus, too, met a woman at a well in Samaria – an area considered foreign to most Jews. He sat down at the well of Jacob, no less. While that encounter did not lead to a wedding – the woman he had encountered had already had five husbands – in another sense it did foreshadow a kind of marriage to come. Jesus offered the woman living water, and alluded to the salvation coming in that gift. As St. Paul notes in Ephesians, husband and wife mysteriously refer to Christ and his church, the Bridegroom and his Bride. This church of Christ includes believers from all nations, not only the chosen people through whom our Lord descended and became incarnate.

During September, I plan to hold women's Bible studies on Saturday mornings of 9/2, 9/16, and 9/30. We meet at 8:30 in downstairs room 104 until about 10. I can also provide a Zoom link, should you like to join us by computer. We have been studying passages involving various women in the scriptures as we "Read the Bible in Two Years."

Under his mercy,
Sharon M. Conover

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. Isaiah 12:3

Sunday Morning Bible Class

Sunday morning Bible Class meets weekly at 8:45 a.m. in Room 201. Each week, Pastor will help us prepare for the Divine Service by leading a deeper study of one of the readings, previewing the sermon, or leading a discussion related to the theme of the day. He will also take time to discuss your questions from the Read the Bible in Two Years readings. Each week will be a “stand alone” study, so join us anytime!

Thursday Bible Class

Thursday Bible class will meet at 10:30 a.m. in Room 201. Pastor will be leading a study of 1 Corinthians.

Congregational Picnic

On September 10 in place of the fellowship hour, our congregation will come together to share in an afternoon of fun and fellowship in the form of a church picnic. Please RSVP to the church office or on the sign-up sheet on the church bulletin board and indicate if you are able to join your brothers and sisters in making this day happen. If the weather looks good, please bring a lawn chair. See Amber Akers if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you!

Fall Men’s Retreat

The Fall Men’s Retreat is scheduled for September 22-23 at the Huesers’ camp in St. Albans. Contact Pastor Akers or Chris Batson if you plan to attend or would like more information.

Thank You Notes:

Thank you for your contribution. To Bridging the Gap, it represents a second chance, a safe place, a happy child and so much more. It was fantastic to receive your donation of hygiene items, sheets, and blanks. It helps us to keep helping others.

Warm regards,

Sarah Miller

Administrative Director, Bridging the Gap

Your support and fellowship continues to inspire and energize our daily labors. Because of you, we can motivate, educate, and activate Gospel-motivated voices For Life with joy.

In truth and love,

Pastor Michael Salemkink

Exec. Director, Lutherans for Life

September Stewardship

	<u>September 3</u>	<u>September 10</u>	<u>September 17</u>	<u>September 24</u>
<u>Acolyte</u>	Callum Goldsmith	Evan Farr	Elizabeth Akers	Hayley Farr
<u>Communion Asst.</u>	Jared Goldsmith	Brad Fitzpatrick	Glenn Carlson Sr.	Steve Farr
<u>Usher (service)</u>	John Ayotte	Glenn Carlson Jr.	Rick Drageland	Jeff Sammons
<u>Usher (security)</u>	Rick Drageland	Mike Hein	Wayne Pelletier	Mo Cote
<u>Greeters</u>	The Andersons	The Batsons	Dorthy McAllister & James Breslin	The Watsons
<u>Altar Care</u>	Amanda Goldsmith	Amy Ouellette	Sasha Fitzpatrick	Krista Carlson
<u>Flowers</u>	The Pelletiers	Akers Family	Akers Family	The Kubecks
<u>Fellowship</u>	Open	Church Picnic	Open	Open

Defending the Faith.

Sometimes the Best Defense is a Good Defense.

Where did **FIRST** life come from?

Atheists and naturalists throw around lots of ideas about how the building blocks of life “somehow” came together in one place at the same time and then “something” happened.

Those building blocks are things like amino acids, various proteins, nucleotides, nucleic acids, sugars, lipids and many others.

Theories of how they formed include everything from random mixtures of primordial gases to deep sea thermal vents to clay helping to form crystalline structures to aliens.

Yes, aliens. (It’s amazing just how far atheists will go to avoid God!)

The proper name for the latter theory is “panspermia”. In one version, some posit that actual alien beings brought life to earth. (This solves nothing, of course. They still haven’t explained where that alien first life came from). In another, they propose that the building blocks of life came here by way of comets and meteorites and then “something” happened.

There’s a lot of “*and then something happened*” when atheists try to explain first life.

A famous atheist and scientist, Fred Hoyle calculated the odds of the 2,000 or so amino acids coming together at random to be 1 chance in 10^{40} . That’s 10 followed by 40 zeroes. In other words, mathematically impossible.

Of course, even if you managed to get those amino acids together, you don’t have life. You just have amino acids.

Here’s something to ponder. I know where you can find every single building block of life.

Every dead plant and animal on the planet has all of those building blocks, all in one place.

By the naturalist’s theory, we should find all sorts of new life springing up from that flat, dead skunk on the side of the road. Of course, that never happens because you need more than just the ingredients.

Gathering all of those ingredients together and expecting new life to spring up is like putting flour, yeast, salt and water on the kitchen table and expecting bread to appear by itself. There’s something more to it and we know that “something more” is God – the author of life!

It’s hard for them to kick against the goads...

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

SDG, Charlie MacPherson



Monthly Worship

September 3

Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

Psalm: 32

Old Testament: Leviticus 19:9-18

Epistle: Galatians 3:16-22

Holy Gospel: Luke 10:23-37

September 10

Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

Psalm: 119:9-16

Old Testament: Proverbs 4:10-23

Epistle: Galatians 5:16-24

Holy Gospel: Luke 17:11-19

September 17

Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

Psalm: 146

Old Testament: 1 Kings 17:8-16

Epistle: Galatians 5:25-6:10

Holy Gospel: Matthew 6:24-34

September 24

Sixteen Sunday after Trinity

Psalm: 30

Old Testament: 1 Kings 17:17-24

Epistle: Ephesians 3:13-21

Holy Gospel: Luke 7:11-16

BIBLE QUIZ

1. What was Queen Esther's "trump card" to thwart the annihilation of her Jewish people?
 - A. No one knew she was independently wealthy and could purchase their freedom.
 - B. No one knew she had a massive army at her command.
 - C. No one knew that she was of Nebuchadnezzar's royal lineage.
 - D. No one knew that she was Jewish herself.
2. What did Pharaoh's troubling dreams consist of during Joseph's time?
 - A. Steeds and wheat
 - B. Swine and barley
 - C. Kine and corn
 - D. Fowl and oats
3. What is faith?
 - A. Warm fuzzy feelings necessary to avoid depression.
 - B. Concrete scientific facts with plenty of evidence to back them up.
 - C. Be sure of what is hoped for and certain of what is unseen.
 - D. Abstract dreams to cling to when one cannot get very far in the real world.
4. In Moses' first authorized census of the twelve tribes, which tribe was the largest?
 - A. Manasseh
 - B. Dan
 - C. Benjamin
 - D. Judah
5. What was Jesus known to go about doing in every city He entered?
 - A. Preaching and healing
 - B. Pointing out the Pharisee's hypocrisy
 - C. Pointing out the people's sins
 - D. Giving the rabbinic blessing on the children



- 9/2 Chris Batson
- 9/4 Adolph Galonski
- 9/12 Becky Cote
Andrew Farr
- 9/18 Frankie Ouellette
- 9/19 Olive Grierson
- 9/26 Richard Kubeck



- 9/1 Charlie & Jenifer MacPherson
- 9/8 Pastor Ben & Amber Akers
- 9/19 Fred & Amy Ouellette
- 9/22 Richard & Marie Kubeck
- 9/27 Jared & Amanda Goldsmith



- 9/3 Nathanael Batson
- 9/15 Marie Kubeck
- 9/20 Lois Doran
- 9/21 Chris Batson
- 9/30 Frankie Ouellette
- 9/?? Sharon Klipp

BIBLE QUIZ ANSWERS

1. D. (Esther 7:3-6)
2. C. (Genesis 41:2-6)
3. C. (Hebrews 11:1)
4. D. (Numbers 1:26-27)
5. A (Matthew 4:23)



~ ~ ~

The preacher told me the other day I should be thinking about the Hereafter.

I told him, "I do, all the time. No matter where I am – in the parlor, upstairs, in the kitchen, or in the basement. I'm always asking myself, 'Now, what am I here after?'"

~ ~ ~

Bertha Jones was a middle-aged woman who had a heart attack and was taken to the hospital. While on the operating table she had a near death experience. During that experience she saw God and asked if this was the end of the road for her. God said no and explained that she had another thirty years to live.

Upon her recovery she figured if she had thirty to forty more years, she might as well stay in the hospital and have a facelift, liposuction, tummy tuck, hair transplant and coloring, and a nose job.

After her hospital stay, she walked out the front door and was killed by a delivery truck. When she arrived in front of God, she asked, "I thought you said I had another thirty to forty years left?"

God replied, "Sorry, Bertha, I didn't recognize you."

CHURCH FOOTBALL PHRASES

- BLITZ**-The strategic play that takes place two seconds after closing prayer as everyone rushes for their favorite restaurant.
- BLOCKING**-Talking endlessly to the pastor at the church door and keeping everyone else from exiting.
- COACH**-The children's Christmas program director.
- ASSISTANT COACH**-Every mother who has a kid in the children's Christmas program.
- COMMERCIAL**-Announcements.
- DRAFT CHOICE**-The decision to sit close to an open window.
- DRAW PLAY**-What many children (and a few adults) do with their bulletins during the service.
- END ZONE**-The pews.
- EXTRA POINT**-What you receive when you tell the pastor his sermon was too short.
- FIRST QUARTER**-What most people put into the Sunday school offering so it looks like they are giving.
- FOURTH QUARTER**-The amount that makes up the dollar most people put into the Sunday school offering when under peer pressure to give more.
- HAIL MARY**-Desperate move made by ushers in a last-ditch attempt to get people to put something in the plate.
- HALFTIME**-The period between Sunday school and worship when many choose to leave.
- HOLDING**-Passing on the offering plate without putting in a cent.
- ILLEGAL CONTACT**-What gets some church leaders into trouble and out of the ministry.
- ILLEGAL MOTION**-Leaving before the benediction.
- INTERFERENCE**-Talking during the organ prelude.
- OFFSIDES**-When an orchestra member accidentally walks into the choir room.
- PASS INTERFERENCE**-A parent moving between two teens in the pew to halt the flow of notes back and forth during the sermon.
- QUARTERBACK SNEAK**-How the pastor gets from the pulpit to the rear door during the benediction.
- RAIN DELAY**-Baptism
- RED DOG**-Common strategy performed each Sunday by those who own their own private pew.
- SUDDEN DEATH**-The penalty to the pastor who preaches more than fifteen minutes.
- TACKLE**-What takes place to the only eligible bachelor at the thirty five-and-over singles enrichment retreat.
- TIMEOUT**-Refreshment time in the Fellowship Hall.
- TWO-MINUTE WARNING**-The point at which you realize the sermon is almost over and begin to gather up your children and belongings.
- UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT**-Usually takes place at a committee meeting to decide on the color of carpet or some other thing.
- BENCHWARMER** - Those who do not sing, pray, work, or do anything but sit.
- BACKFIELD-IN-MOTION** - Making a trip to the back (restroom or water fountain) during the service.
- STAYING IN THE POCKET** - What happens to a lot of money that should be given to the Lord's work.
- INSTANT REPLAY** - The pastor loses his notes and falls back on last week's illustrations.
- TRAP** - You're called on to pray and are asleep.
- END RUN** - Getting out of church quick, without speaking to any guest or fellow member.
- FLEX DEFENSE** - The ability to allow absolutely nothing said during the sermon to affect your life.
- HALFBACK OPTION** - The decision of 50% of the congregation not to return for the evening service.