



RESURRECTION NEWS



APRIL 2016



Pastor's Letter

April, 2016

Mission Sunday

Rev. Ted NaThalang
The Lutheran Heritage Foundation

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I met Rev. Ted NaThalang for the first time in November, 2008 in the Bangkok airport. It was 2:00am.Thai time, after 23 hours of flying. Passing through customs and entering the main concourse felt like I was being swept away in a raging river of people whose language was completely unintelligible to me. I decided to go to the right because that was the way the current was flowing. Along the way, there was another sea of faces, each looking for someone and from which I was trying to pick out a face I'd never seen. After about an hour, and feeling pretty helpless, a man came up to me and said, "are you Paul?" 'Yes!' 'Are you Ted?' 'Yes!' What incredible relief.

[Full disclosure: Ted had asked me to send him a picture of myself so that he could recognize me. I sent him a picture of myself that had been taken many years before. He said, 'but you don't look like the picture you sent me.' I said, 'But I like that picture. Have I really changed that much?']

That was the beginning of what continues to be a wonderful relationship with a very special servant of the Lord. Two years later I returned to Southeast Asia along with pastor Alan Taylor to work for Ted. And two years after that, we returned to work with for again.

The work that Rev. NaThalang does in Southeast Asia is important work that I think might best be called, 'ground work.' He works the soil with Lutheran bible study materials translated into local languages that introduce the gospel of Jesus Christ to people who have never heard of Jesus or the victory that is ours through faith in Him. Under the guidance and blessing of the Holy Spirit, one thing leads to another and people ask for more, and churches are born, and seminaries are begun to train Lutheran pastors and deaconesses, and Lutheran schools are established, and men and women, boys and girls come to faith and are saved, and the angels in heaven dance and God is glorified.

I am so pleased that Rev. NaThalang is coming here to share his story with you, which is really the story of the work of the Holy Spirit through His servants who make known His Word. I hope that you will **come to Adult Bible Study at 8:45am. and bring your children.** He will talk about the work that is being done in this *most un-Christian area of the world.* And then, he will be our guest preacher in worship at 10:00am. This would be a great Sunday to invite a guest to come to church with you.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Nielsen

Seeking to Serve...notes from a Deaconess student

Dear Brothers and Sisters of LCR,

Easter joy be with you! During my winter intensive class about the "Means of Grace" we discussed how we enter life together as Church through God's Word and Baptism, and continue to live within

that Baptism nourished by God's Word and the Lord's Supper. I have slightly revised the following paragraphs from their form in a final paper written for that class.

We regularly and joyfully celebrate and feast together at the Lord's Supper, which we regard as the climactic and recurring event of this life in Christ—and which itself prefigures the great banquet we anticipate when our earthly homes have been destroyed and we put on our heavenly dwelling (2 Corinthians 5:1-2), when we shall know Christ in full for we shall see him face to face (1 Corinthians 13:12). The church, like "Wisdom," calls to all: "Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed. Leave your simple ways, and live, and walk in the way of insight" (Proverbs 9:3-6). What a meal has been prepared since the beginning!

We find its type throughout the Hebrew scriptures—including Melchizedek's meal with Abraham, the Passover meal celebrated at the Exodus and thereafter, the provisions of manna and water from the Rock in the Wilderness, and even the many meals Jesus shared through his life before he instituted the Eucharist. With new ears we hear Psalm 23's amazing mini-version of this drama of our life in Christ including baptism (walking through the valley of the shadow of death), the presence of the Holy Spirit for us (rod and staff) and provision of life-giving meal (table and cup).

In the Lord's Prayer, we recognize that as Christ is the bread of life, he "is the bread of those who are in union with his body" (from Cyprian of Carthage, *Treatise IV: On the Lord's Prayer*, 18). But also we as a part of his body "were carried to the Lord's threshing floor...threshed by the labor of oxen, that is of the preachers of the gospel...ground...came to the water, and...moistened into dough and made into one lump. With the application of the heat of the Holy Spirit [we] were baked, and made into the Lord's loaf of bread" (from Augustine *Sermon 229*, 1).

In this meal where we eat his body and drink his blood, he not only gives us himself but reminds us that along with becoming flesh for us and pouring himself out for us, he has taken our infirmities and hunger, and shared with us the gifts which he received (from Athanasius, *Discourse IV*, 6-7). The church, Christ's bride, and also his body (Ephesians 5:30, 32), "all become one cake [or loaf of bread] and partake of each other...many small kernels of grain become one loaf of bread, just as in the same way when one makes wine, each grape mixes its juice with that of the others and each forsakes its form. From all comes one drink.

Thus it should also be with us. I give myself for the common good and serve you, and you make use of what is mine of which you are in need. Thus I am your food...you partake of me, and I in turn partake of you" (from Luther "*All Become One Cake*" p. 12). We then also ought to honor him by not neglecting him when naked or hungry, or "going about a wanderer, and a stranger, needing a roof to cover Him or bound in prison" (from John Chrysostom, *Homily 50*, 3-4).

As we finish our regular celebration of this meal receiving these gifts of Christ's very body and blood which include his forgiveness, strength, and union with him and each other, we prepare to once again to move out into the world as "little Christs" to care for our neighbors and invite them to come as well--as in Jesus' parable about the wedding banquet (Luke 14:15-24). We have received mercy, and carry a great treasure--the death and life of Christ--in "jars of clay" (2 Corinthians 4:1,7,10). We are new creations and have been entrusted with the message of reconciliation to God (2 Corinthians 5:17-18), and the Holy Spirit within us enables us to let our light shine before others that they may come to the light as well (Matthew 5:15-16). "Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price" (Isaiah 55:1).

Under his mercy,

Sharon

MISSION SUNDAY - APRIL 10TH REV. TED NATHALANG -Coordinator for LHF in S.E. Asia



The Board for Missions is pleased to announce that Rev. NaThalang of the Lutheran Heritage Foundation will be our special guest for **Mission Sunday on April 10th**. Please plan to join us for Adult Bible Study / Sunday School at 8:45am. where he will speak about his work in Southeast Asia, and for worship at 10:00am. where he will be our guest preacher.

Pornprom (Ted) NaThalang was born in Bangkok, Thailand, into a Buddhist family. When he was still a boy, his stepfather and mother moved to Fort Wayne, Ind., where he was instructed and baptized into the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.

The Word took root in the heart of the young boy. He attended Lutheran elementary and high schools and graduated from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis in 1991.

The Holy Spirit brought Rev. NaThalang full circle when his first call was to serve as LCMS evangelistic missionary to Thailand. During his 11 years as a missionary there, Rev. NaThalang started a Thai Lutheran Church and trained Thai church leaders.

“When I look back at my life, I see how the Lord has worked in planting Lutheran churches in Thailand,” Rev. NaThalang reflects. “In my stepfather, God sent a messenger to bring the Gospel to me and my family. Now I have returned to bring this same message to the Thai people.”

Since 2002, Rev. NaThalang has served as Southeast Asia Coordinator and translator for the Lutheran Heritage Foundation. With its deep-rooted tradition in the Buddhist faith, Southeast Asia would seem the least fertile ground on which to sow the seeds of the Christian faith. But due in part to the efforts of the Lutheran Heritage Foundation, new life in Christ is springing forth in Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia and Burma.

Since joining LHF, Rev. NaThalang has translated *Luther’s Small Catechism with Explanation* and an accompanying workbook into Thai. He has overseen the catechism’s translation into Cambodian, Lao, Vietnamese, Khmer, Bahasa (Indonesian), and Burmese. He also directs projects in Japan, Taiwan and Korea.

The catechism has been instrumental in spreading the Christian faith in Southeast Asia. “If you give a Bible to the new Christian, it can be overwhelming,” said Rev. NaThalang. “Unless you’re trained to read the Bible correctly, you’d be confused. The catechism is the tool to open Scripture.”

Mid-Week Bible Study Resumes: Thursday, April 21st

Join us for bible study at 10:30am. on Thursdays as we resume our study of 1 Corinthians.

Thanks to Ken Zahner for the new coat-racks downstairs.

If you haven’t checked out the new coat-racks downstairs as yet, be sure to do so. Thanks to Ken who built and installed them. Great work and a nice improvement!

The Eternal Light – back by popular demand.

Thanks to Tom Huesers for installing the eternal light in the chancel. This candle requires no oil to burn and gives off no smoke. (Fire seems to have come a long way since it was first invented.) The Eternal Light symbolizes the eternal presence of The Light of the World – Jesus Christ.

Sunday School=in April

- 4/3 The Transfiguration - Matthew 17:1-9
- 4/10 Rev. Ted NaThalang – Mission Sunday
- 4/17 The Good Samaritan - Luke 10:25-37
- 4/24 The Good Shepherd - John 10:1-18

Adult Bible Study in April

- 4/3 Psalm of the Month: Psalm 103 – *“Bless the Lord, O my soul”*
- 4/10 Rev. Ted NaThalang – Mission Sunday
- 4/17 Selected Topic: “The Service of Holy Communion” – Why do we do what we do the way we do it?
- 4/24 Current Events Review: “Elections, Politics, Government” – What’s the church’s say in it all?

Sanctuary Renovation Pledges

The final cost for the sanctuary / bathroom renovation work was \$82,779.64. Our goal is to pay off the \$80,000 mortgage loan for this project in five years. We are pleased to report that to date, 27 three-year pledges totaling \$59,460 have been received.

Board for Missions Minutes – March, 2016

Opening: Pastor Nielsen opened the meeting with a reading of a report on Muslim conversions to Christianity in Denmark.

Missions Budget Review: The budget for Missions Giving was reviewed. There is a balance of Missions Funds to distribute from February of \$1,236. Amanda will put together a report to show recipients of Mission Funding since the Board for Mission’s inception, to be updated regularly.

Mission Sunday is scheduled for April 10th. Rev. Ted NaThalang of Lutheran Heritage Foundation will arrive on Friday, April 8th. He will stay with the Nielsen’s. He will conduct Adult Bible Study and preach on April 10th. Brian will make the arrangements for a Board for Missions dinner for Saturday, April 9th, at The Last Unicorn for 12 people. The Board will host Fellowship after worship on the 10th. Assignments were made. It was decided that the Board would present Rev. NaThalang with a check to Lutheran Heritage Foundation for \$1,000 during the service.

Men’s Clothing Drive for the Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter - Sorting, boxing and delivery will take place on Saturday, March 19th. We have 90 boxes in the storage building. MMHS will let us know if we can bring clothing to shelter or if we must store it until they can take it. *[62 boxes of men’s clothing were sorted, folded, boxed, delivered along with 12 boxes of children’s books.]*

Waterville Area Food Bank - The Director of the Food Bank will be present on Sunday, May 8th and present the work they do at the Adult Bible Study. He will be introduced at worship and the Board will decide on a Mission gift to give at the April meeting.

Garuna Foundation – Dan Callahan was contacted by Rev. Jeff Ehlers from the Gaurna Foundation inquiring as to Dan’s willingness to go to S.E. Asia to work with Lutheran pastors there in the development of their English language skills. After a good discussion, the Board heartily encouraged Dan to pursue this with the assurance that the congregation would be willing to support him. He will report on development at a future meeting.

Lutherans For Life - A member of the congregation recommended the Board consider support for LFL, a recognized service organization of the LCMS that works to further understanding within the church about issues regarding the value and sanctity of life at every stage of development. The Board had a good discussion on how we might become more involved in this issue through this organization. It was decided to dedicate at least one Sunday per year to the issue in bible study and worship. The Board set Sunday, May 15th as a "Life Sunday" and decided that we will present a check for \$500 from Mission Funds to LHF. Dan Callahan will arrange to have educational materials and a handout.

The next meeting of the Board was not set. Amanda will notify.

Thank you from the Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter

2/18/16

Dear Shelter Friends,

Through your generosity, a path has been paved for a brighter, strong future for people experiencing homelessness. You have helped to provide the support necessary for our community's most at-risk citizens to find a place to belong and a way to rebuild their lives. We are genuinely appreciative for your pledge payment of **\$5,500** *towards the development of the 2nd floor of the Shelter*. You are helping us provide hope and healing to hundreds of people each year who are facing an urgent need to improve their quality of life.

This month, the shelter has provided over 1,400 emergency shelter bed nights, over 3,000 hot nutritious meals and provided more than 10,000 hours of educational classes and case management services. Because of your bigheartedness we are able to continue to help our neighbors be successful in obtaining their goals.

With gratitude for all you do,
Betty Palmer
Executive Director



2015 CRAFT FAIR MONEY

THE SIGN

Proceeds \$ 2007.25

Disbursements:

New England District (10%)	\$ 200.00
The Garuna Foundation	360.00
LCMS Human Care, World Relief	100.00
Bethesda Lutheran Communities	100.00
Lutheran Hour Ministries	100.00
Boy's and Girl's Club (kitchen)	100.00
Lutheran World Relief (goat)	100.00
Maine Children's Cancer Program	100.00
Trinity First Lutheran School	100.00
Greater WTVL Area Food Bank	240.00
Women's initiative	100.00
Maine's Children's Home	<u>190.00</u>
	\$1790.00
LWML Operating Expenses	<u>217.25</u>
	\$2007.25

Don't forget those MITES!

In God's Love,

Anna Bisson, Pres.

A boy who was blind sat on the steps of a building with a hat by his feet. He held a sign that said, "I am blind, please help." There only a few coins in the hat.

A man was walking by. He took a few coins from his pocket and dropped them into the hat. He then took the sign, turned it around, and wrote some words. He put the sign back so that everyone who walked by would see the new words.

Soon the hat began to fill up. A lot more people were giving money to the boy.

That afternoon the man who had changed the sign came to see how things were going. The boy recognized his footsteps and asked, "Are you the one who changed my sign this morning? What did you write?"

The man said, "I only wrote the truth. I said what you said but in a different way." I wrote: "Today is a beautiful day, but I cannot see it."

Both signs told people that the boy was blind. But the first sign simply said the boy was blind. The second sign told people that they were so lucky that they were not blind. Should we be surprised that the second sign was more effective?

Moral of the Story: Be thankful for what you have. Be creative. Be innovative. Think differently and positively. When life gives you a 100 reasons to cry, show life that you have 1000 reasons to smile and thank God.

Face your past without regret. Handle your present with confidence. Prepare for the future without fear. Keep your faith in God.

The most beautiful thing is to see a person smiling....And even more beautiful,, is knowing that you (with God's help) are the reason behind it!!!



Worship This Month

April 3, 2016

Second Sunday of Easter

Psalm: 148

First Reading: Acts 5:12-20 (21-32)

Epistle: Revelation 1:4-18

Holy Gospel: John 20:19-31

April 10, 2016

Third Sunday of Easter

Psalm: 30

First Reading: Acts 9:1-22

Epistle: Revelation 5:(1-7)8-14

Holy Gospel: John 21:1-14(15-19)

April 17, 2016

Third Sunday of Easter

Psalm: 23

First Reading: Acts 20:17-35

Epistle: Revelation 7:9-17

Holy Gospel: John 10:22-30

April 24, 2016

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Psalm: 148

First Reading: Acts 11:1-18

Epistle: Revelation 21:1-7

Holy Gospel: John 16:12-22 or John 13:31-

35

BIBLE QUIZ

1. 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

2. What is faith?

- A) Warm fuzzy feelings necessary to avoid depression B) concrete scientific facts with plenty of evidence to back them up C) being 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

3. In Moses' first authorized census of the twelve tribes, which tribe was the largest?

- A) Manasseh B) Dan C) Benjamin D) Judah

4. What was Jesus known to go about doing in every city he entered?

- A) preaching and healing B) pointing out the Pharisees' hypocrisy C) pointing out the people's sins D) giving the rabbinic blessings on the children

5. Who is the only person who lived after the flood and who never died?

- A) Enoch B) Esau C) Elisha D) Elijah

6. Who said this: "Ask and it shall be given you?"

- A) Paul B) Joshua C) Jesus D) Abraham



4/3 Seth Carlson
 4/7 Gail Carrano
 4/28 Glenn Carlson, Jr.
 4/29 Emily Larsen



4/7 Chester & Evelyn Gilbert

Bulletin Bloopers

- For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
- Evening massage – 6 p.m.
- The Pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.
- Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 to 8:30 p.m. Please use the back door.
- Ushers will eat latecomers.
- Church sign: Jesus Saves! Stop & Shop sign across the street: Stop & Shop saves you more!
- Irving Benson and Jessica Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.
- A new loudspeaker system has been installed in the church. It was given by one of our members in honor of his wife.
- The church will host an evening of fine dining, superb entertainment, and gracious hostility.
- Don't let worry kill you off – let the church help.



4/17 Darryll Zahner
 4/19 Elizabeth Larsen
 4/27 Taylan Thomas
 Tiana Thomas
 4/29 Twila Kaska
 4/?? Jim Pryor



4/1 Evelyn Gaug
 Peter Gaug
 4/6 Bonnie Mathieu
 4/7 Darryll Zahner
 4/12 Chris Batson
 4/14 Sharon Klipp
 4/30 Karen Morren
 4/?? Yvonne Batson
 Vesta Holt

Bible Quiz Answers

1. C (Genesis 41:2-6)
2. C (Hebrews 11:1)
3. D (Numbers 1:26-27—74,600)
4. A (Matthew 4:23)
5. D (2 Kings 2:11)
6. C (Matthew 5:1-2, 7:7)

The Lutheran Church of the Resurrection

Calendar of Events

April, 2016

Week of April 3rd

Sunday – 4/3

8:45am. - Adult Bible Study / Sunday School
10:00am. - Worship

Thursday – 4/7

2:30pm. – Inquirers Class

Saturday – 4/9

4:30pm. - Sr. Youth Group – Homeless Shelter Meal

Week of April 10th

Sunday - 4/10

Mission Sunday

8:45am. - Adult Bible Study / Sunday School
10:00am. - Worship

Monday – 4/11

6:00pm. - Board of Elders
7:00pm. - Church Council

Week of April 17th

Sunday - 4/17

8:45am. - Sunday School / Adult Bible Study
10:00am. - Worship

Thursday - 4/21

10:30am. - Mid-Week Bible Study – 1 Corinthians
2:30pm. - Inquirers Class

Week of April 24th

Sunday - 4/24

8:45am. - Sunday School / Adult Bible Study
10:00am. - Worship

Thursday – 4/28

10:30am. - Mid-Week Bible Study – 1 Corinthians
2:30pm. - Inquirers Class

Stewardship for April

	<u>April 3</u>	<u>April 10</u>	<u>April 17</u>	<u>April 24</u>
Acolyte	Mia Fitzpatrick	Emily Lynn Carlson	Andrew Farr	Allison Farr
Comm. Assistant	Brad Fitzpatrick	Steve Love	Chris Batson	Brad Grierson
Ushers	Mike Hein & Brian Watson	John Ayotte & John Gould	Dan Callahan & Tom Huesers	Mark Larsen & Don Pryor
Greeters	Glenn, Jr. & Krista Carlson	Brad & Sasha Fitzpatrick	Julie & Sarah Kohl	Jim & Darryll Zahner
Altar Care	Esther Gould	Lee Anne Larsen	Katie Huesers	Avis Grant
Flowers	Sharon Klipp	The Ouellettes	The Ouellettes	Tina Baker
Fellowship	Sasha Fitzpatrick	Mission Board	Vesta Holt	The Ouellettes

Lutheran Church of the Resurrection
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Waterville, ME 04918

