

RESURRECTION NEWS



JULY/AUGUST 2020

Pastor's Page

Summer 2020

"It's Been A Good Marriage"

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all, making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now." (Philippians 1:3-5)

As I write my last Newsletter article there is some serious reminiscing setting in. As I have often said, it has been a good marriage of pastor and people here at The Lutheran Church of the Resurrection. The Holy Spirit, Who joined us together has richly blessed us with His indescribable grace and mercy. As in every good marriage, we have been through plenty of ups and downs, joys and sorrows together. And through them all, we have grown and learned to bless the Lord *"from the first day until now."*

There were those times when we feared we weren't going to make it, and those times of wonderful excitement for the future. There's been lots of hard work and sacrifice together. In looking back, it does seem that the harder the work and the greater the sacrifices that we made together, the greater the joy and fellowship and flat-out fun we had.

The size of our family of faith has grown and shrunk over the years and we have learned that it is the Holy Spirit who moves and directs the course "where and when He pleases." We've made some capital improvements and burned a couple of mortgages along the way and that has been exciting and prepared the way for future generations. It's gratifying that the congregation is debt free, just as it was 27 years ago.

I've enjoyed the benefits of a 'long-term pastorate,' namely the deep relationships, the joy of confirming some whom I baptized, marrying some whom I confirmed, and baptizing babies of confirmands. But along with those joys has also come the sorrows of burying dear brothers and sisters in Christ.

As with every marriage, there have been ups and downs in our relationship. But we have learned to say "I'm sorry," and also to say "I forgive you," because the love of Christ compels us to do so. As strange as it may sound, I think that it's been by our confessing and forgiving one another that our love for one another has grown deeper and richer. What else can this be but Jesus Christ at work among us.

I recall my initial conviction that the life and health of any congregation depends on two things; faithful attendance in worship and faithful attendance in bible study. Everything else falls into place in proportion to the measure of how these two essentials are practiced. Based on experience, that remains my conviction still. The Holy Spirit works through His Word preached and His Sacraments administered in the Divine Service. Growth in faith comes by hearing the Word and the study of the Scriptures. After that, everything else falls into place just fine. So my plea is the same as it has been for the last 27 years: set Sunday aside for the Lord. Be in worship AND bible study, not only for your own sake, but for the sake of the whole congregation.

If I could have written the script for how I'd like to see this transition happen, I couldn't have written it any better than the way it is happening. It is a real joy to see this family, whom I love, move joyfully and gracefully into a new day and a new marriage with pastor Akers.

My last Sunday will be August 30th. Our plan is to spend the Fall getting things in order to move. This winter, we'll spend some time in western North Carolina looking for a good congregation, which will determine where we relocate. The goal is to move in the early Spring of 2021 as soon as the house sells.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Nielsen

Pastor's Letter

Summer 2020

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I want to thank those of you whom I have had the opportunity to meet so far for your kind hospitality to Amber, Matthew, Elizabeth, & myself during our transition to Waterville. Those of you who have moved know that no transition is easy – especially when you are moving across the country with a family, much less when you are doing so during a global pandemic! But we have been overwhelmed with the kindness and generosity of the people of God here in this place who have welcomed us, brought us meals, delivered groceries, and extended hospitality in other ways, especially during our two weeks of quarantine. We feel truly blessed to have a home in which to raise our family and a loving church family with whom to journey through the challenges of this life as we marvel at the ways our Lord continues to provide for us!

I'm sure you have heard these words before, to the point where they even sound cliché, but we are certainly living in strange times. During my time at seminary, I never would have dreamed that I would become the pastor of a church during a global pandemic – with major restrictions on gathering together and having to hide our faces behind masks! Again, what strange times we are living in! But the Lord is faithful. He always provides for us, no matter what we're going through – though sometimes he does so in ways that we would never have expected. For that, I am eternally thankful, and I pray you are as well.

I'm reminded of a passage from Jeremiah 29. This particular verse is one I have known for as long as I can remember. It's one of my father's favorite Bible passages, which became especially comforting for him as my grandfather was dying of brain cancer.

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. (Jeremiah 29:11)

I'll be honest, I didn't fully "get" this passage as a nine-year-old. How could words written by some insignificant, ancient Palestinian guy bring real comfort to someone as they watch their loved one die – or even as they go through another challenging time? It wasn't until many years later that I think I finally began to "get it." It isn't the words of some ancient Palestinian guy that bring us comfort. It is the ancient words of the God of the universe that bring comfort. And these words of the God of the universe bring more than comfort – they bring the comforter, the very Spirit of God who dwells within us and gives us a peace that passes all understanding.

I pray for each one of you that as you deal with the challenges of this life, multiplied exponentially as they may be through these tumultuous times, that these words would bring you true comfort as the God of the universe speaks to you: *For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*

The Lord's promises will carry us through whatever lies ahead. And in the end, our Lord has a plan for us, and His Spirit will always be with us to accomplish that plan.

Peace in Jesus,
Pastor Akers

Notes from your Deaconess

Summer 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters of LCR,

We welcome the coming of summer, and also our new Pastor and his family here in Maine. We also continue through the longest of seasons in our liturgical calendar, the Time of the Church, which we entered a month ago following Pentecost, and which continues for the next five months. The earlier church seasons of the year mark and parallel portions of Jesus' life while here on earth: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, and Easter. Likewise, the hymns of our service book not specifically associated with those other seasons comprise more than two thirds of all the hymns. As I noted last month, the organization of these hymns includes a range of theological themes, along with ones for specific festivals and events, and Biblical canticles.

Two sections of hymns which merit your consideration during these months of national and international unrest, uncertainty, and illness are *Trust* (#708 to #740), and *Hope and Comfort* (#741 to #765). The texts for these hymns draw extensively from Biblical texts and images (note all the references in the bottom right corner below each hymn). Some of my favorite lines among these hymns include:

*Entrust your days and burdens to God's most loving hand;
He cares for you while ruling the sky, the sea, the land.
For He who guides the tempests along their thund'rous ways
will find for you a pathway and guide you all your days. (#754:1)*

*"When through fiery trials your pathway will lie,
My grace, all-sufficient, will be your supply,
the flames will not hurt you; I only design
your dross to consume and your gold to refine. (#728:4)*

These hymns could accompany you one a day through the next couple of months, with or without the music. You could even look up the scripture passages cited along with each one as an extra personal Bible study. Our daily lectionary readings from the Old Testament during July and August bring us through the many years of the people of Israel beginning with the fall of Jericho under the leadership of Joshua, through the period of the Judges of Israel (concluding with Samuel), and the first kings of Israel – namely Saul, David and Solomon. In the New Testament, we'll read from the book of the Acts of the Apostles, and epistles written by Paul to the Galatians and the Corinthians. The early churches wrestled with many of the same issues that the Israelite people did in the Old Testament, and that we do today. Every time we read these passages we see anew how God worked and works through his people.

I have begun to meet again with a small group for prayer each week, but not yet for Bible study again – let me know if you'd be interested to doing this, or want to be included by email regarding either of these gatherings. I think that no one can be assured of safety, but we trust that our courtesy, love, and kindness, along with consideration for the levels of concern which differ for each of us, will guide our actions.

Under his mercy,
Sharon M. Conover

For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation. He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken. Psalm 62:1,2

Census Reminder

"Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God." (Romans 13:1)

We have been asked by the state of Maine to remind the LCR family that the deadline to submit the 2020 Census is fast approaching, and Kennebec county has an extremely low response rate. Part of our duty as citizens of God's World is to respect and support the governing authorities God has placed over us. Responding to the census is important to ensure federal and state funding is allocated properly and our community has the support it needs to continue to thrive and care for those in need. Thank you!

The Missouri Synod and Pandemic Relief Programs for Church Workers

As I think most parishioners know, the Church is not my only source of income from music. I have a paid position as a community chorus conductor. I also work in the Winslow schools as choral and show accompanist, and especially during the summer months I normally play piano at various jazz concerts, parties, fairs, etc. However, this is anything but a normal year, and all of these extra income sources have dried up completely. Thus, what to do in order to keep current with bills, to keep gas in the car, and to eat? (I do eat, occasionally.)

One day during the last week in May, I went to the LCMS homepage, as I sometimes do just to see what's there. The page has a slide show describing various events, mission programs, educational materials and other things, and this time there appeared a reference to a Synod program for COVID-19 financial relief for church workers. At first assuming that this meant full-time or rostered professional workers, I clicked on the link anyway and found that one-time Soldiers of the Cross grants of up to \$2000 are available to part-time workers as well; to musicians, secretaries, teachers, sextons and any others who are paid for service to the Church. I followed other links, and with the help of Brenda Bacon at the District office I was able to get to the downloadable online application form. The form itself is easy to use, and the only other requirement is a letter of endorsement from the District President. I received this letter within two days of requesting it, and submitted the application to the Synod. Within a week, I was notified that my application was accepted and that I would receive a grant in the amount of \$1800, which was what I had requested. In short, quick work by both the New England District and the Synod.

This grant has done much to ease my anxiety about the financial outlook for the summer, and you know how grateful I am to the Missouri Synod for creating this program, and how thankful I am that the Grace of God led me to open up that website on that day.

If you don't already do this on a regular basis, I suggest that you visit the Synod's website every so often. There are always many interesting, relevant and inspiring things to be found there, especially if you follow the links. As the great jazz pianist and sometime actor Fats Waller once said, "One never know, do one?"

Rick Dostie



BIBLE QUIZ

Monthly Worship

July 5, 2020

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm: 145:1-14

First Reading: Zechariah 9:9-12

Epistle: Romans 7:14-25a

Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:25-30

July 12, 2020

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm: 65: (1-8) 9-13

First Reading: Isaiah 55:10-13

Epistle: Romans 8:12-17

Holy Gospel: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 19, 2020

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm: 119:57-64

First Reading: Isaiah 44:6-8

Epistle: Romans 8:18-27

Gospel: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 26, 2020

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm: 125

First Reading: Deuteronomy 7:6-9

Epistle: Romans 8:28-39

Holy Gospel: Matthew 13:44-52

1. What was the first thing Jesus did when the Pharisees and teachers made a public spectacle of a woman caught in adultery?

- A) yelled at the woman B) yelled at the Pharisees and teachers C) rolled his eyes and ignored them
D) scribbled in the sand and ignored them

2. How often should one pray?

- A) only in public where it is considered legitimate
B) only when led by the spirit C) always D) never

3. What were the 12 words inscribed on New Jerusalem's city gates?

- A) the names of the tribes of Israel B) the names of the apostles C) curses D) commandments

4. While Joseph was in prison, which two Egyptian officials told him their dreams?

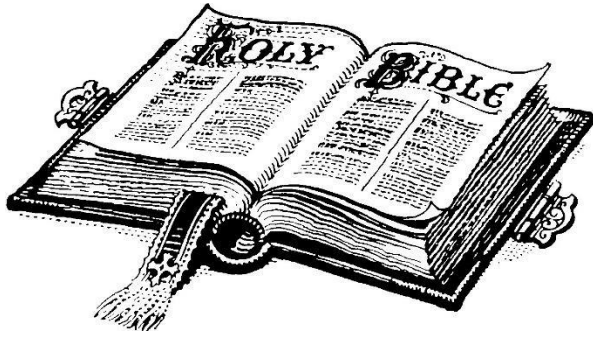
- A) the butler and the baker B) the baker and the shoemaker C) the shoemaker and the gardener D) the gardener and the butler

5. Among the many things Jesus rightfully claimed th to, which of the following is one of them?

- A) manna of strength B) bread of life C) wine of vitality D) milk of eternity

6. Why did God save Noah and his family?

- A) Noah was already kind to the animals B) Noah was already practically perfect C) Noah found grace in the Lord D) Noah asked God to be saved and He heard him



Monthly Worship

August 2, 2020

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm: 136:1-9 (23-26)

First Reading: Isaiah 55:1-5

Epistle: Romans 9:1-5 (6-13)

Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21

August 9, 2020

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm: 18:1-9 (7-16)

First Reading: Job 38:4-18

Epistle: Romans 10:5-17

Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33

August 16, 2020

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm: 67

First Reading: Isaiah 56: 1, 6-8

Epistle: Romans 11:1-2a, 13-15, 28-32

Gospel: Matthew: 25:21-28

August 23, 2020

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm: 138

First Reading: Isaiah 51:1-6

Epistle: Romans 11:33—12:8

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

August 30, 2020

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm: 26

First Reading: Jeremiah 15:15-21

Epistle: Romans 12:9-21

Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28

BIBLE QUIZ

1. What was the stark difference between the prayers of the Pharisee and the publican?

- A) The Pharisee's prayer was full of self-righteous arrogance, while the publican's prayer was humble.
- B) the Pharisee's prayer included the correct respectful words, while the publican spoke the wrong words
- C) the publican's prayer was too quiet to be reasonably heard, while the Pharisee spoke up
- D) the publican's prayer was too sinful to be accepted in the temple, while the Pharisee spoke holy words

2. When Jacob finally met Pharaoh face-to-face, what did he do?

- A) kick him
- B) kiss him
- C) curse him
- D) bless him

3. How did God first speak to young Samuel?

- A) by giving him prophetic dreams for three night in a row
- B) by audibly calling his name during the night
- C) by appearing like an angel during the nighttime sacrifice
- D) by setting a bush on fire without burning it

4. Late in the day of Jesus' resurrection, He met up with two followers on the road to where?

- A) Joppa
- B) Jerusalem
- C) Ephesus
- D) Emmaus

5. What physical ailment accompanied the direct communication between Saul and Jesus?

- A) he became blind
- B) he became deaf
- C) he became mute
- D) he became paralyzed

6. Who said this: "We have no king but Caesar"?

- A) slaves
- B) foreigners
- C) Jews
- D) soldiers



JULY

7/5 Sarah Kohl
Taylan Thomas
7/12 Dan Keefe
7/26 Nathanael Batson
7/28 Yvonne Batson
Andrea Watson

7/11 Carl & Karen Mattson
7/15 Glenn & Krista Carlson
John & Esther Gould
7/18 Mark & LeeAnne Larsen
7/22 Steve & Rebecca Love

AUGUST

8/14 Kathleen Paules
8/24 Beck Keefe
Raymond Milhous
8/27 Mark Larsen
8/29 Bode Carlson
8/31 Laverne Pelletier

8/13 Jim & Darryll Zahner
8/16 Kemp & Rachel Anderson
8/23 Sharon & Charles Conover
Don & Marlene Pryor
8/28 David & Beth Morris
8/30 Brad & Sasha Fitzpatrick



BAPTISM BIRTHDAY

ANNIVERSARY

JULY

7/1 Emily Larsen
7/14 Sharon Conover
7/29 Rev. Robert Fischer

8/4 Nick Lizzotte
8/19 Steven Farr
Kari Farr

AUGUST

8/1 Kenneth Zahner
8/7 Ethan Carlson
8/25 Olivia Lizzotte
8/26 Jon Boschen
8/27 Krys Paules
8/?? Bjorg Boschen

AUGUST

Bible Quiz Answers

July

August

1. D (John 8:6)
2. C (Ephesians 6:18)
3. A (Revelation 21:12)
4. A (Genesis 40:5)
5. B (John 6:35)
6. C (Genesis 6:8)

1. A (Luke 18:11-14)
2. D (Genesis 47:7)
3. B (1 Samuel 3:3-10)
4. D (Luke 24:1-3, 13-15)
5. A (Acts 9:8-9)
6. C (John 19:15)

Summer Chuckles

Gracie was really learning a lot in Sunday school every week, and she convinced to dad it was important to say a blessing before eating dinner. One night, Gracie's parents were arguing something terrible before dinner. When they sat down to eat, Gracie's father used a pleasant voice to say the blessing. Gracie was silent a little while and then asked, "Daddy, do you think God hears us when we pray?" Her father assured her that he did think so.

And do you think God hears us the rest of the time also?" Gracie asked. Her father said yes to this as well.

"Well, Daddy, which do you think he believes?"

0-0-0-0-0-0

A middle-aged woman has a heart attack and is taken to the hospital. While on the operating table she has a near-death experience. She sees God and asks, "God, is this it? Am I dying?" God reassures her that she has another 30 years to live.

Upon her recovery she decides to stay in the hospital and have a face-lift, liposuction, breast augmentation—everything she's always wanted. She even has someone come in to cut and color her hair. She figures that since she's got another 30 years, she might as well make the most of it.

The day the doctors release her, she walks out of the hospital—only to be hit by a speeding ambulance. She arrives in front of God and complains, "I thought you said I had another 30 years!"

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

Saul knew he had moved to a heavily Christian town when he was watching the *Star Wars* trilogy at the local movie theater. Every time the phrase "May the force be with you," was uttered on screen, the audience replied, "And also with you."

0-0-0-0-0-0

In a cemetery outside of town stands an old pecan tree. One day two boys had filled a bucket with nuts and sat down to divide them between themselves. "One for you, one for me. One for you, one for me," said one boy. A few pecans dropped and rolled down toward the fence.

Another boy came riding along the road on his bicycle. As he passed the cemetery, he heard the voices and stopped to listen.

"One for you, one for me. One for you, one for me. One for..."

He was just about to take off when an elderly man came hobbling along. "Come Here!" said the boy. "You won't believe what I heard! Satan and the Lord are down at the cemetery dividing up the souls."

The man shuffled over to the fence. They heard the voices Again, "One for you, one for me. One for you, one for me."

"By golly, boy, you were right! Let's get a little closer, and maybe we can see the Lord."

But the next thing they heard was, "That's all for now. Let's go get those nuts by the fence, and we'll be done."

The boy couldn't keep up with the old man as they raced back to town

July Stewardship

<u>Ushers</u>	<u>July 5</u> 8:30 Brian Watson	<u>July 12</u> 8:30 Brian Watson	<u>July 19</u> 8:30 Rick Drageland	<u>July 26</u> 8:30 Rick Drageland
	10:30 Chris Batson	10:30 John Ayotte	10:30 Mark Larsen	10:30 Chris Batson
<u>Altar Care</u>	Avis Grant	Deb Nielsen	Sharon Conover	Amanda Goldsmith
<u>Flowers</u>	Julie & Sarah Kohl	Julie & Sarah Kohl	The Larsen Family	The Larsen Family

August Stewardship

	<u>August 2</u>	<u>August 9</u>	<u>August 16</u>	<u>August 23</u>	<u>August 30</u>
<u>Ushers</u>	8:30 Brian Watson	8:30 Rick Drageland	8:30 Rick Drageland	8:30 Rick Drageland	8:30 Brian Watson
	10:30 Chris Batson	10:30 John Ayotte	10:30 Mark Larsen	10:30 John Ayotte	10:30 Chris Batson
<u>Altar Care</u>	Amy Ouellette	Sasha Fitzpatrick	Krista Carlson	Kitty Carlson	Andrea Watson
<u>Flowers</u>	Christine Thomas	Christine Thomas	The Watsons	The Watsons	The Cotes

The Daily Lectionary

July / August 2020

July

7/1 Joshua 6:6-27 / Acts 10:18-33
7/2 Joshua 7:1-26 / Acts 10:34-48
7/3 Joshua 8:1-28 / Acts 11:1-18
7/4 Joshua 10:1-25 / Acts 11:19-30
7/5 Joshua 23:1-16 / Acts 12:1-25
7/6 Joshua 24:1-31 / Acts 13:1-12
7/7 Judges 2:6-23 / Acts 13:13-41
7/8 Judges 3:7-31 / Acts 13:42-52
7/9 Judges 4:1-24 / Acts 14:1-18
7/10 Judges 6:1-24 / Acts 4:19-15:5
7/11 Judges 6:25-40 / Acts 15:6-21
7/12 Judges 7:1-23 / Galatians 1:1-24
7/13 Judges 13:1-25 / Galatians 2:1-21
7/14 Judges 14:1-20 / Galatians 3:1-22
7/15 Judges 15:1-16:3 / Galatians 3:23-4:11
7/16 Judges 16:4-30 / Galatians 4:12-31
7/17 1 Samuel 1:1-20 / Galatians 5:1-26
7/18 1 Samuel 1:21-2:17 / Galatians 6:1-18
7/19 Samuel 2:18-36 / Acts 15:22-41
7/20 1 Samuel 3:1-21 / Acts 16:1-22
7/21 1 Samuel 4:1-22 / Acts 16:23-40
7/22 1 Samuel 5:1-6:16 / Acts 18:1-28
7/23 1 Samuel 6:19-7:17 / Acts 19:1-22
7/24 1 Samuel 8:10-22 / Acts 21:15-36
7/25 1 Samuel 9:1-27 / Acts 21:37-22:16
7/26 1 Samuel 10:1-27 / Acts 22:17-29
7/27 1 Samuel 12:1-25 / Acts 22:30-23:11
7/28 1 Samuel 13:1-18 / Acts 23:12-35
7/29 1 Samuel 14:47-15:9 / Acts 24:1-23
7/30 1 Samuel 15:10-35 / Acts 24:24-25:12
7/31 1 Samuel 16:1-23 / Acts 25:13-27

August

8/1 1 Samuel 17:1-19 / Acts 26:1-23
8/2 1 Samuel 17:20-47 / Acts 26:24-27:8
8/3 1 Samuel 17:48-18:9 / Acts 17:9-26
8/4 1 Samuel 18:10-30 / Acts 27:27-44
8/5 1 Samuel 19:1-24 / Acts 28:1-15
8/6 1 Samuel 20:1-23 / Acts 28:16-31
8/7 1 Samuel 20:24-42 / 1 Corinthians 1:1-25
8/8 1 Samuel 24:1-22 / 1 Corinthians 1:26-2:16
8/9 1 Samuel 25:1-22 / 1 Corinthians 3:1-23
8/10 1 Samuel 25:23-44 / 1 Corinthians 4:1-21
8/11 1 Samuel 26:1-25 / 1 Corinthians 5:1-13
8/12 1 Samuel 28:3-25 / 1 Corinthians 6:1-20
8/13 1 Samuel 31:1-13 / 1 Corinthians 7:1-24
8/14 2 Samuel 1:1-27 / 1 Corinthians 7:25-40
8/15 2 Samuel 5:1-25 / 1 Corinthians 8:1-13
8/16 2 Samuel 6:1-19 / 1 Corinthians 9:1-23
8/17 2 Samuel 7:1-17 / 1 Corinthians 9:24-10:22
8/18 2 Samuel 7:18-29 / 1 Corinthians 10:23-11:16
8/19 2 Samuel 11:1-27 / 1 Corinthians 11:17-34
8/20 2 Samuel 12:1-25 / 1 Corinthians 12:1-13
8/21 1 Kings 1:1-35 / 1 Corinthians 12:14-31
8/22 1 Kings 2:1-27 / 1 Corinthians 13:1-13
8/23 1 Kings 3:1-15 / 2 Corinthians 1:1-22
8/24 1 Kings 5:1-18 / 2 Corinthians 1:23-2:17
8/25 1 Kings 7:51-8:21 / 2 Corinthians 3:1-18
8/26 1 Kings 8:22-63 / 2 Corinthians 4:1-18
8/27 1 Kings 9:1 – 10:13 / 2 Corinthians 5:1-21
8/28 1 Kings 11:1-26 / 2 Corinthians 6:1-18
8/29 1 Kings 11:42-12:19 / 2 Corinthians 7:1-16
8/30 1 Kings 12:20-13:34 / 2 Corinthians 8:1-24
8/31 1 Kings 16:29-17:24 / 2 Corinthians 9:1-15