

RESURRECTION NEWS



DECEMBER 2018



Pastor's Letter
December, 2018
The Visitation of Our God

*"Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people."
(Zechariah – Father of John the Baptist) Luke 1:67*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

During this season of Advent and the coming season of Christmas when we may do more visiting and have more visitors than any other time of the year, we are reminded that our God is a 'visiting' God. Which is a remarkably great mystery to remember.

A long time ago, a man named Adam and his wife Eve decided it would be wiser to listen to a talking serpent than to God. *(Which was a very bad decision indeed!)* God made Adam and Eve leave His garden and live 'out there.' But He promised that He would come and visit them 'out there,' which He really didn't have to do. *(And who would have blamed Him really).* "I will come and visit you," He promised them. And all though the Old Testament, men and women eagerly waited for God to visit them as He promised.

(Note: not all men and women were exactly 'eager.' Some actually dreaded the day He would visit them, because they could only image that His visit would not be very pleasant. They were pretty sure that He'd just criticize their bad habits and want to inspect everything for dirt and point out all those things that were not exactly in their proper place. (Note to the note: These were probably those who were pretty upset when He finally did visit. Which is all very understandable if this is what you're expecting His visit to be like.))

But to those who WERE eager for His visit, that is to say, to those who believed in Him, they couldn't wait for Him to arrive. They longed for the day when He would come and take them into His arms and smother them with hugs and kisses. He'd dry up all their tears, and they had a bucket of them. He'd heal their diseases, and they were filled with them. He'd drive out all their demons, and they had a legion of them. He'd invite them to come home with Him and meet His Father and live with Him in His Father's house forever and ever. And every day would be joy to the 30th dimension.

(Note: According to superstring theory, there are at least 10 dimensions in the universe. M-theory actually suggests that there are 11 dimensions to space time; bosonic string theories suggest 26 dimensions. So, joy to the 30th dimension is not something that anyone really knows anything about. But I think it'll be really great).

That explains why, every once in a while when the people who were eager for Him to visit, got really, really impatient that it was taking so long, would cry out to heaven with a really loud voice, **"how long, O Lord"**?

So, when the fullness of time came and God visited just as He promised He would, some people were very afraid and upset. And some people were very excited and glad. *(Note: it really does seem that it's true that you get the God you believe in.)*

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Nielsen

Notes from your Deaconess

December, 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters of LCR,

“Wait! What’s the word for that?” Words matter, and have specific meanings which belong with particular places, actions, contexts. Sets of words belong with occupations, buildings, sports, and vehicles. Just try reading through all the legal “Terms and Conditions” when downloading a computer application, or the description for usage and side effects of a drug you’ve been prescribed. The text almost seems to be written in a foreign language unless you have some background in law or pharmaceuticals.

In church we use specific words for parts of the church and also parts of the service. As we continue through the Lutheran Service Book, the next couple pages (xxiv and xxv) contain a *Glossary* of words and terms related to the services which we use. I’ve addressed some of these words and terms—including some from Latin or Greek—in the tour we took of the Divine Service over the last couple of years. The word *glossary*, according to Webster’s dictionary, derives from a Greek word meaning “tongue”, and consists of a collection of terms limited to a special area of usage or knowledge. If you find yourself confused or unsure about a word used in one of the services, see if it’s included on these pages. Many of you may have grown up or at least spent quite a long time in a Lutheran or liturgical church and already know many of these words, but imagine how foreign they all may sound to someone who has never encountered them before—words like Compline, Sabaoth, and Antiphon.

Speaking of special words we use—a joyful Advent to you as we begin a new church year! “Advent” means arrival or coming, and so we prepare in these next few weeks to celebrate Jesus’ arrival at Christmas, the Word made flesh. Through all of December, our daily lectionary Old Testament readings come from the prophet Isaiah. Its passages both comfort and admonish the readers to prepare for Jesus’ arrival—in the flesh as our redeemer, *and* at the end as judge to right all wrongs. Our New Testament readings include portions of letters from Peter, John, Jude, and the Revelation to John. These 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’ll hold one Saturday morning women’s Bible study in December—on December 8. We’ll look one more time at some portions of Jeremiah, ones which pertain to the promises of the coming Messiah.

Under his mercy,
Sharon M. Conover

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. (Isaiah 11:1) And he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground. (Isaiah 53:2a)

In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. (Jeremiah 33:16)

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9TH

The annual meeting of the congregation is an important time for the congregation to review its life together in 2018 and plan for 2019. Please plan to join us for the meeting. A free Pizza Party will precede the meeting.

A SPECIAL VISIT WITH REV. CHARLES ST.ONGE: MONDAY, DECEMBER 10TH - 6:00PM.

Two years ago, we were blessed with the visit of Rev. St.Onge, LCMS missionary to Montreal and the Caribbean on "Missions Sunday." Now he is returning to the congregation to report on his work and to say thank you to all who have supported him over these two years. The invitation is open to everyone! A soup and chili pot-luck supper will be served. The evening begins at 6:00pm. and will conclude by 7:30pm. See Michelle Hein for more information and confirmation of attendance.

ADVENT FAMILY NIGHT - FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14TH. 5:30PM. - 7:00PM.

It's been a couple of years since the last Advent Family Night. DEFINITELY mark your calendar for this very special night of Advent family fun and fellowship. The evening begins at 5:30pm. with a PIZZA PARTY! We'll sing some favorite Christmas Carols, there will be a special Christmas Craft project for the children, we'll decorate the Christmas Tree in the Narthex. (And we've heard that Santa will also be attending. Don't miss it.)

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGES FOR 2019 TO BE DEDICATED - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16TH.

Please give prayerful consideration to your stewardship pledge for 2019. We will gather our pledges and present them to the Lord for His blessing during worship on **Sunday, December 16th.**

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

- 12/23 - **4th Sunday of Advent: Sunday School / Divine Service - Rev. Fischer preaching.**
- 12/24 - **Christmas Eve: Candlelight Lessons and Carols - 7:00pm.**
- 12/25 - **Christmas Day: Divine Service - 10:00am.**
- 12/30 - **1st Sunday after Christmas: 8:45am. Sunday School / 10:00am. Divine Service**

ADULT BIBLE STUDY - SUNDAY MORNINGS: 8:45AM.

A Year With The Small Catechism

December 2	Introduction to the Apostles Creed: Questions #103 - #112
December 9	Apostles Creed - 1 st Article - Part 1: Questions #113 - #130
December 16	Apostles Creed - 1 st Article - Part 2: Questions #131 - #139
December 23	Apostles Creed - 1 st Article - Part 3: Questions #140 - #147

SUNDAY SCHOOL IN DECEMBER - 8:45AM.

December 2	The Birth of John Foretold	Luke 1:5-25
December 9	The Birth of Jesus Foretold	Luke 1:26-38
December 16	Mary Visits Elizabeth	Luke 1:39-56
December 23	The Birth of John	Luke 1:57-80

SR. YOUTH GROUP EXTENDS THANKS TO THE CONGREGATION

for your generosity in giving to support the Maine Children's Home project. Offerings from the congregation were \$455. That amount, coupled with the \$250 Thrivent gift card, provided \$705 to support the gift box program at the Maine Children's Home. The youth shopped for great deals on a range of clothing, games and toys and delivered them to the MCH. Nice work everyone!

NEW HEAT PUMP INSTALLED IN CHOIR LOFT

Special thanks to Tom Huesers for directing and overseeing the project to install a heat pump in the loft. This investment will help lower heating costs through the winter as well as help to cool the loft and the sanctuary in the summer.

THANK YOU FROM CONCORDIA SEMINARY - ST. LOUIS

Dear friends,

We are in receipt of your gift in the amount of \$500 for the home congregational support of Alarik Morris for the 2018-19 academic year. St. Paul wrote, "You will be enriched in every way for great generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God; for the rendering of this service not only supplies the wants of the saints but also overflows in many thanksgivings to God." (2Cor. 9:11-12). Please accept our heartfelt thanks for your generosity in aiding our students as they prepare for the ministry of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ,

Sarah Kassel – Financial Aid Office

REPORT FROM SEMINARY: ALARIK MORRIS

November 26th, 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Lutheran Church of the Resurrection,

I write to you now after Thanksgiving as the semester here at Concordia Seminary - St. Louis has begun to come to a close. I would like to express my thanks to you all again for your continued support of me during my semester here at Concordia Seminary and all that you have blessed me with during this past year. There are currently only three weeks left in the fall semester and I look forward to the holidays when I will be able to return back home. I was unfortunately unable to visit Maine for Thanksgiving; however, I was able to see my fiancé and spend Thanksgiving with her and her family in Ann Arbor, Michigan as well as being welcomed to their family camp in Northern Michigan. I have also been blessed in my current field work congregation in Illinois and have been able to continue to assist in the services at this congregation.

I have continued to work in my free time with the grounds department and we have been working on decorating the campus as we look forward to the celebration of Christmas and the close of the fall semester. There was also some substantial snow fall earlier on this month where we received about 6-7 inches overnight in contrast to last winter's cumulative total of 8 inches. I was able to assist in snow removal across the campus and was in good company with other students from the northern part of the country who were also well equipped for dealing with the snow. I plan on traveling back to Michigan after finals week and will return to Maine on December 21st until after New Year's Day. I look forward to seeing you all again in the coming months and thank you again for your support.

Blessings,

Alarik Morris

BOARD FOR MISSIONS MEETING MINUTES: NOVEMBER 18, 2018

Attendees: Michelle Hein, Michael Hein, Brian Watson, Andrea Watson, Yvonne Batson, Avis Grant, Gail Carrano, Beck Keefe, Becky Cote, Sharon Conover, Pastor Nielsen

- The board agreed to split the council approved \$500 matching donation (\$250) of what the youth group raised between the Fairfield Interfaith Pantry and the Belgrade/Rome Food Pantry.
- It was noted the MCCP band-aids donation amounts on the spreadsheet should only be the \$54.95 in January. No other donation was made in 2018. The March and May donations do not belong.

Church Council Requests

- The board requests to donate \$200 to the Senior Youth Group's Maine Children's Home collection.
- Excluding the NED, Hope & Seminarian donations, the board requests to make the following donations:
 - Lutheran Disaster Relief Fund - \$1,000
 - Lutheran Heritage Foundation - \$500
 - Garuna Foundation – Sponsor 2 children, $\$360 \times 2 = \720
 - At year end, any excess balance is to be added to the Lutheran Disaster Relief Fund
 - At year end, if the BFM is short any amount in the above requested donations, the board requests the December NED donation be reduced, to meet the outlined donation requests
- Pastor Nielsen shared his recent experience with the Waterville Food Pantry. The board will further discuss volunteering at the food pantry in 2019.
- Missionary Director, Rev. Charles St. Onge will be visiting December 10. A potluck meal is planned at the church and he will be staying with Pastor & Deb.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS:

Every year, we grace the chancel with poinsettias during the Christmas season. If you would like to purchase a poinsettia, please include \$13 per plant with your offering envelope marked – “flowers.” The deadline to order is December 16th. 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 _____



Monthly Worship

December 2, 2018

First Sunday in Advent

Psalm: 25:1-10

First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Holy Gospel: Luke 19:28-40 or Luke 21:25-36

December 9, 2018

Second Sunday in Advent

Psalm: 66:1-12

First Reading: Malachi 3:1-7b

Epistle: Philippians 1:2-11

Holy Gospel: Luke 3:1-14 (15-20)

December 16, 2018

Third Sunday in Advent

Psalm: 85

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20

Epistle: Philippians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 7:18-28 (29-35)

December 23, 2018

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Psalm: 80:1-7

First Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

Epistle: Hebrews 10:5-10

Holy Gospel: Luke 1:39-45 (46-56)

December 30, 2018

First Sunday after Christmas

Psalm: 111

First Reading: Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15

Epistle: Colossians 3:12-17

Gospel: Luke 12:35-40

BIBLE QUIZ

1. Who was the only person who lived before the flood and did not die?

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

2. For all the pent-up hatred the Jewish rulers had toward Jesus, what was the most difficult part of His night trial?

A) He kept miraculously escaping their clutches, both in speech and in action B) He kept redirecting the questions back to them and their sin C) they could not get two false witnesses to accuse Him of the same "crime" D) they could not figure out how to get Him to obey them

3. When did God part the Jordan river en route to Jericho?

A) after all the feet of the priests carrying the ark of the Lord were in the river B) at dusk, just after the evening sacrifices were made C) immediately after commanding the Israelites to prepare for battle D) it was the sea that God parted, not the river

4. In the wheat and Tares parable, what does the wheat represent?

A) the world B) the children of the kingdom C) the children of the wicked one D) the Son of Man

5. When will Jesus return?

A) in about three more generations B) after we humans know everything there is to know C) before the third millennium arrives D) no one knows except God the Father

6. Who said this: "Here am I; send me"?

A) Isaiah B) Jeremiah C) Jesus D) Paul



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
 12/31 Matt Esculano



Anniversary

12/17 Esther Gould
 John Gould
 12/19 Rick Dostie



BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

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



12/15 Fernando & Mari Gouvea
 12/20 Peter & Lois Doran
 12/27 Dan & Sharon Callahan

Some Definitions of Christmas

Christmas is the light that burns eternally. It is a glow that warms the hearts of people wherever the message of "Peace on earth the men of goodwill" is believed.

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

Christmas is love that flows from one heart to another.

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

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

Christmas is giving to those who cannot give to us. It is visiting the neglected lifting the fallen, giving hope to the hopeless, assuring victory to the defeated, living the spirit of good will to all mankind.

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

December Bible Quiz Answers:

1. B (Genesis 25:24, Hebrews 11:5)
2. C (Matthew 26:59-60)
3. A (Joshua 3:14-16)
4. B (Matthew 13:38)
5. D (Matthew 24:36-37)
6. A (Isaiah 6:8)

December Stewardship

	<u>Dec. 2</u>	<u>Dec. 9</u>	<u>Dec.16</u>	<u>Dec. 23</u>	<u>Dec.24</u>	<u>Dec.25</u>	<u>Dec.30</u>
<u>Acolyte</u>	Andrew Farr	Emily Lynn Carlson	Evan Farr	Allison Farr	----	-----	Mia Fitzpatrick
<u>Comm. Assistant</u>	Dan Callahan	Brad Fitzpatrick	Steve Farr	Rev. Fischer	-----	Chris Batson	Mark Larsen
<u>Ushers</u>	John Ayotte & John Gould	Dan Keefe & Mark Larsen	Dan Callahan & Moe Cote	Wayne Pelletier & Bill Jahnke	Chris Batson & Tom Huesers	Glenn Carlson & John Ayotte	Glenn Carlson, Jr. & Seth Carlson
<u>Greeters</u>	John & Karen Ayotte	Dan & Sharon Callahan , Matt Esculano	Moe & Becky Cote	Steve & Kari Farr	Tom & Katie Huesers	Chris & Yvonne Batson	Mike & Michelle Hein
<u>Altar Care</u>	Avis Grant	Deb Nielsen	Joan Drageland	Sharon Conover	-----	Amanda Goldsmith	Amy Ouelette
<u>Flowers</u>	Anna Rowe	Rick & Joan Drageland	Rick & Joan Drageland	Sharon Klipp	Sharon Klipp	Sharon Klipp	Sharon Klipp
<u>Fellowship</u>	LWML	Annual Meeting- Pizza	The Huesers	Sharon Klipp	-----	-----	Amanda Goldsmith & Avis Grant

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*