

RESURRECTION NEWS



APRIL 2017



Pastor's Letter

April, 2017

"What Will Heaven Be Like?"

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

What do you think about heaven? How do you imagine it? If you're an avid golfer who never seems to have enough time to play as much golf as you'd like you might imagine that heaven is going to be the perfect golf course, the perfect swing and all eternity to play that perfect round that never ends.

But suppose that your experience in this world is not so rosy or innocent as 'never enough time to play more.' Suppose that among all of the things that make up the experience of your life, the cumulative total is far more dark and painful than pleasant and sunny. Despite whatever pleasant and good things there might have been, life is primarily scarred by disappointment, or abuse, or betrayal, or injustice. Now what do you think about heaven? What do you hope it will be like?

Actually, when you read what the Scriptures say about heaven, there is almost nothing addressed to the person whose life was carefree and prosperous. (*In fact, lots of stern warnings for the carefree and prosperous.*) It is almost unanimously directed to the relief of those whose life has been marked by unresolved suffering, pain, injustice, oppression and grief. **"He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."** (Revelation 21:4)

It's that little phrase, **"the former things have passed away"** that I'd like to hone in on. How do all of the tears, death, mourning, crying, and pain, 'pass away'? How does it happen that this sinful and corrupt old world, filled with injustice and oppression that gives off its toxic waste of suffering and grief, "pass away" so that 'new heaven and the new earth,' 'the home of righteousness' appears? **"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more."** (Revelation 21:1)

The answer is, through the cross of Jesus Christ - and not apart from it. God is outraged at the injustice and oppression and suffering that those who are unable to defend themselves are forced to endure. (*THAT'S US!*) The God of peace is also the God of justice who warns the **"brood of vipers to flee from the wrath to come."** (Matthew 3:7) (*THAT'S ALSO US!*)

It is God Himself who has intervened in this unjust and corrupt world in the most surprising and unimaginable way. He became one of the helpless ones against Whom the cumulative measure of this world's injustice and oppression and suffering was directed. He entered into complete solidarity with all who are helpless against all who oppress. **"So also the chief priests with the scribes mocked him to one another, saying, "He saved others; He cannot save himself."** (Mark 15:31)

Just as the holy God condemns the sin of the world, so in His indescribable grace, He has placed Himself under His own condemnation - both for the oppressed AND for the oppressor! (*FOR US IN BOTH CASES!*) Only through the cross of Christ do both victim and victimizer have the realistic hope of heaven.

Even unbelievers believe that when they die they go to heaven, even though they have no idea as to how or why - except that the cross of Jesus Christ has nothing to do with it. It's just the way it works for everyone who is basically a good person.

But when the believer hopes for heaven, however we imagine it, our hope is based entirely on the truth that God has reconciled all things to Himself through the cross of His beloved Son. Golf and family reunions and perfect weather are all overshadowed by the deepest, most profound longing of the heart that in heaven, we will be able to perfectly thank and praise our gracious Lord for His amazing grace.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Nielsen

Notes from your Deaconess

Dear Brothers and Sisters of LCR,

This season of Lent which we have observed all through March and now continues into April includes a focus on prayer as we prepare for the days of Holy week. In our journey through the Divine Service we stop next at the **Salutation** and **Collect of the Day**, the last elements within the entrance rite for the Service of the Word.

The Salutation, an *ordinary* part of the service (here and just preceding the Service of the Sacrament), is a kind of prayer greeting exchange as we remind or state to each other that the Lord is present with us. (*"The Lord be with you. And also with you."* [or *"And with your spirit."*]) We find these very phrases in the book of Ruth when Boaz went to speak with his reapers (2:4). We also find the angel Gabriel greeting Mary this way (Luke 1:28), and Jesus promised his disciples "And behold, I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20). Paul concluded his second letter to Timothy with such a greeting (2 Timothy 4:22).

The Collect of the Day, which follows the Salutation, is a *proper* prayer, in that it changes from Sunday to Sunday and with the seasons. Feast Days also have their own collects. These prayers *collect* the thoughts of the people into a unified prayer. The collect has a structure similar to classic Jewish prayers. It begins with an address or name for God, usually continues with a statement or description of God's character or activity, goes on to make a specific request or appeal, and then concludes in the name of our triune God. Many of the prayers we use were written centuries ago, and we benefit from the thoughtful Biblically based composition of them. The prayer of believers in the early Jerusalem church (Acts 4:24-30) follows this form, as does the Lord's Prayer. I usually use the Collect of the Day for a given Sunday throughout the following week during my own prayer time.

Our Old Testament lectionary readings for Lent bring us to the end of Genesis, with the Hebrew people in Egypt, and then we begin Exodus. The gospel of Mark concludes just as we come to Holy Week. The Exodus readings for that week begin with accounts of the plagues which befell the Egyptians. On Maundy Thursday, we read from Exodus 12 about the Passover, which Jesus celebrated when he instituted the Lord's Supper, while at the same time preparing to die as our Passover lamb. We will also begin to read the letter to the Hebrews in the New Testament that week, which shows how Jesus is our high priest before the Lord God as well, offering himself as the final and complete sacrificial lamb for our sin. Easter Sunday's assigned reading in Exodus gives the account of the people crossing the Red Sea, moving from death and slavery to life. When we complete the book of Hebrews at the end of Easter week, we will move to the gospel of Luke and Jesus' ministry.

I will be continuing to hold Saturday morning Bible studies for women on the second (4/8) and fourth (4/22) Saturdays of this month. We meet at 8:30 or so in a downstairs classroom and finish by 10am.

As we finish Lent and move toward and through Easter season “May the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.” (Hebrews 13:20-21)

Under his mercy,
Sharon M. Conover

Holy Week / Easter Worship

- **Maundy Thursday - April 13th** - Services at Noon and 7:00pm.
- **Good Friday - April 14th** - Services at Noon and 7:00pm.
- **Easter Sunday Worship - April 16th** - Worship begins at 10:00am.
Easter Breakfast, served from 8:30am. – 9:30am. (*Men do the serving and clean up. See Seth Carlson*)

Easter Lilies: Deadline is April 9th

Please use the form attached to the newsletter to order an Easter Lily for the chancel. All plants may be taken home after the service on Easter. Please make all checks payable to: LCR and note “Lily.” Lilies will be \$12 each.

A FERVENT PLEA TO OBSERVE HOLY WEEK!

I strongly encourage you to devote the time to attend the Maundy Thursday AND Good Friday AND Easter services. These three services together form a seamless unity of the one, true faith. On Maundy Thursday, Christ binds Himself to us in the Holy Supper. Bound to Him by the Supper, we are crucified with Christ on Good Friday and raised with Him on Easter Sunday. Omission any of these three, crucial aspects of Holy Week is bound to produce an incomplete celebration of Easter— an Easter without the cross (Good Friday) or a crucifixion and resurrection that lacks the physical, bodily connection to Christ the crucified and risen Lord (Maundy Thursday). “Come, let us celebrate the Paschal Feast in sincerity and truth” *Pastor Nielsen*

EASTER EVANGELISM

The celebration of Christ’s victory over Satan and death on Easter is a PRIME opportunity for inviting someone who does not attend church to come to worship with us. In fact, most studies say that most people who never attend church and only marginally believe in God and know little about Jesus Christ would actually be open to an invitation to attend worship on Easter as long as there was going to be someone there that they knew. Whom will you invite to come?

Mid-Week Bible Study Resumes: Thursday, April 20th - 10:30am.

Join us for bible study at 10:30am. on Thursdays as we resume our study of 2 Corinthians.

Sunday School in April

- 4/2 Peter Denies Jesus - Mark 14:26-72
- 4/9 The Passion of Christ - Matthew 27:11-66
- 4/16 The Resurrection of Jesus - Matthew 28:1-10
- 4/23 The Empty Tomb - John 20:1-18
- 4/30 Jesus Appears on the Emmaus Road - Luke 24:13-35

Adult Bible Study in April

- 4/2 Psalm of the Month: Psalm 130 - "My soul waits for the Lord"
4/9 Survey of Holy Week: Palm Sunday to Good Friday, prepare for the passion of our Lord.
4/16 Easter Sunday - Easter Breakfast is served from 8:30am.- 9:30am.
4/23 Book of the Bible Survey - Nehemiah - A great example of godly leadership.
4/30 Contemporary Issue: "Spiritual Friendship" - Am I gay because I am not attracted to the opposite sex?

The "Reformation 500" Committee is hard at work!

Be sure to circle your calendars NOW to set aside Sunday, October 29th for a gala celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. Big plans are being made for a community-wide celebration. See Dan Callahan for more information and how you can get involved.

Thank You from Seminarian Grant Sorenson

To my Brothers and Sisters in Christ at Lutheran Church of the Resurrection,
Thank you for your continued prayers and support. We cannot thank you enough for all you have done. We are deeply honored and grateful! God has provided abundantly through you! Your support has helped me to focus on my studies, as I prepare for the Holy Ministry. Thank You!

I am now in my last quarter of my first year, with just 8 weeks left. I am currently taking Pentateuch 2, Lutheran Confessions 2, Pastoral Theology, Church History 3, and Homiletics 1. I have learned so much in the last 6 months and yet look forward to learning so much more in my years remaining here. This has been made possible thanks to your support! Thank you!

God's richest blessings in this Lenten season as we draw near to the cross and our Risen Savior on Easter! Thank you again!

Grant and Kim Sorenson

Thank you - Rev. St.Onge

Dear Friends and Fellow Saints in Waterville,

We can't thank you enough for inviting us to share our work with you and for taking time to plan such lovely fellowship. We can't express how grateful we were to receive such a warm reception. We felt so at home with all of you! You don't always know when and where the Lord will draw His people together and we were overjoyed to find such a wonderful, faithful congregation in the heart of Maine.

We truly appreciate your financial partnership (\$1,000) and hope you will stay connected with our work through our newsletters and website. Our work is now your work as we team up and share Christ and now we can also pray for you and the work that you are doing in Waterville. We will reiterate our invitation for you to join us in Montreal should you ever plan a weekend across the border. We would love to show you in person, what your prayers and tithes are supporting!

Thank you again for allowing us to connect with you and we pray God's continued blessings on your congregation and the individuals therein. May God equip you for every good deed.

Your missionaries,

Pastor, Deborah, Oliva and Sophia St.Onge



Monthly Worship

April 2, 2017

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Psalm: 130

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Epistle: Romans 8:1-11

Holy Gospel: John 11:1-45(46-53) or John 11:17-27, 38-53

April 9, 2017

Palm Sunday

Psalm: 118:19-29 or 31:9-16

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

Epistle: Philippians 2:5-11

Holy Gospel: John 12:12-19 and Matthew 26:1-27:66 or Matthew 27:11-66 or John 12:20-43

April 16, 2017

Resurrection of Our Lord

Psalm: 16

First Reading: Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6

Epistle: Colossians 3:1-4

Holy Gospel: Matthew 28:1-10

April 23, 2017

Second Sunday of Easter

Psalm: 148

First Reading: Acts 5:29-42

Epistle: 1 Peter 1:3-9

Holy Gospel: John 20:19-31

April 30, 2017

Third Sunday of Easter

Psalm: 116:1-14

First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Epistle: 1 Peter 1:17-25

Holy Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

BIBLE QUIZ

1. Who was the evil queen who ruled Judah for seven years?

A) Queen Athaliah B) Queen Jezebel C) Queen Esther D) Queen Vashti

2. Which law of physics did God defy when called Moses to lead His people?

A) a flock of sheep starting mooing like cows B) a desert bush was on fire but did not burn up C) the skies turned bright yellow instead of blue D) the waters parted to make a dry path

3. Who was the baby that leaped inside his mother's womb at the sound of Mary's voice?

A) Jesus B) James C) John the Baptist D) Joseph

4. What was the relationship between James and John?

A) they were cousins B) they were brothers C) they were father and son D) they were uncle and nephew

5. When should we obey our bosses at work?

A) when they are looking B) when they are worth our time C) never if they are untrustworthy D) always, whether they deserve it or not

6. Who said this: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men"?

A) Levites B) prophets C) Jesus D) angels



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



BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

4/17 Darryll Zahner
 4/19 Elizabeth Larsen
 4/27 Taylan Thomas.
 Tiana Thomas.
 4/29 Twila Kaska
 4/?? Chester Gilbert
 Cianan Morris



4/7 Chester & Evelyn Gilbert

Confirmation Anniversaries

4/2 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
 Dottie Evertsen
 Vesta Holt

The Haircut

A teenage boy had just passed his driving test and inquired of his father as to when they could discuss his use of the car.

His father said he'd make a deal with his son, "You bring your grades up from a C to a B average, study your Bible a little and get your hair cut. Then we'll talk about the car."

The boy thought about that for a moment, decided he'd settle for the offer and they agreed on it.

After about six weeks his father said, "Son, you've brought grades up and I've observed that you have been studying your Bible, but I'm disappointed you haven't had your hair cut,"

The boy said, "You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that, and I've noticed in my studies of the bible that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair, and there's even strong evidence that Jesus had long hair,"

Dad's reply: "Did you also notice that they all walked everywhere they went?"

Bible Quiz Answers

1. A (2 Kings 11:1-3)
2. B (Exodus 3:1-2)
3. C (Luke 1:41, 44,60; 3:2-3)
4. B (Mark 3:17)
5. D (Ephesians 6:5-6)
6. D (Luke 2:13-14)

The Lutheran Church of the Resurrection

Calendar of Events

April, 2017

Week of April 2nd

Sunday - 4/2 8:45am. Sunday School / Adult Bible Study
 10:00am. Worship

Wednesday - 4/5 Noon Mid-Week Lent Service
 7:00pm. Mid-Week Lent Service

Saturday - 4/8 8:30am. Deaconesses Women's Bible Study

Week of April 9th

Sunday - 4/9 8:45am. Sunday School / Adult Bible Study
 10:00am. Worship - Palm Sunday

Thursday - 4/13 Noon Maundy Thursday Service
 7:00pm. Maundy Thursday Service

Friday - 4/14 Noon Good Friday Service
 7:00pm. Good Friday Service

Week of April 16th

Sunday - 4/16 8:30am. Easter Breakfast
 10:00am. Worship - Easter Sunday

Thursday - 4/20 10:30am. Mid-Week Bible Study

Saturday - 4/22 8:30am. Deaconesses Women's Bible Study

Week of April 23rd

Sunday - 4/23 8:45am. Sunday School / Adult Bible Study
 10:00am. Worship

Thursday - 4/27 10:30am. Mid-Week Bible Study

Week of April 30th

Sunday - 4/30 8:45am. Sunday School / Adult Bible Study
 10:00am. Worship - Confirmation

Thursday - 5/4 10:30am. Mid-Week Bible Study

April Stewardship

	<u>April 2</u>	<u>April 9</u> <i>Palm Sunday</i>	<u>April 13</u> <i>Maundy Thurs.</i>	<u>April 16</u> <i>Easter</i>	<u>April 23</u>	<u>April 30</u>
Acolyte	Callum Goldsmith	Emily Lynn Carlson	-----	Caden Fitzpatrick	Mia Fitzpatrick	Allison Farr
Comm. Assistant	Dan Callahan	Glenn Carlson	Glenn Carlson <i>(Noon)</i> Mark Larsen <i>(Evening)</i>	Tom Huesers	Brad Fitzpatrick	Mike Hein
Ushers	Chris Batson & John Ayotte	Glenn Carlson, Jr. & Seth Carlson	Mike Hein & Chris Batson	Moe Cote & Steve Love	John Gould & Tom Huesers	Bill Jahnke & Dan Callahan
Greeters	Jim & Darryll Zahner	Peter & Lois Doran	Brian & Andrea Watson	Jared & Amanda Goldsmith	Avis Grant & Pat Kablitz	Glenn, Jr. & Krista Carlson
Altar Care	Avis Grant	Deb Nielsen	Sharon Conover	Amanda Goldsmith	Amy Ouellette	Kitty Carlson
Flowers	-----	-----	-----	Sharon Klipp	Sharon Klipp	Mo & Becky Cote
Fellowship	Amy Ouellette	Sharon Klipp	-----	Easter Breakfast	OPEN	OPEN