

RESURRECTION NEWS



JULY/AUGUST 2024

Pastor's Letter

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

God's Word is living and active. The Holy Spirit is always working through the Word to draw us into a deeper knowledge and love of the Lord our God. He often uses our life circumstances to cause us to appreciate a passage of Scripture in a whole new way. Recently, I have begun to develop a new appreciation for these well-known words in Galatians 4:

When the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

-Galatians 4:4-7

The apostle Paul makes clear in these words that adoption is not a legal transaction devoid of reality. Adoption is identity-altering and future-shaping. An adopted child is not lesser than a biological child. Upon adoption, the adopted child becomes a son or daughter in all the fullness of the word. His or her identity is changed. The name change (whether last name or full name) which often accompanies adoption is merely an external reflection of the new identity taken on by the child. He or she has a new name, a new family, a new life, and therefore a new future. The future life which this child will build is entirely shaped by his or her adoption.

Such is the case for you and me, as the (adopted) children of God. We were born under the law. The fullness of its accusations reigned supreme over us—and rightly so! We were born blind, dead, and enemies of God. We deserve nothing from Him—no grace, no love, and certainly no future inheritance.

But then our Lord Jesus Christ entered into human history to change our future. Like an adoptive parent, the Lord God chose you and me to be rescued from our lowly state. He could have chosen anyone to bring into His family. And yet, He chose you. He chose me. What undeserved grace and love! We had no goodness that He should look favorably upon us. But God sent His Son to be born as one of us—all the suffering and pain included. For not only is God like an adoptive parent who has chosen us, but He has given of Himself in the ultimate self-sacrifice to claim us as His own. The blood which Jesus Christ shed upon the cross of Calvary paid the adoption costs. You are His!

You who were formerly a blind, dead, enemy of God have become a son or a daughter. And because of this gracious adoption, you have been granted the right to call God "Father." Though the Old Testament people of God were given God's personal name by which to address Him (Yahweh), we have been given a far greater name by which to address Him. An earthly example demonstrates the graciousness of this gift: Anyone in the world can address my parents by name. But only my siblings and I have the relationship and therefore the right to address them by the greater name: "Dad" and "Mom." So it is for the adopted children of God—we no longer call the Lord God "Yahweh." We call Him "Father" to demonstrate our unique relationship with Him.

And because God is our Father and we are His adopted children, we have received the rights of an heir. Normally an heir must wait for the death of the parents to receive the inheritance. But because our Lord Jesus Christ has already conquered death, we do not wait for His death to inherit the new creation. We wait for His gracious return. We wait for His work of adopting children to be complete. Only then will we join with our completed family in the joys of paradise eternally. How amazing it is that such a gift is ours by virtue of adoption!

In Christ,
Pastor Akers

Notes from your Deaconess

Dear Brothers and Sisters of LCR,

I've made my way through 1 Maccabees, and have now begun reading 2 Maccabees. These two historical books of the Apocrypha contain accounts of the struggles of the people of Judah who remained in (or returned to) the land of Israel after the Babylonian exile. This period included several neighboring powers such as Persia, Greece (especially under Alexander the Great), the House of Seleucid (more to the east of Israel), Egypt, Sparta, and Rome which vied for dominance over the region. The family of the Maccabees led, organized defensive groups and revolts, formed alliances with some of these powers, and played a significant role during these years between the writings of the prophets and the birth of Jesus. I found the books difficult to follow as the accounts included many names, places, and numbers, along with events supposedly having happened during the time of the prophets, but which are not included in our Old Testament books.

Martin Luther wrote that 1 Maccabees provides helpful accounts showing the fulfillment of portions of the prophet Daniel, and includes various prayers. In 2 Maccabees we find the origins of the Jewish festival of Hanukkah, and the story of the martyrdom of seven brothers and their mother for their steadfast allegiance to the law of Moses. Neither book, however, is considered canonical.

During the month of June, I traveled to San Antonio, Texas to meet with other members of the Concordia Deaconess Conference for our annual meeting. Our overall theme this year, "Theological Ethics in a Biomedically Advancing Age" drew us to consider topics of "Gender Identity and Transitioning," "How to Think Like a Christian When Facing a Medical Decision," and "Euthanasia: What is a Good Death?" We also heard a speaker discussing "Communication Ethics: Deaf and Hard of Hearing," and learned about Deaf Outreach, a ministry using American Sign Language. We spent time in Bible Study led by a local LCMS pastor considering passages from Genesis and the gospels, and enjoyed chapel services each day as well as fellowship together—with women serving all across the country. I would be glad to tell you more about my time there if you are interested.

I pray that you all are having a safe and interesting summer, staying connected to God's word, and making time to attend worship services and get together with church family.

Under his mercy,
Sharon M. Conover

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Annual Paddle for Pine Tree Camp

Pine Tree Paddlers supporting Pine Tree Camp on June 1 on the annual paddle or kayak down the Kennebec River from Solon to North Anson.



Thank You

The helping hand that you have offered today, in the form of your donation, will be remembered with deep gratefulness. Thank you for your partnership in preparing our students for their future ministry in service to the Gospel.

In Christ,

Vicki Biggs, Sr VP Seminary Advancement
Concordia Seminary

Thank you so much for your generosity in support to my call in Italy. I am truly encouraged by all the people across the United States who partner together to make my work across the Peninsula possible. Thank you and pray that the Holy Spirit opens the door for the proclaiming of the Gospel.

In Christ's name,

Rev. Tyler McMiller
Church Planter/Theological Educator in Italy through LCMS OIM

“Love on another,” was Jesus’ commandment to his disciples. You are doing just that through this gift, and all other acts of selfless sacrifice you make for the sake of the Gospel message.

Sub cruce,

Pastor Matthew C. Harrison, President
The Luther Church – Missouri Synod

July Stewardship

	<u>July 7</u>	<u>July 14</u>	<u>July 21</u>	<u>July 28</u>
<u>Acolyte</u>	Evan Farr	Matthew Akers	Hayley Farr	Callum Goldsmith
<u>Subdeacon</u>	Fernando Gouvêa	Chris Batson	Steve Farr	Charlie MacPherson
<u>Usher</u>	Mike Hein	Steve Applebee	Brian Watson	Jeff Sammons
<u>Greeters</u>	Mo & Becky Cote	Rick & Marie Kubeck	Kemp & Rachel Anderson	Wilson Family
<u>Altar Care</u>	Avis Grant	Amber Akers	Sharon Conover	Amanda Goldsmith
<u>Flowers</u>	The Bendas	The Bendas	Arlene Carter	Arlene Carter
<u>Fellowship</u>	Board for Missions	Open	Open	Open

August Stewardship

	<u>August 4</u>	<u>August 11</u>	<u>August 18</u>	<u>August 25</u>
<u>Acolyte</u>	Evan Farr	Hayley Farr	Callum Goldsmith	Matthew Akers
<u>Subdeacon</u>	Dan Callahan	Mark Larsen	Brian Watson	Fernando Gouvêa
<u>Usher</u>	Glenn Carlson Jr.	Jeff Sammons	John Ayotte	Mike Hein
<u>Greeters</u>	Mike & Michelle Hein	Julie Kohl & Gail Maestas	Steve Applebee & Adolph Galonski	Chris & Yvonne Batson
<u>Altar Care</u>	Amy Ouellette	Sasha Fitzpatrick	Krista Carlson	Kitty Carlson
<u>Flowers</u>	The MacPhersons	The MacPhersons	The Larsens	The Larsens
<u>Fellowship</u>	Open	Open	Open	Open

**Please consider signing up for fellowship.
The signup sheet is on the bulletin board.**



Defending the Faith

Sometimes the Best Defense is a Good Defense.

This month, we'll take a look at Pentecostalism and we'll start with a definition:

The word "Pentecostal" is a name describing churches and Christian believers who emphasize a post-salvation experience known as "the baptism in the Holy Spirit." This spiritual baptism is evidenced by the reception of "the charismata," or supernatural gifts that are given by the Holy Spirit, especially speaking in tongues, prophecy, and healing. Pentecostals affirm that the dramatic spiritual gifts of the original first-century Pentecost, as described in Acts 2, are still poured out on Christians today.¹ This "Baptism of the Holy Spirit – apart from water Baptism – is a core belief of Pentecostals.

The name is drawn from the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4), when the Holy Spirit descended on those present and the Apostles began speaking in tongues. One key point that should not be missed is this: on the day of Pentecost, people from a wide variety of places, speaking a wide variety of languages *all heard the Apostles preaching in their own language*. This is at odds with what is practiced in Pentecostal churches today. In fact, Paul, in his letter to the church at Corinth (1 Cor 14:28) tells us that if someone speaks in a tongue and there is no one there to interpret, the speaker should remain silent.

So who are Pentecostals? Out of 170 different denominations, there are 10 with more than 2 million members each. These top 10 represent 136 million worshippers.² Examples include Assemblies of God (by far the largest with over 85 million), Apostolic Church, Foursquare Church, Church of God, Church of God in Christ and Church of Pentecost.

Pentecostal worship is best characterized as "energetic". Lots of standing, lifting of hands, shouts of "AMEN!", "holy dancing", being "slain in the Spirit", loud praise bands, etc. They celebrate most Christian holidays, but many have moved away from the day of Pentecost itself, wary of designating a set time for the presence of the Holy Spirit.³

Pentecostalism finds its roots in the Holiness Movement in the Methodist and Wesleyan Churches in the mid-1800s. At that time, Phoebe Palmer, a female leader in the Methodist church believed that she had experienced "complete sanctification" and then began to hold meetings to promote the idea of Christian Perfectionism,⁴ meaning that the Christian can live a perfectly sinless life.

This is one area where they depart from orthodox Christianity. Christian Perfectionism just isn't possible on this side of eternity. Even the Apostles continued to sin as they went about their ministries. For example, Peter separated himself from the Gentiles for fear of the circumcision group. He was forcing Gentiles into circumcision according to Jewish law. (Galatians 2:12-15). Paul writes that he continued to struggle with sin (Romans 7:15). John attempted to worship an angel (Revelation 22:8-9). This is the reason that John wrote (1 John 2:1) "My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One." Sadly, temptation and sin remain in our lives while we are still in this life.

A key belief of Pentecostals is that the Christian will receive a post-salvation Baptism in the Holy Spirit that is evidenced by receiving spiritual gifts. These include speaking in tongues and prophesy.

As Lutherans, we believe, teach and confess that the Holy Spirit comes to us at our Baptism. Scripture is clear that salvation comes only through God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone. Nowhere does Scripture tell us that we must receive the gifts of the Spirit as described by the Pentecostals.

Are Pentecostals Christians? It seems to me that they are, though they have some beliefs and practices that are heterodox – but not heretical.

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

Charlie MacPherson, SDG

¹ <https://www.learnreligions.com/meaning-of-pentecostal-700726>

² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Pentecostal_denominations

³ <https://www.patheos.com/library/pentecostal/ritual-worship-devotion-symbolism>

⁴ <https://www.christianity.com/wiki/christian-terms/what-is-the-holiness-movement-and-is-it-biblical.html>



Monthly Worship July

July 7

Sixth Sunday after the Trinity

Psalm: 28

Prophecy: Exodus 20:1-17

Epistle: Romans 6:3-11

Holy Gospel: Matthew 5:20-26

July 14

Seventh Sunday after Trinity

Psalm: 47

Prophecy: Isaiah 62:6-12

Epistle: Romans 6:19-23

Holy Gospel: Mark 8:1-9

July 21

Eighth Sunday after Trinity

Psalm: 48

Prophecy: Jeremiah 23:16-29

Epistle: Romans 8:12-17

Holy Gospel: Matthew 7:15-23

July 28

Ninth Sunday after Trinity

Psalm: 54

Prophecy: Proverbs 16:1-9

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 10:6b-13

Holy Gospel: Luke 16:1-9

Monthly Worship August

August 4

Tenth Sunday after Trinity

Psalm: 55

Prophecy: Jeremiah 7:1-11

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Holy Gospel: Luke 19:41-48

August 11

Eleventh Sunday after the Trinity

Psalm: 68

Prophecy: Genesis 4:1-15

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:1-10

Holy Gospel: Luke 18:9-14

August 18

Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

Psalm: 70

Prophecy: Isaiah 29:17-24

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 3:4-11

Holy Gospel: Mark 7:31-37

August 25

Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

Psalm: 74

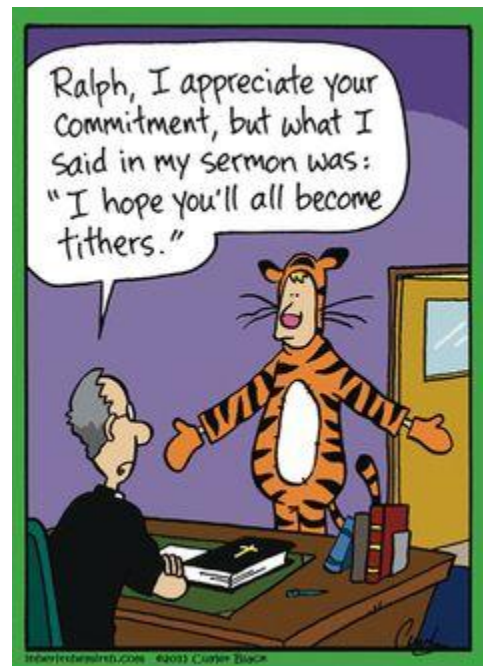
Prophecy: Leviticus 19:9-18

Epistle: Galatians 3:16-22

Holy Gospel: Luke 10:23-37

BIBLE TRIVIA

1. **When Jesus walked on water, what did his disciples mistake him for?**
 - A. A tree
 - B. A demon
 - C. A ghost
 - D. A prophet
2. **What did Jesus say would happen after Peter denied Him 3 times?**
 - A. The sun would rise
 - B. The bells would ring
 - C. A fat lady would sing
 - D. A cock would crow
3. **What was one of three gifts presented to Jesus by Wise Men from the east?**
 - A. Silver
 - B. Silk
 - C. Gold
 - D. Chickens
4. **Herod the King told the Wise Men to send word to him once they found the young child so he could come and do what?**
 - A. Worship him
 - B. Kill him
 - C. Bring him gifts
 - D. Make him king
5. **How was John the Baptist killed?**
 - A. Hung
 - B. Crucified
 - C. Stoned
 - D. Beheaded
6. **Why did God destroy the Israelites in the wilderness?**
 - A. They became pagans
 - B. They refused to eat the food He provided
 - C. They didn't believe in Christ
 - D. As an example for others to not set their heart on evil things
7. **Paul says the things which are not seen are what?**
 - A. Not there
 - B. Eternal
 - C. Temporary
 - D. Not to be looked at
 - E. Mysterious



LAST WISH

A bus carrying only ugly people crashes into an oncoming truck and everyone inside dies. When they get to meet their maker, because of the grief they have experienced, He decides to grant them one wish each before they enter Heaven.

They're all lined up, and God asks the first one what their wish is. "I want to be gorgeous." So God snaps His fingers, and it is done. The second one in line hears this and says, "I want to be gorgeous too." Another snap of His fingers and the wish is granted.

This goes on for a while with each one asking to be gorgeous but when God is halfway down the line, the last guy in the line starts laughing. When there are only ten people left, this guy is rolling on the floor, laughing his head off.

Finally, God reaches this last guy and asks him what his wish will be. The guy eventually calms down and says: "Make 'em all ugly again."

LAST LAUGH

A pastor had had a bad week. On Sunday he was very frustrated and began his sermon with, "All members of this parish are going to hell if they don't change their ways."

One man in the back began to laugh.

So the pastor said it again louder.

The man continued to laugh.

The Pastor went back to him and asked him why his was laughing.

He answered, "Because I don't belong to this church!"

HEAVENLY BASEBALL

Two buddies, Bob and Earl, were two of the biggest baseball fans in America. For their entire adult lives, Bob and Earl discussed baseball history in the winter and they pored over every box score during the season. They went to 60 games a year. They even agreed that whoever died first would try to come back and tell the other if there was baseball in heaven.

One summer night, Bob passed away in his sleep after watching the Yankee victory earlier in the evening. He died happy. A few nights later, his buddy Earl awoke to the sound of Bob's voice from beyond.

"Bob, is that you?" Earl asked.

"Of course it's me," Bob replied.

"This is unbelievable!" Earl exclaimed. "So tell me, is there baseball in heaven?"

"Well, I have some good news and some bad news for you. Which do you want to hear first?"

"Tell me the good news first."

"Well, the good news is that, yes, there is baseball in heaven, Earl."

"Oh, that is wonderful! So what could possibly be the bad news?"

"You're pitching tomorrow night."

ALWAYS TELL THE TRUTH

One night four college kids stayed out late, partying and having a good time. They paid no mind to the test they had scheduled for the next day and didn't study. In the morning, they hatched a plan to get out of taking their test. They covered themselves with grease and dirt and went to the Dean's office. Once there, they said they had been to a wedding the previous night and on the way back they got a flat tire and had to push the car back to campus.

The dean listened to their tale and woe and thought. He offered them a retest three days later. They thanked him and accepted his offer that time.

When the test day arrived, they went to the dean. The dean put them all in separate rooms for the test. They were fine with this since they had all studied hard. Then they saw the test. It had two questions.

1. Your Name _____ (1 pt)
2. Which tire burst? _____ (99 pts)

An exasperated mother, whose son was always getting into mischief, finally asked him, "How do you expect to get into Heaven?" The boy thought it over and said, "Well, I'll run in and out and in and out and keep slamming the door until St. Peter says, 'For Heaven's sake, Dylan, either come in or stay out!'"

Pastor asked his catechism class to draw pictures of their favorite Bible stories. He was puzzled by Kyle's picture, which showed four people on an airplane, so he asked him which story it was meant to represent. "The flight to Egypt," said Kyle. "I see ...And that must be Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus," Pastor said. "But who's the fourth person?" "Oh, that's Pontius - the Pilot."

A mother with a fidgety seven-year-old boy finally got her son to sit still and be quiet. How? About halfway through the sermon, she leaned over and whispered, "If you don't be quiet, Pastor Charlton is going to lose his place and will have to start his sermon all over again!" A little boy was attending his first wedding. After the service, his cousin asked him, "How many women can a man marry?" "Sixteen," the boy responded. His cousin was amazed that he came up with an answer so quickly. "How do you know that?" "Easy," the little boy said. "All you have to do is add it up, like the Pastor said: 4 better, 4 worse, 4 richer, 4 poorer."

Nine-year-old Joey was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday School. "Well, Mom, our teacher told how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his engineers build a pontoon bridge, and all the people walked across safely. He used his walkie-talkie to radio headquarters and call in an air strike. They sent in bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved. "Now, Joey, is that REALLY what your teacher taught you?" his mother asked. "Well, no, Mom, but if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!"

A certain little girl, when asked her name, would reply, "I'm Mr. Sugarbrown's daughter." Her mother told her this was wrong, she must say, "I'm Jane Sugarbrown." The preacher spoke to her in Sunday School, and said, "Aren't you Mr. Sugarbrown's daughter?" She replied, "I thought I was, but mother says I'm not."

As a young mother was trying hard to get the catsup to come out of the bottle, the phone rang. Her 4 year old daughter answered it and say, "Mommy, it's the preacher." Then quickly blurted into the phone, "Mommy can't come to the phone to call right now. She's hitting the bottle."



- 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
- 8/31 Laverne Pelletier



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

BIBLE QUIZ ANSWERS

1. C. (Matthew 14:26)
2. D. (Matthew 26:34)
3. C. (Matthew 2:11)
4. A. (Matthew 2:8)
5. D. (Matthew 14:10)
6. D. (1 Corinthians 10:6)
7. B. (2 Corinthians 4:18)



- 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
Matt & Liz Reed
- 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



- 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
- 8/28 Steven Applebee
- 8/?? Bjorg Boschen
John Gould