

RESURRECTION NEWS



DECEMBER 2017



Pastor's Letter

December, 2017

"Prepare the Way of the Lord"

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The church has set aside four weeks in its calendar every year to focus our attention on the importance of preparation for what it calls, "That Day." It's this season called Advent. Since the first advent of our Lord has already happened in the little town of Bethlehem, our present preparation is for "that day" when Jesus comes again. That is why in two of these four weeks in Advent, our attention is directed to John the Baptist whose message is, "Prepare the way of the Lord."

He is called John the Baptist but he could have also been called John the Preparer. John was well prepared to be a preparer. 1,200 years before he was born, Isaiah the prophet was preparing us for John. **"A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord.'"** (Is.40:3) 600 years later it was the prophet Malachi who prepared the way of the Preparer saying, **"I will send my messenger before me, who will prepare the way before me."** (Mal.3:1). Just a few months before his birth, the angel of the Lord had said to John's father Zechariah, **"he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah - to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."** (Luke 1:17). John was prepared to prepare the people of God for the coming of Christ.

Now with all that preparation for John the Preparer you'd think that people would have been a more prepared for him than they were. A delegation of religious leaders came out to interview John and their question was, **"Who are you?" "Are you Elijah?" "Are you a prophet?" "Tell us who you are?"** And John replied, "You should be better prepared for me than that! I'm the one that Isaiah wrote about 1,200 years ago when he said, **"A voice of one calling in the desert, make straight the way for the Lord."** (John 1:19-23)

Maybe it was John's way of preparing people for the Christ's coming that they were unprepared for. It was the custom of the day that when an important dignitary was to visit a city or village, everyone would prepare for his visit by getting everything in tip-top shape so it looked super-duper.

In John's day, when Caesar would visit his kingdom, he demanded that the roads be made nice and smooth because his carriage didn't have the kind of shock absorbers that we have in our carriages today. Before he came, the valleys had to be filled in and made level. The rough places smoothed out and the high places graded down.

But when John prepares people for Christ's coming he says that Christ will be the one who, when he comes, will raise up every valley, make low every mountain, and make the rough ground and rugged places a smooth plain. (Luke 3:5 / Isaiah 40:3). To be prepared for Christ's second coming is not about what we must do. It's about what we must be prepared for Him to do to us. And so, John directs us to be prepared by hauling out all of the valleys, hills, mountains, and rough places in our lives for Christ to make level and smooth. You and I don't need to get our lives together so Christ will come. Christ comes to get our lives together. Therefore, the appropriate preparation for His coming is repentance.

John's call from the desert is as relevant today as it was 2,000 years ago. **"Repent for the forgiveness of sins."** To be prepared **through** repentance is to be prepared **for** forgiveness. And to be prepared for forgiveness is to be prepared for exactly what Christ comes to give. So we find that the voice of one crying in the wilderness to be a thrilling voice because John is proclaiming that the One so long expected, comes down from heaven with pardon and peace.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Nielsen

Notes from your Deaconess

December, 2017

Dear brothers and sisters of LCR,

Welcome to a new church year! This month's stop in the Service of the Sacrament brings us to a time of prayer. Three of the five settings in our service book place the Prayer of Thanksgiving just after the singing of the Sanctus ("Holy, holy, holy"). One setting moves right to the Lord's Prayer at this point. Setting Five of the Divine Service actually places the Sanctus after the Lord's Prayer and Words of Institution! Clearly there have been some variations on the order of these prayers and proclamations in the liturgy used through the centuries.

I'd like to address the *Lord's Prayer* this month, and follow with the Eucharistic (Thanksgiving) Prayer next time. Within the Divine Service, this prayer, given to the disciples by Jesus (see Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:2-4), has always been used only during the Sacrament of the Altar. It belongs to baptized Christians, and catechumens learned to pray it shortly before their baptism. Baptized into new life in his body, Jesus grants us the privilege of calling God our Father, as He does. He has given us the very words we can and do use to address the Father. The first part of the prayer properly orients us toward our Father, while the second part encompasses all we need from our Father. He gives all those things for which beg—daily bread, forgiveness, strength to resist temptation, and deliverance from evil—within the Lord's Supper, but also in other concrete ways throughout our days.

If you take a look at Luther's Small Catechism in the Daily Prayers section and count how many times a day Martin Luther recommended saying the Lord's Prayer, you might be surprised at the answer. With attendance at a Divine Service on a given day, you would say it yet once more. Clearly these words help us when we don't know what else to say to our Lord. The meaning of the words also comes to dwell in us and hopefully shapes our prayers at all times.

We began to read the prophet Isaiah in our daily lectionary readings a few days ago. This hope-filled book contains a great many passages which apply to Jesus. They both comfort and admonish the readers to prepare for his coming—in the flesh as our redeemer, and at the end as judge to right all wrongs. The New Testament readings include the letters of Peter, John, and Jude as well as more of the Revelation to John. These all address believers with warnings to be on guard against false teaching, assurance of the Lord's victory over sin and death, and the hope we have as a church together awaiting the new heaven and earth. From Christmas Day until the end of December we will read Matthew's and Luke's accounts related to the Nativity.

I would like to hold a women's Bible study at 8:45 or so on Saturday, December 9 (or 16 if I hear from several people that that day would work for them). The Advent weeks speed along and fill up with so many activities, but spending time with sisters together in God's Word can be refreshing and reviving, so I hope a few might be able to join me.

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined...For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace"
(Isaiah 9:2,6).

Under his mercy,
Sharon M. Conover

Annual Meeting of the Congregation: Sunday, December 10th – After Worship. The annual meeting of the congregation is an important time for the congregation to review its life together in 2017 and plans for 2018. A free Pizza Party will get things kicked off. Please plan to join us for the meeting.

Christmas Worship Schedule:

- 12/24 – No Sunday School and Adult Bible Study
Forth Sunday in Advent: Morning Prayer – (no Communion) - 10:00am.
Christmas Eve: Candlelight Lessons and Carols - 7:00pm.
- 12/25 – **Christmas Day:** Divine Service - 10:00am.
- 12/31 – **Sunday School / Adult Bible Study** - 8:45am.
Sunday after Christmas: Worship - 10:00am.

Stewardship Pledges for 2018 – Sunday, December 17th.

You will be receiving a 2018 Stewardship packet during the week of December 4th. Please give prayerful consideration to your pledge for the work of the Lord through this congregation in 2018 and beyond. We will gather our pledges and present them to the Lord for His blessing during worship on Sunday, December 17th.

Adult Bible Study - Sunday Mornings: 8:45am.

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|-------------|---|
| December 3 | "Psalm of the Month" - Psalm 80 - "Restore us, O God; let your face shine..." |
| December 10 | "Exploring Genesis with Luther: Genesis 3 - The Fall" |
| December 17 | "New Testament Review: Ephesians" – St. Paul's passionate letter to the baptized to live as the children of God that they are. |
| December 24 | <i>No Adult Bible Study – Worship at 10:00am.</i> |

Sunday School - Sunday Mornings: 8:45am.

| | |
|-------------|--|
| December 3 | "God Sends the Holy Spirit" - Acts 2:1-21 |
| December 10 | "Peter and John Heal the Lame Man" - Acts 3 |
| December 17 | "God's Servant Stephen" - Acts 6-7 |
| December 24 | <i>No Sunday School – Worship at 10:00am.</i> |

Christmas Poinsettias:

Every year, we grace the chancel with poinsettias during the Christmas season. If you would like to purchase a poinsettia, please include \$12 per plant with your offering envelope marked – "flowers." **The deadline to order is December 10th.** You may also provide your own plant for the chancel. Please be sure to indicate how you would like the announcement to read:

From: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

To The Glory of God _____

Thank You from Seminarian – Grant Sorensen

To my Brothers and Sisters in Christ at Lutheran Church of the Resurrection,

I wanted to express my deepest gratitude for your support and prayers. I am honored and grateful! You are an answer to all of our prayers. It is because of your continued support that I have been able to not overburden myself with student debt. I am continually thankful! Thank you!

As for me, I just finished my first quarter of my second year. I am on a two week break for Thanksgiving, then will be turning my attention to my next classes. My upcoming classes include Liturgics II, Dogmatics III, Pauline Epistles, and Theologia I: Baptism. I look forward to all that God has in store for me in the coming years.

Thank you, again! God's richest blessings!

In Christ,

Grant & Kim Sorenson

Cancellations Due To Weather:

If the weather is bad, we may cancel Sunday School. Please call the church office for notification of cancellation. A special announcement will be posted on the answering machine by 6:30am. The worship service will not be canceled for weather. Always use your best judgment as to what is safe.

Church Council Meeting Minutes - October 18, 2017

In attendance: Mark Larsen, Sharon Conover, Brian Watson, Dan Callahan, Michelle Hein, Amanda Goldsmith, Pat Kablitz

Meeting opened at 7:04 pm with word of prayer led by Sharon Conover.

Previous meeting minutes: Passed unanimously

Report of the Pastor: No report available

Report of the Deaconess: Sharon reported that she attended the zone rally for LWML in Gorham; led 1 bible study; led Thursday morning Bible Study; continues to meet for prayer with a few women and also to coordinate the choir.

Report of the Treasurer: Brian reaffirmed a need to have the LCEF savings account balance equal to the dedicated fund balance. He also pointed out that we are settling back into a comfortable position with respect to offerings coming in and expenses going out. Mark questioned the YTD snow removal figure of \$1680; January, February and March of 2016 were particularly snowy. Sharon reported that Armand Mathieu had made a gift via the LWML. Brian will ask Pastor to coordinate with Deb on how best to use this gift, possibly for the new altar candles. Motion to accept, seconded, passed unanimously.

Report from the Board for Missions: Pat expressed a concern with the timeline of reviewing the Missions Giving Guidelines, especially if the new revisions need to be approved by the Council before being submitted to the congregation at the annual meeting. Michelle doesn't believe that there will be any significant changes, and the primary motivation is to have the congregation reaffirm their commitment to the guidelines. Michelle also suggested that any changes to the document could be highlighted and sent to the council via email.

Michelle explained the Board's sponsorship of 15 Thanksgiving meal boxes to be given to families at MMHS. Brian reported that turkeys for families at MMHS are taken care of by Huhtamaki and Johnny's Selected Seeds; the Board will coordinate a food drive within the church to collect the balance of the meal.

Motion made to continue sponsorship of 2 Garuna Foundation students at \$350 each. Passed unanimously.

Motion made to spend up to \$300 to fund the Thanksgiving meal boxes for MMHS, with the understanding that the bulk will come from donations from Sunday School and Adult Bible Study. Passed unanimously.

Report of the Elders: The Men's Retreat was a good time - good weather, fun, interesting Bible Study on Martin Luther. Men's Breakfast will be held 2nd Saturday in January, with the plan to have these quarterly. Process is underway for Hope to call Pastor to serve them; Hope is waiting to hear from the District for further instruction.

Report of the Trustees: The light out on the parking lot has been fixed and now runs on a timer via an app on Tom Huesers phone. Brian requested that the batteries in the thermostats be checked before it gets too cold. The boiler shut down over Columbus Day weekend but has since been repaired. Mark started trimming some of the overgrowth of trees on the property. There have been some families living down by the stream; Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter has been contacted and they have social workers and mental health professionals attempting to make contact with the families and will continue and deal with the situation as necessary.

Report of the Reformation 500 Committee: Pastor's talk will be shortened so no games for the children will be provided. There will be no beer. Becky will be in charge of the kitchen during the meal; LeeAnne will coordinate the youth for serving the meal; Katie has been instrumental in purchasing the paper good items needed for the meal and will also take care of decorations. Set up will take place at 2 pm on Saturday the 28th. Fred and Amy are donating tables and chairs - Mark and Dan will pick them up on that Saturday. Oompa band is affiliated with the Shriners; there is no charge but they do encourage donations to the Shriners Hospital. Motion made to give \$300 gift to the Shriners plus \$30 per vehicle for mileage for the Oompah band members. Passed unanimously.

New Business: Congregational Meeting will be held on 12/10/2017, snow date of 12/17. The Budget Committee will need to review Pastor's compensation package. If Chris Batson is willing to chair it again, that would be preferable, with the same committee members as last year. Brian suggested that the budget be presented to the council at the November meeting. He will contact Chris regarding this. Pat Kablitz will be stepping down as Finance Secretary. Pat is willing to remain as Finance Secretary until someone else steps up. Pastor was also going to think about potential candidates. The nominating committee will consist of Brian and Dan.

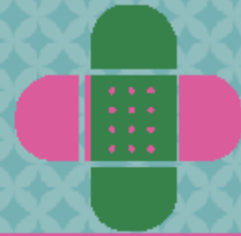
Michelle asked if the committee reports could be provided to the congregation before the annual meeting. If each committee was willing to provide their reports to Brian by December 1st he will combine into a document for email distribution. LWML and Sunday School will also give updates. Brian will contact for their reports.

Brian will be traveling for work in the next few months so upcoming council meeting dates may need to be flexible

Old Business: There was no old business.

Next meeting: November 15th, 7:00 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:09 pm with the recitation of The Lord's Prayer.



DONATE FUN BAND AIDS

LATEX FREE PLEASE

Band Aids for Kids

Proceeds Benefit Maine Children's Cancer Program

Accepting Donations
through Sunday,
December 31, 2017

Sponsored by the Board for Missions
Lutheran Church of the Resurrection
Waterville, Maine





Monthly Worship

December 3, 2017

First Sunday in Advent

Psalm: 80:1-7

First Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Holy Gospel: Mark 11:1-10 or Mark 13:24-37

December 10, 2017

Second Sunday in Advent

Psalm: 85

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

Epistle: 2 Peter 3:8-13

Holy Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

December 17, 2017

Third Sunday in Advent

Psalm: 126

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Holy Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 24, 2017

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Psalm: 89:1-6 (19-29)

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Epistle: Romans 16:25-27

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

December 31, 2017

First Sunday after Christmas

Psalm: 111

First Reading: Isaiah 61:10—62:3

Epistle: Galatians 4:4-7

Holy Gospel: Luke 2:22-30

BIBLE QUIZ

1. According to the Law, which of the following would be considered clean?

- A) rodents like weasels, ferrets, mice and moles B) reptiles like lizards, geckos, tortoises, and chameleons C) they are all considered clean D) none of them are considered clean

2. Who were the two men who buried Jesus?

- A) Peter and John B) Annas and Caiaphas C) Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus D) Judas and Matthew

3. What was put on the stone that covered Jesus' burial spot?

- A) a mini cross B) a banner C) a seal D) a fish symbol

4. As the angel helped Peter escape from prison, how did the city gate open?

- A) by itself B) by a sleepwalking guard C) by the angel D) by an earthquake

5. What law of physics did God defy when Joshua and the Israelites battled against the Amorites?

- A) there was a midday eclipse B) it thundered when there were no clouds in the sky C) it snowed on the arid battlefield D) the sun stood still for one day

6. Who said this: "Eat, drink, and be merry"?

- A) David, after God helped them win a fierce battle B) the prostitute in a charge against her male "suitor" C) the publican/tax collector in a drunken state D) Jesus in a parable describing a rich fool



12/11 Robert Sieber
 12/12 Maira Goldsmith
 12/13 Sharon Conover
 Allison Farr
 12/14 Evelyn Gaug
 12/15 Ethan Carlson
 12/23 Dan Callahan
 12/25 Evelyn Gilbert
 12/27 Natalie Crowley
 12/30 Matthew Esculano



BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

12/21 Evan Farr
 Hayley Farr
 12/25 Dottie Evertsen



12/16 Fernando & Mari Gouvea
 12/20 Peter & Lois Doran
 12/27 Dan & Sharon Callahan



Confirmation Anniversaries

12/17 Esther Gould
 John Gould
 12/19 Richard Dostie
 12/31 Vary Fischer



The Annual LWML Christmas Party (ALL LCR women are invited)

WHERE: Joseph's Fireside Steak House
 River Road, Waterville

DATE: Saturday, December 16

TIME: 11:00 AM

PLEASE BRING: Grab Bag Gift
 (\$10 Value)

R.S.V.P.: Deb Nielsen (by Dec. 10)

SEE YA'LL THERE!

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Some Definitions of Christmas

-----Christmas is peace in a world where people have been alienated from each other by hatred and jealousy.

-----Christmas is the joy of brotherhood, of giving, of sharing, of lifting, of caring, and of being what Christ wants us to be.

-----Christmas is forgiveness, the time for fresh beginnings, the time to right the wrongs of yesterday.

-----Christmas is surrender of one's life to Christ in renewed dedication, making Christ the Lord of our lives.

Bible Quiz Answers

1. D (Leviticus 11:29-30)
2. C (John 19: 38-39)
3. C (Matthew 27:66)
4. A (Acts 12:10)
5. D (Joshua 10:13)
6. D (Luke 12:16-19)

The Daily Lectionary

A guide to help you be in the Word daily

12/1 Isaiah 7:10-8:8 / 1 Peter 3:1-22
12/2 Isaiah 8:9-9:7 / 1 Peter 4:1-19
12/3 Isaiah 9:8-10:11 / 1 Peter 5:1-14
12/4 Isaiah 10:12-27, 33-34 / 2 Peter 1:1-21
12/5 Isaiah 11:1-12:6 / 2 Peter 2:1-22
12/6 Isaiah 14:1-23 / 2 Peter 3:1-18
12/7 Isaiah 24:1-13 / 1 John 1:1-2:14
12/8 Isaiah 24:14-25:12 / 1 John 2:15-29
12/9 Isaiah 26:1-19 / 1 John 3:1-24
12/10 Isaiah 26:20-27:13 / 1 John 4:1-21
12/11 Isaiah 28:14-29 / 1 John 5:1-21
12/12 Isaiah 29:1-14 / Jude 1-25
12/13 Isaiah 29:15-30:14 / Revelation 1:1-20
12/14 Isaiah 30:15-26 / Revelation 2:1-29
12/15 Isaiah 30:27-31:9 / Revelation 3:1-22
12/16 Isaiah 32:1-20 / Revelation 4:1-11
12/17 Isaiah 33:1-24 / Revelation 5:1-14
12/18 Isaiah 34:1-2,8-35:10 / Revelation 6:1-17
12/19 Isaiah 40:1-17 / Revelation 7:1-17
12/20 Isaiah 40:18-41:10 / Revelation 8:1-13
12/21 Isaiah 42:1-25 / Revelation 9:1-12
12/22 Isaiah 43:1-24 / Revelation 9:13-10:11
12/23 Isaiah 43:25-44:20 / Revelation 11:1-19
12/24 Isaiah 44:21-45:13, 20-25 / Revelation 12:1-17
12/25 Isaiah 49:1-18 / Matthew 1:1-17
12/26 Isaiah 49:22-26; 50:4-51:8, 12-16 / Matthew 1:18-25
12/27 Isaiah 51:17-52:12 / Matthew 2:1-12
12/28 Isaiah 52:13-54:10 / Matthew 2:13-23
12/29 Isaiah 55:1-13 / Luke 1:1-25
12/30 Isaiah 58:1-59:3,14-21 / Luke 1:26-38
12/31 Isaiah 60:1-22 / Luke 1:39-56
(Daily lectionary readings taken from LSB #299-304)

Some helpful habits for home devotions:

- *Do one reading in the morning and the other in the evening.*
- *Keep a journal or make a mental note of one thought that you would like to remember from this reading.*
- *Read and discuss the daily reading with a family member or friend.*
- *Choose one verse to commit to memory, reciting it through the day.*
- *Speak to God in prayer about something from the reading that impressed or confused you in this reading.*
- *If you miss a day or two (or three) and fall behind, don't worry and don't quit! Either set aside some time to catch up or skip those readings and move on.*
- *If you're using another reading schedule or guide, stick with it. The important thing is to be in the Word daily.*

December Stewardship

| | <u>Dec. 3</u> | <u>Dec. 10</u> | <u>Dec. 17</u> | <u>12/24 am.</u> | <u>12/24 pm.</u> | <u>Dec. 25</u> | <u>Dec. 31</u> |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| <u>Acolyte</u> | Caden Fitzpatrick | Andrew Farr | Allison Farr | Mia Fitzpatrick | Allison Farr | ----- | Emily-Lynn Carlson |
| <u>Comm. Assistant</u> | Dan Callahan | Glenn Carlson | Mike Hein | | ----- | Chris Batson | Brad Fitzpatrick |
| <u>Ushers</u> | Brian Watson & Chris Batson | Dan Callahan & Moe Cote | John Gould & John Ayotte | Bill Jahnke & Glenn Carlson, Jr. | Chris Batson & Tom Huesers | John Ayotte & Glenn Carlson | Mike Hein & Steve Love |
| <u>Greeters</u> | Jim & Darryll Zahner | Brian & Andrea Watson | Pat Kablitz & Steve Love | Mike & Michelle Hein | Jared & Amanda Goldsmith | Chris & Yvonne Batson | Peter & Lois Doran |
| <u>Altar Care</u> | Andrea Watson | Esther Gould | LeeAnne Larsen | Katie Huesers | Katie Huesers | Avis Grant | Deb Nielsen |
| <u>Flowers</u> | Gail Carrano | Avis Grant | Avis Grant | Sharon Klipp | Sharon Klipp | Sharon Klipp | Sharon Klipp |
| <u>Fellowship</u> | LWML | Annual Meeting | Fischer, Love, & Rowe | OPEN | ----- | ----- | OPEN |