

RESURRECTION NEWS



DECEMBER 2019



Pastor's Letter

December, 2019

Advent is the time to prepare the way of the Lord.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Church's season of Advent is a time to prepare. But the question that we wrestle with during this season is always, 'prepare for what?' 'What are we to be prepared for?'

Retailers have an answer for that question. 'Prepare to buy everything that money can buy.' But the Church has a much different answer to that question. Jesus Christ is coming into the world - not born of a virgin named Mary or hidden away in a manger in a stable in a little town called Bethlehem. It's hard to prepare for something that already happened 2000 years ago.

He is coming again. And when He does, it will NOT be to die for your sins and be raised for your justification. Once is enough for that. **"Christ died for sins, once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous."** When He comes again, it will be to judge the living and the dead. See if that doesn't give your Christmas season a new perspective. This is what the Church's season of Advent wants to prepare us for.

Peter says that **"the day of the Lord will come like a thief."** Paul says, **"For you are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night."** (1 Thess. 5:2). Where would Peter and Paul get the idea to compare Jesus to a thief? From Jesus actually! Jesus warned His disciples, **"stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But know this, if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into."** (Matthew 24:42-43)

So what are we to think of this? We burglar proof our homes against thieves from breaking in and stealing from us. Are we to burglar proof our lives so Jesus cannot break in and get at us and steal from us what is rightfully ours? CERTAINLY NOT! For what is rightfully ours is sin and death. Like a thief, this heavenly burglar comes to steal what belongs to us. He comes to take away all of our sins. He intends to clean us out, rob us blind and leave us with nothing left to call your own. And when He's through with His divine thievery, the only thing you'll be left with is what He leaves behind and what is His. And what is His is righteous and holy. And He leaves the Holy Spirit.

Sad to say, we don't want Jesus to take what is ours. We hold tightly onto what is ours and guard it with our life, sometimes, even to the point of death. We'll do anything to prevent this cosmic break in from taking place.

And we're not just talking about a spiritual break in but a material break in as well. Everything that money can buy will be taken away from us. Everything that we have hoarded for our future suddenly gone, the whole thing, dissolved in His coming to separate us from what separates us from complete trust in Him. And so the season of Advent is all about preparing for Christ's coming by repenting.

"The day of the Lord will come like a thief." 'Tis the season for preparing. We worship, listen to His Word, we repent, we receive His Supper and we pray, until we're read to cry out, **"Even so, come Lord Jesus!"**

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Nielsen

Notes from your Deaconess

December, 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters of LCR,

We begin once again our journey into and through the Advent season. In this month of darkness and chill, we prepare ourselves for the coming of our King. During this first part of the church year, we focus particularly on our Lord's future coming to judge all nations. Yet we also anticipate our celebration of his coming into this world as one of us, a baby in Bethlehem, and recognize and rejoice in his sacramental coming to us weekly through the Word combined with water, bread and wine.

We have over two dozen hymns particularly designated for this Advent season with four Sundays, and almost *three* dozen Christmas hymns which we try to squeeze into the dozen days (usually three or four worship services) of the Christmas season. So sing them at home if we miss your favorites at church!

One of the Advent hymns, "O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide" (LSB 355), contains seven prayerful verses of petition which refer both our Lord's first coming, and his second coming which we look for in these dark and confusing days. A greater urgency runs through this text than in the more familiar "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (LSB 357), although the longing to see God's work comes through clearly in both. Written in the early seventeen century during the Thirty Years War, and with a tune from a few decades later, we sing to God as our Savior, Father, our fount of hope, and morning star. There are allusions to scriptural texts from the prophet Isaiah and gospel of Luke.

O Morning Star, O radiant Sun, When will our hearts behold Your dawn?

O Sun, arise; without Your light We grope in gloom and dark of night. (v.5)

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.

This month I do not plan to hold any Bible studies. Our annual Christmas fair will be held on the first Saturday (12/7) for much of the day, and I hope you can make it over to church either that day, or to help with setup in the previous few days. The second Saturday the LWML Ladies Christmas luncheon out will take place—which I plan to attend and hope to see many of you there. Then we'll be closing in on Christmas and New Year's Day, so I thought that lives would likely be too busy. Have a blessed month and I'll see you in church!

Under his mercy,

Sharon

"Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls." 1 Peter 1:8-9

LWML CHRISTMAS CRAFT / BAKE FAIR – SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7. 9:00AM. – 2:00PM.

It's that time again. Our goal this year is to raise \$2,000 to be distributed to various community and church charities and organizations. We need every family to bring 3 dozen Christmas Cookies for the "Cookie Walk" and any other baked goods you can bring. We need helpers to set up on Thursday and Friday, December 5th and 6th and on the day of the Fair as well. Please see Deb Nielsen or Anna Rowe for more information.

VOTERS MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15TH

The annual meeting of the congregation is an important time for the congregation to review its life together in 2019 and plan for 2020. Please plan to join us for the meeting. A free Pizza Party will precede the meeting.

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE BY-LAWS

AMMENDMENT TO THE CONGREGATION'S BY-LAWS

The Elders of the Congregation will propose an amendment to the By-Laws as follows, for approval at the Annual Voters Meeting:

Article 5: Calling of a Pastor or Teacher

(Current wording to be retained) The election and calling of a pastor or teacher shall take place in the following manner: Any congregational member may submit the name(s) or candidate(s) to the Board of Elders for consideration. The Board of Elders will consult with the president of the Synodical District for additional candidates for the pastorate or office of teacher. A list of candidates shall be proposed to the voting members at their next regular meeting or a meeting especially called for that purpose. The voting members shall by secret ballot adopt a list of candidates and such list shall be publicly announced. Thereafter the voting members meeting in regular or special session shall elect one of the proposed candidates by ballot and by simple majority. *(Proposed addition to the above)* **The Board of Elders may propose calling a candidate from one of the LCMS seminaries or who have satisfied the qualifications and requirements for assignment of first call.**

MEN'S BREAKFAST MEETING: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21st - 8:00AM.

Men, join us for a great fellowship, a good breakfast and a lively discussion of C.S. Lewis' – "Mere Christianity."

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

- 12/24 – Christmas Eve: Candlelight Lessons and Carols - 7:00pm.
- 12/25 – Christmas Day: Divine Service - 10:00am.

CANCELLATIONS DUE TO WEATHER:

If the weather is bad, we may cancel Sunday School / Adult Bible Study. 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.

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 15th. 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 _____

WE WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS TO THE CONGREGATION!

Kemp and Rachel Anderson

159 Hanson Rd., So. China Me. 04358
kempca71@gmail.com / #207-313-8636
rachelba64@gmail.com / #845-706-1967

Gail Maestas

15 Wedgewood Dr. Oakland, Me. 04963
maestagail@gmail.com / #703-501-1299

Ray and Ruth Milhous

92A Oakland St. Waterville, Me. 04901
#207-861-7087

Joshua Schiebel

802 Lakewood Dr. China, Me. 04348
#240-839-8074

Miriam Schiebel (Transfer)

802 Lakewood Dr. China, Me. 04348
miriam-schiebel@hotmail.com /

#202-549-4681

GREETINGS FROM SEMINARY STUDENT - ALARIK MORRIS

November 21st, 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Lutheran Church of the Resurrection,

Greetings to you all in the name of Jesus Christ who is coming into the world! I pray that you are all staying warm as the winter months are approaching and that in your various travels during the approaching holiday season you would have safe travel as well as those relatives who might be traveling to you.

This semester so far in my second year here at the seminary has been a very busy one! Between classes on topics such as the Torah, the prophets, pastoral care, the Reformation, systematic theology, and our continued Greek and Hebrew language labs, I have been kept extremely busy with assignments, readings, and extra-curricular events that I have been a part of. However, it has also been a blessing to be learning here from the professors as well as with my fellow students. My favorite class this semester so far has been my class on pastoral care as we have learned the basics of pastoral counseling, special services such as weddings and funerals, as well as how to comfort those who are suffering or who are in a crisis situation. I have learned so much in a short amount of time and while it has been a lot of work, it has been an exceedingly fun year so far.

In addition to my classes, I have also been getting ready for my upcoming wedding with Angela at the end of May in Michigan which has been a lot of work, but is making us both excited to begin our lives together as a married couple. I also look forward to spending Thanksgiving with Angela in the next week! I have also been working on campus as we are getting the seminary ready for Christmas by putting up lights, decorating the campus, planting bulbs for the spring, and whatever other tasks need to be done before the winter cold sets in here in St. Louis. I have also used opportunities on campus such as intramural basketball to take a break from studying and to keep myself active and to help me relax from school for a little while.

I want to take this opportunity to once again thank you all for your assistance, prayers, and support as I continue my studies here at the seminary. I pray that you would continue to find ways to support me and other future pastors who are working by God's grace to enter into the ministry. You have all been a blessing to me in your prayers most importantly, but also in the financial support from the church as well as in the opportunities you give me when I come home to Maine to visit you all. Right now I plan on being back home for Christmas from December 22nd through January 3rd before I have to report back for a winter term class in January on pastoral leadership. I look forward to seeing you all shortly!

May God's peace and blessing be with you all,

Alarik Morris



BIBLE QUIZ

Monthly Worship

December 1, 2019

First Sunday in Advent

Psalm: 122

First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

Epistle: Romans 13: (8-10)11-14

Holy Gospel: Matthew 21:1-11

December 8, 2019

Second Sunday in Advent

Psalm: 72:1-7

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

Epistle: Romans 15: 4-13

Holy Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

December 15, 2019

Third Sunday in Advent

Psalm: 146

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10

Epistle: James 5:7-11

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-15

December 22, 2019

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Psalm: 24

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-17

Epistle: Romans 1:1-7

Holy Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

December 29, 2019

Psalm: 111

First Reading: Isaiah: 63:7-14

Epistle: Galatians: 4:4-7

Holy Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23

1. Who was Boaz' wife?

A) Sarah B) Rebekah C) Ruth (D) Hannah

2. What animal did God provide for a sacrifice in place of Abraham's son, Isaac?

A) lamb B) ram C) goat D) toad

3. Which of Jesus' disciples was a former tax collector also known as a publican?

A) Peter B) Paul C) Judas D) Matthew

4. How many of Job's sons died during his trials?

A) all of his sons B) one third of his sons (C) half of his sons D) none of his sons

5. Who was the first martyr?

A) Phillip B) Stephen C) Timothy D) Paul

6. Who said this: "How are the mighty fallen"?

A) King David (when Saul died) B) King Nebuchadnezzar (when Jerusalem was destroyed)
C) Queen Esther (when Haman plotted to kill all the Jews in the world) D) King Herod (when he thought he killed baby king Jesus)

0-0-0-0-0

A little girl dressed in her Sunday best, was running as fast as she could, trying not to be late for Sunday School. As she ran, she prayed "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late!"

While she was running and praying, she tripped on a curb and fell, getting her clothes dirty and tearing her dress. She got up, brushed herself off, and started running again. As she ran, she once again began to pray, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late...But please don't shove me either!"



12/3 Ruth Milhous
 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 Matthew Esculano



Happy Anniversary

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



BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

12/10 Gail Maestas
 12/21 Evan Farr
 Hayley Farr
 12/25 Dorothy Evertsen



ANNIVERSARIES

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

FOR A FEW CHUCKLES!

(A Lexophile is a lover of words. Here is some lexophile humor.)

-----A grenade fell onto a kitchen floor in France, resulting in linoleum blown apart.

-----A boiled egg is hard to beat.

-----Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead to know basis.

-----Show me a piano falling down a mine shaft and I'll show you A-flat miner.

-----When a clock is hungry, it goes back four seconds.

-----You are stuck with debt if you can't budge it.

-----Those who are too big for their britches will be exposed in the end.

-----Acupuncture: a jab well done.

-----Marathon runners with bad shoes suffer the agony of defeat.

Bible Quiz Answers

1. C (Ruth 4:9-10)
2. B (Genesis 22:13)
3. D (Matthew 10:3)
4. A (Job 1:18-19)
5. B (A7:54-60)
6. A (2 Samuel 1:25)

Stewardship for December

	<u>Dec. 1</u>	<u>Dec. 8</u>	<u>Dec.15</u>	<u>Dec.22</u>	<u>Dec.24</u>	<u>Dec.25</u>	<u>Dec.29</u>
<u>Acolyte</u>	Mia Fitzpatrick	Emily Lynn Carlson	Evan Farr	Mia Fitzpatrick	-----	-----	Andrew Farr
<u>Comm. Assistant</u>	Dan Callahan	Mike Hein	Steve Farr	Brad Fitzpatrick	-----	Chris Batson	Brian Watson
<u>Ushers</u>	Glenn Carlson Jr. & Seth Carlson	Wayne Pelletier & Brian Watson	Dan Callahan & Dan Keefe	Chris Batson & Rick Drageland	Mike Hein & Mark Larsen	Glenn Carlson & John Ayotte	Moe Cote & Tom Huesers
<u>Greeters</u>	Moe & Becky Cote	Brad & Sasha Fitzpatrick	Fernando & Mari Gouvea	Jim & Darryll Zahner	Brian & Andrea Watson	Chris & Yvonne Batson	Tom & Katie Huesers
<u>Altar Care</u>	Katie Huesers	Avis Grant	Deb Nielsen	Joan Drageland	-----	Avis Grant	Amanda Goldsmith
<u>Flowers</u>	Wayne & Laverne Pelletier	Wayne & Laverne Pelletier	Sharon Klipp	Sharon Klipp	Sharon Klipp	Sharon Klipp	-----
<u>Fellowship</u>	Becky Cote & Friends	Annual Meeting- Pizza Party	OPEN	OPEN	-----	-----	OPEN

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.*