

RESURRECTION NEWS

Isaiah 55:12 - "You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands."



JULY/AUGUST 2023

Pastor's Letter

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

Having concluded our look at the Ten Commandments, I would like to look a little bit more closely at the third commandment over the coming months. This month we will specifically take up the topic of rest.

Summertime is upon us in full force. School has been out for a while. The temperatures are increasing, and so summer is truly here for the next few months. This is the time of year when most people think about getting in some old-fashioned “rest and relaxation.” And so, we go on vacations, we spend time at camp, we plan weekend get-aways at the beach or in the woods as we search for that ever-elusive rest. So, why is it that when we return home from these times of supposed “rest and relaxation” that we often feel more stressed and less rested than we did to start with? Why is it that our vacations (or holidays, as the British would call them) aren't restful?

Martin Luther offers us some helpful advice in his Large Catechism when he writes the following about the third commandment: *“I constantly say that all our life and work must be guided by God's Word, if it is to be God-pleasing or holy. . . . Note, therefore, that the force and power of this commandment lies not in the resting, but in the sanctifying, so that a special holy exercise belongs to this day.”* Luther's words here are primarily dealing with everyday life rather than our vacations and get-aways. Yet this gets precisely to the root of the problem.

Why do we need vacations and get-aways in the first place? We often feel like we need vacations and get-aways because our regular lives are so stressful and hectic that we need to get away from it all for a while. This is a huge part of the reason why we spend so much time in front of screens when we are at home. We want to escape from reality. Life is stressful and hectic, so we escape into the world of TV shows, movies, video games, and anything else we can find which distracts us from reality and allows us to rest and relax.

But the problem is, TV shows, movies, and video games aren't restful. They're a nice escape for a while, but they don't actually help to relieve our stress. The same can be said of vacations. Chances are you're not finding true rest on your vacations and you're certainly not finding true rest at home. So, what do we do about it?

Luther suggests that we return to God's Word. He suggests that we focus not so much on resting, but on sanctifying (sanctify means “to make holy” or, more literally, “to set apart”). By making our day holy, or setting it apart, with the Word of God, we will find true rest. This is why our Lord said:

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light” (Matthew 11:28-30).

It's only in coming to Jesus and his Word that we find true rest and relief from our stress-filled, hectic lives. If you find yourself not prioritizing our Lord and his Word this summer, then I strongly encourage you to re-evaluate your priorities. If you are prioritizing time at camp, fishing, or just “enjoying the short Maine summer” over spending time in personal devotion and prayer or more importantly over gathering in the Lord's house to receive his Word & Sacrament in the Divine Service, then you're not going to find true rest. You may get lots of relaxing in, but it won't be true rest.

Don't get me wrong, hope and pray that you find time to get outside and enjoy the summer by spending time at camp, fishing, hiking, enjoying the beach, or whatever else you enjoy doing. But I also hope and pray that you won't do those things at the expense of gathering with your brothers and sisters in Christ for the Divine Service. There is nothing more important and restful for your soul than being in our Lord's house to receive his gifts.

Peace in Jesus,
Pastor Akers

Notes from your Deaconess

Dear Brothers and Sisters of LCR,

Do you ever find yourself singing along with some song on the radio or at a restaurant which you haven't heard in years, and yet all the lyrics come tumbling out of some recess of your memory? I suspect this has happened many times for you as it has for me, since we somehow retain words to music so much more easily than words and poetry not so joined. Those who struggle with memory loss often can sing along to familiar songs and hymns even when they can't carry on conversation comfortably.

We find repeated mention of singing in the scriptures, beginning clearly with a song of Moses in Exodus 15 after the crossing through the Red Sea. In Numbers 21 we read of two songs, one about a well where God provided water, and the other about a battle. As Moses concludes his work and prepares to pass the leadership to Joshua in Deuteronomy 32, he sings and teaches another song to the people of Israel about the Lord and the Lord's relationship with his people. Judges 5 includes the song of the judge Deborah and military leader Barak recounting the victory over the army of Sisera. Many if not all the Psalms, written by David and others, were songs used in worship by the people of Israel. Prophets, including Isaiah and Habbakuk, wrote songs included in our scriptures.

We know that Jesus sang a hymn with his disciples at the close of their last supper before heading to the Garden of Gethsemane. (Could it have been one of the Psalms?) Paul and Silas sang hymns while in prison at midnight in Philippi (Acts 16). In several of his letters, Paul included singing as an activity that believers should be doing. In the Revelation to John those who surround the throne of God in heaven sing as well!

So lift up your voice and sing when we come together and even on your own. You may find yourself singing parts of the service now and again, or hymns that you've come to know quite well.

During the coming months I plan to hold women's Saturday Bible studies on July 8 and 22, August 5 and 19. We meet at 8:30 a.m. in a downstairs classroom at church. We will continue to look at women we're encountering in the readings of the Bible as outlined by the "Read the Bible in Two Years," although I welcome other suggestions for study. I'm happy to provide a Zoom link for you to join if you let me know of your interest.

Under his mercy,
Sharon M. Conover

"The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing."
Zephaniah 3:17

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God."
Colossians 3:16

Summer Schedule

Throughout the summer, the Sunday morning schedule will be:

- **8:45 a.m.** Sunday School (Room 201)
- **10:00 a.m.** Divine Service
- **11:30 a.m.** Fellowship

Note: There will be no Sunday School on July 23.

Thursday Bible Study

Throughout the summer, Thursday Bible Study will meet most weeks (check the weekly schedule to be sure) at **10:30 a.m. in Room 201.**

July Stewardship

	<u>July 2</u>	<u>July 9</u>	<u>July 16</u>	<u>July 23</u>	<u>July 30</u>
<u>Acolyte</u>	Elizabeth Akers	Hayley Farr	Evan Farr	Callum Goldsmith	Matthew Akers
<u>Worship Assistant</u>	Mark Larsen	Brian Watson	Steve Farr	No Communion	Glenn Carlson Sr.
<u>Usher</u>	Chris Batson	Mo Cote	Rick Drageland	John Ayotte	Jeff Sammons
<u>Greeters</u>	Sharon Klipp	The Andersons	Dorthy McAllister	Christine Thomas	Julie Kohl
<u>Altar Care</u>	Krista Carlson	Kitty Carlson	Andrea Watson	LeeAnne Larsen	Julie Kohl
<u>Flowers</u>	Julie Kohl	Julie Kohl	Jayne Labbe	Jayne Labbe	The Pelletiers
<u>Fellowship</u>	Open	MacPhersons/Bendas	The Goldsmiths	Open	The Evertsens

August Stewardship

	<u>August 6</u>	<u>August 13</u>	<u>August 14</u>	<u>August 21</u>
<u>Acolyte</u>	Hayley Farr	Callum Goldsmith	Matthew Akers	Elizabeth Akers
<u>Worship Assistant</u>	Steve Farr	Jared Goldsmith	Brian Watson	Mark Larsen
<u>Usher</u>	Chris Batson	Mo Cote	Rick Drageland	Jeff Sammons
<u>Greeters</u>	James Breslin	The Larsens	Avis Grant	Sharon Klipp
<u>Altar Care</u>	Lydia Bendas	Avis Grant	Amber Akers	Sharon Conover
<u>Flowers</u>	The Pelletiers	The Bendas	The Bendas	The Pelletiers
<u>Fellowship</u>	Open	The Ouellettes	The Akers	Open

Defending the Faith

Sometimes the Best Defense is a Good Defense.

In my last article, we talked about some of the ground rules for discussing Christianity with our LGBT neighbors and friends.

We laid out a case that homosexual activity (not simply homosexual temptation, but homosexual actions) are sinful. We also acknowledged that homosexuality isn't some "special" extra-bad kind of sin. It's just sin – and like all sin, cries out for repentance and forgiveness.

I recounted that we at LCR are open, but not affirming. That is to say that we are open to homosexual sinners, just as we are with ALL other sinners, but we cannot and must not affirm same-sex relationships as proper and honoring of God's design for our bodies.

Our congregation is full of sinners, chief of which is me, and I thank God that LCR is here for me to hear the Word preached and for the sacraments to be properly administered.

I also shared with you that I have been involved in a protracted discussion with someone who is struggling with same-sex attraction.

That's where things get difficult as this person is very well versed in the LGBT talking points where they think they have rebuttals to Scripture – even though they are badly misinformed.

I had hoped in these discussions that setting the stage with Sola Scriptura, we could at least reach an understanding. But that was not to be.

My friend and I got to a place where we were talking about some of what the LGBT community calls "clobber passages". They call them that because they are passages of Scripture that they feel are used to clobber them. Giving them this moniker is done in order to try to disarm their effectiveness.

This is a common tactic. Slap a label on the opposition and you (at least according to their logic) discredit that argument. Hater. Bigot. Homophobe. These are all examples of labels that are meant to defeat the position of these "clobber phrases".

What are the clobber passages? Here are some examples:

- Genesis 19:1-38 – Sodom and Gomorrah. (The men only wanted to befriend the travelers, not to have sex with them.)
- Leviticus 18:22 & 20:13 – Defining homosexual sex as an abomination. (The Old Testament has been fulfilled and no longer applies.)
- Romans 1:26-27 – Paul's words regarding men exchanging natural for unnatural relations. (They say that Paul used the same term to describe men having long hair.)
- 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 - Paul's recitation of those who will not enter the Kingdom of Heaven. (The very confused Church of England went so far as to say that Scripture in this case is not the Word of God. Jesus is.)
- 1 Timothy 1:9-11 – Paul calls out a list of lawbreakers and rebels, including those practicing homosexuality. (Note: Practicing, not tempted by.) This verse could not be more clear!

Even if you grant (and I certainly do not!) that the Old Testament passages no longer apply in New Testament times, you're still left with crystal clear condemnation of homosexual relations in the New Testament.

We can discuss the clobber passages. We can cite Jesus' description of marriage (Ephesians 5:31) *For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.*

They respond by saying that nowhere in Scripture does God specifically say that a marriage shall be between a man and a woman. (Scripture also doesn't say that a man cannot marry a stone, a coconut or the planet Neptune!)

So now what?

Truth. That's what.

We can have a gentle, respectful conversation (1 Peter 3:15), but if we arrive at a point where the homosexual advocate refuses to acknowledge the plain reading of the text, claiming that it says something that it clearly does not say, we have to stop there. At least for now.

We have to speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15). We cannot and indeed, must not give in to the lies that the LGBT proponent wants us to embrace.

I wish I had better news to present from the trenches, but the opposition is deeply dug in to their anti-Scripture position. They have invented all sorts of ways to twist God's Word and to torture the text into saying things that justify their sinful lifestyle.

We must not live by lies. We speak the truth in love – with genuine, heart-felt concern for our LGBT friends. And in a case like the one I'm involved in over the last several months, the best I can do is to pray for my friend and to leave him with a stone in his shoe. Something that I hope he will consider as we part ways from our conversation. Maybe something that will cause him to reconsider actively opposing God's Word.

It comes down to one thing. Either Scripture is God's Word, or it isn't. You know where we come down on that issue.

Sola Scriptura.

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

Charlie MacPherson, SDG



Monthly Worship July

July 2

The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Psalm: 138

First Reading: Song of Songs 2:8b-14

Epistle: Romans 12:9-16

Holy Gospel: Luke 1:39-56

July 9

Fifth Sunday after Trinity

Psalm: 16

First Reading: 1 Kings 19:11-21

Epistle: 1 Peter 3:8-15a

Holy Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

July 16

Sixth Sunday after the Trinity

Psalm: 19

First Reading: Exodus 20:1-17

Epistle: Romans 6:3-11

Holy Gospel: Matthew 5:20-26

July 23

Seventh Sunday after Trinity

Psalm: 33:1-11

First Reading: Isaiah 62:6-12

Epistle: Romans 6:19-23

Holy Gospel: Mark 8:1-9

July 30

Eighth Sunday after Trinity

Psalm: 26

First Reading: Jeremiah 23:16-29

Epistle: Romans 8:12-17

Holy Gospel: Matthew 7:15-23

Monthly Worship August

August 6

Ninth Sunday after Trinity

Psalm: 51:1-12

First Reading: Proverbs 16:1-9

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 10:6b-13

Holy Gospel: Luke 16:1-9

August 13

Tenth Sunday after Trinity

Psalm: 92

First Reading: Jeremiah 7:1-11

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 12:2-11

Holy Gospel: Luke 19:41-48

August 20

Eleventh Sunday after the Trinity

Psalm: 50:7-23

First Reading: Genesis 4:1-15

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:1-10

Holy Gospel: Luke 18:9-14

August 27

Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

Psalm: 146

First Reading: Isaiah 29:17-24

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 3:4-11

Holy Gospel: Mark 7:31-37



Community picnic

A church had a picnic and invited the entire community to come. The Pastor placed a basket full of apples on one end of a table with a sign saying, "Take only one apple please - Remember that God is watching."

On the other end of the table was a plate of cookies where one of the children had placed a sign saying, "Take all the cookies you want -- God is watching the apples."

Leaving the church early

"I hope you didn't take it personally, preacher," an embarrassed woman said after a church service, "when my husband walked out during your sermon."

"I did find it rather disconcerting," the Pastor replied.

"It wasn't out of any disrespect to you," insisted the churchgoer. "Fred has been walking in his sleep ever since he was a child."

Directions

A little boy was waiting for his mother to come out of the grocery store. As he waited, he was approached by a man who asked, "Son, can you tell me where the post office is?"

The little boy replied, "Sure, just go straight down the street a couple of blocks and turn to your right."

The man thanked the boy kindly and said, "I'm the new pastor in town, and I'd like for you to come to church on Sunday. I'll show you how to get to Heaven."

The little boy replied with a chuckle, "Awww, come on; you don't even know the way to the post office!"

BIBLE QUIZ

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 twelve 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 cupbearer and the baker
 - B. the baker and the shoemaker
 - C. the shoemaker and the gardener
 - D. the gardener and the cupbearer
5. Among the many things Jesus rightfully claimed to be, 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 animal.
 - B. Noah was already practically perfect.
 - C. Noah found grace in the Lord.
 - D. Noah asked God to be saved and He heard him.



7/5 Sarah Kohl
Taylan Thomas
7/12 Dan Keefe
7/21 Rev. Ben Akers
7/26 Nathanael Batson
7/28 Yvonne Batson
Andrea Watson

8/1 Jeff Sammons
8/14 Kathleen Paules
8/20 Lois Doran
8/24 Beck Keefe
Ray Milhous
8/27 Mark Larsen
8/29 Bode Carlson
Ridge Kinney
8/31 Laverne Pelletier



7/7 Tyler & Corina Wilson
7/10 Steven & Lydia Bendas
7/11 Carl & Karen Mattson
7/15 Glenn & Krista Carlson
John & Esther Gould
7/18 Mark & LeeAnne Larsen
7/22 Steve & Rebecca Love
7/27 Chris & Yvonne Batson

8/8 Donald & Candace Schorr
8/13 Jim & Darryll Zahner
8/16 Kemp & Rachel Anderson
8/23 Sharon & Charlie Conover
8/28 David & Beth Morris
8/30 Brad & Sasha Fitzpatrick



8/4 Nick Lizzotte
8/19 Kari Farr
Steve Farr
8/26 Amber Akers
8/?? Richard Kubeck



7/1 Emily Larsen
7/14 Sharon Conover

8/8 Ethan Carlson
8/16 Rev. Ben Akers
8/22 Kenneth Zahner
8/25 Olivia Lizzotte
8/26 Jon Boschen
8/27 Steven Bendas
Krys Paules
8/?? Bjorg Boschen
John Gould

BIBLE QUIZ ANSWERS

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)