

# RESURRECTION NEWS



**FEBRUARY 2017**



## Pastor's Letter

February, 2017

"Love the sojourner, therefore, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt."

### The Immigration Issue

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

"Immigration." A hot topic these days. Let's begin with a word from the Lord – always a good place to begin a hot topic. "For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe. He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing. Love the sojourner, therefore, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt." (Deuteronomy 10:17-19)

The president's recent order to temporarily ban immigration from certain countries has been met with a lot of strong reaction both pro and con. But I suspect, it has also been met with even more confusion and questions, which of course, the media doesn't cover. In addition, the question of how the government will craft national policy regarding those immigrants already living among us compounds our confusion and concern. We wrestle with that which is 'right' and 'legal' vs. that which is 'loving' and 'gracious.' We struggle to separate the 'stereotype' from the person or family or situation that breaks the stereotype.

So, how does the church respond to this? And what guidance should we expect to see from the pastor and the pastor from leadership of the church body? Whatever guidance might come, we all have the responsibility of, first of all, holding that guidance up against the Scriptures to see if consistent with the word of truth, and secondly, the Lutheran Confessions to see if it is consistent with that which binds us together in a communion of saints.

Just a few months ago, Deaconess Conover and I read and discussed a 2012 study published by the LC-MS called, "The Immigrants Among Us." At the time, neither of us realized how timely our study would be. Allow me to share just a few thoughts that I hope will be helpful as we together, strive to be faithful to God's will to 'love the Lord our God with all our heart and mind and our neighbor as ourselves.'

Depending on the bible translation that you are using, the words, 'foreigner,' 'immigrant,' 'sojourner,' or 'stranger' all translate the same Hebrew word. The repeated refrain throughout the Scriptures is that God's people should regard the 'foreigner' as his 'neighbor,' and 'love your neighbor as yourself.' This love for the foreigner is motivated by the fact that we were all once aliens of the Kingdom of God as well, but in His love, God protected and cared for us and made us citizens of His kingdom. (See Exodus 22:21; 23:9; Leviticus 19:34, Deuteronomy 24:17-22, and the above passage from Deut. 10:19)

The Scriptures also however direct us in the way that we should regard the civil authorities who rule for the sake of good order, peace and the protection of citizens. *"For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience."* (Romans 13:3-5). The Christian respects and upholds the law of the land as an expression of his faith in the Lord. (The one exception being if the law of the land commands us to do something that the Scriptures forbid, and vice-a-versa.)

The guidance of the Scriptures is that believers are to love their immigrant neighbor AND respect and obey the law of the land. And these two must both be upheld because they are both God's Word. Sometimes the temptation is to argue (*with others or yourself*) that love for the immigrant supersedes the civil law regarding the immigrant. And sometimes the temptation is to argue that the civil law regarding the immigrant overrules love for the neighbor. (This private and public conflict applies to a far greater range of challenges than just immigration by the way.)

The challenge to both love the immigrant AND uphold the law is fraught with tension and it's always messy. It's much less messy to live by one AND NOT the other. That is, to love the immigrant and disregard the law or to love the law and disregard the immigrant.

But we, of all people, should know how to handle life at it messiest. We live by the grace of God and are fed with His gracious forgiveness and perfect love and we know that God perfects our flawed and feeble decisions and efforts and uses them for His good will and purpose. He alone loves the immigrant completely and rules the world perfectly.

As citizens of both kingdoms, the heavenly and the earthly, we have a spiritual stewardship to carry out on behalf of the world and on behalf of those who cannot always speak for themselves. As citizens of this country and with our conscience taken captive by the word of Christ, we work to support or change the laws of the land and to lessen the divide between law and love where it exists. As citizens of the kingdom of Christ, we strive to demonstrate the love of Christ in a messy world that doesn't know real love because it doesn't know Christ. We are the light of the world.

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Nielsen*

## *Notes from your Deaconess*

February, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters of LCR,

Greetings in this Epiphany season, which we continue to observe through the whole month of February this year. The **Kyrie**, an ordinary part of our Divine Service, continues the Entrance Rite which we have been considering. *Kyrie eleison* means "Lord have mercy" in Greek.

In the ancient world, when a king would visit a town or city, crowds would greet him with petitions for mercy—begging protection, peace, provisions. We speak directly to God and ask for his mercy and his peace at this point in the service. We find this phrase in the gospels as folks call to Jesus begging his help in their needs of body and soul (lepers, blind beggars, parents on behalf of their children). We acknowledge that God gives all good gifts which we receive, and remind him that he described himself to Moses as "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness" (Exodus 34:6).

Sometimes we speak the Kyrie, and other times we sing. A couple of our settings have simple unison Kyrie forms ("Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy"). However, we also frequently use a response form with the pastor stating the petition, and then we the congregation follow with "Lord have mercy." In this response form we particularly ask for the Lord's peace in our world, our church, our lives.

As we read our daily lectionary passages this month we move into the book of Job in the Old Testament, and the gospel of John in the New Testament. While the season of Epiphany focuses on the revelation of whom Jesus is for the world, Job struggled with the hidden ways of God's work specifically in his life. His "comforters" confidently and erroneously explained the reasons for Job's sufferings. The apostle John helped to unveil some of that mystery of our Lord's work and ways.

I will be holding Saturday morning Bible studies for women on the second (2/11) and fourth (2/25) Saturdays of this month (and similarly through May), and hope that you might consider joining in. We meet at 8:30 or so in a downstairs classroom and finish by 10am. We have mostly been studying various Biblical women.

Also, the women of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Gorham have extended an invitation to our church women to join them for a "Katie Luther Day" on February 18 from 10am to 2pm in Gorham. I posted their invitation on the bulletin board at church. I intend to go myself, and we could arrange some car-pooling for those interested.

"Peace be to all of you who are in Christ." (1 Peter 5:14) Under his mercy,

*Sharon M. Conover*

## **LOOKING BACK ONE YEAR - DEDICATION OF THE NEWLY RENOVATED SANCTUARY – FEBRUARY 14, 2016.**

One year ago, we moved back into the beautifully renovated sanctuary. The project was financed with a 25 year building loan from Lutheran Church Extension Fund for \$80,000. As of 12/31/16, the balance was reduced to \$51,595. 35% of the loan principle has been paid off in the first year of the loan! We are well on our way toward the goal of paying this loan off in four years. Keep up the faithful stewardship.

## **NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING IS: Wednesday, February 22 – 7:00pm.**

Please have all reports submitted to Brian Watson by Saturday, 2/19.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR FEBRUARY**

2/5 Jesus Calms a Storm - Mark 4:35-41

2/12 Jesus Heals Jairus' Daughter - Mark 5:21-24,35-43

2/19 Jesus Walks on Water - Matthew 14:22-33

2/26 Jesus Heals a Blind Man – John 9

*(It is help if parents read the text together with children before Sunday School)*

## **ADULT BIBLE STUDY FOR FEBRUARY**

2/5 Psalm of the Month: Psalm 112 - "The righteous will not be moved"

2/12 Book of the Bible Survey: Proverbs – Wisdom to make one wise

2/19 Selected Topic: The Lord's Prayer – What does this mean?

2/26 Mission Sunday: Rev. Charles St.Onge – Missionary to Montreal and the Caribbean

## **MISSION SUNDAY - FEBRUARY 26<sup>TH</sup>**

Please welcome Rev. Charles St. Onge and his family who will be with us on Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>.

Rev. Charles and Deborah St-Onge serve the Lord through The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in the Latin America and the Caribbean region. In his role as an area facilitator for this region, Charles helps strengthen Christ's work in the Cayman Islands, Jamaica and Puerto Rico. He assists with theological education and evangelist and deaconess training. He also opens new fields and ministries and develops and expands existing ones. When not helping in this work, Charles serves as the mission pastor of Ascension Lutheran Church in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, working with French-, English- and Chinese-worshipping communities.

Charles was born in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. He has undergraduate and graduate degrees in engineering. He received his Master of Divinity from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. He also holds a Master of Theology in Science and Religion degree from South African Theological Seminary (based in Bryanston, South Africa). Charles served as a pastor in Philadelphia, Pa., and Houston, Texas. He is the author of the book "5 Things You Can Do to Appreciate Science and Love the Bible" (CPH, 2013). Charles is also a frequent guest on the Issues, Etc. radio program.

His wife Deborah, was born in Middletown, Ohio. She has a bachelor's degree in music education from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, and a master's degree in music education from the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minn. Deborah has taught music and music education in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas and Indiana, preschool-aged children through adults. She is currently serving as a full-time mother and volunteering when she can.

Charles and Deborah have two daughters, Olivia and Sophia. They both attend public school in Quebec, studying in French and English and sharing the Gospel with their classmates.

Pastor St. Onge will lead Adult Bible Study at 8:45am. and preach at worship at 10:00am.

## **ORGAN LOAN PAID OFF IN FULL!**

12/29/16

Resurrection Lutheran Church, 36 Cool St., Waterville, Maine

RE: Loan #50109

To Whom It May Concern:

The above captioned loan has been paid in full and was taken off our system as of December 16, 2016.

Keri Angell – Lutheran Church Extension Fund

## **ASH WEDNESDAY / LENT 2017**

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, **March 1<sup>st</sup>**. We will have mid-week services during Lent at Noon and 7:00pm. Theme to be announced.

## **BOARD FOR MISSIONS MINUTES - 1/5/17**

### **Review of Missions Giving for 2016**

The Missions Giving Report for 2016 was reviewed. The Board oversaw the distribution of \$24,973 for 2016.

The breakdown of distributions was as follows:

- |                                 |            |                                |         |
|---------------------------------|------------|--------------------------------|---------|
| • New England District – LCMS   | \$8,324.69 | • Lutheran Heritage Foundation | \$1000  |
| • Seminary Student Support -    | \$5,000    | • LCMS – Disaster Relief       | \$1000  |
| • Hope Lutheran Church – Bangor | \$3,200    | • Lutheran for Life            | \$250   |
| • Waterville Food Bank          | \$1,000    | • Garuna Foundation            | \$1,080 |
| • Waterville Homeless Shelter   | \$2,000    | • Maine Children's Home        | \$1,000 |
| • Emergency Relief              | \$645      |                                |         |

A broader distribution of mission funds for the year was as follows:

- |                   |          |     |            |          |     |
|-------------------|----------|-----|------------|----------|-----|
| • Gospel outreach | \$17,774 | 71% | • Local    | \$4,645  | 19% |
| • Social Ministry | \$7,199  | 29% | • Regional | \$11,524 | 46% |
|                   |          |     | • National | \$6,250  | 25% |
|                   |          |     | • Global   | \$2,080  | 8%  |

### **Current Mission Projects**

**Lutherans For Life:** Sanctity of Life Sunday on 1/15/17. Bulletin insert and lapel pins. Special 'door offering' for LFL will be taken and matched by Bd.

**Mission Sunday:** 2/26/17. Reservations for Rev. St. Onge and family to be made at Fireside Inn, Waterville for 2/15. Dinner on Saturday night will be at church. Board will propose a gift of \$1000. Board will host Fellowship on Sunday.

**Seminary Student:** Pastor reported on conversations with both students. Efforts to arrange a visit from Michael McGinnley for May/June are being discussed. We will invite Grant Sorensen if Michael cannot make the trip.

**Hope Lutheran Church – Bangor:** A fund-raising dinner for a parishioner who lost her home in a fire is being organized. We will participate with an offering of \$500.

**Upcoming Projects:** Sr. Youth Group Mission Trip to Boston in June. Board approved \$125 towards each participant's registration fee. Much discussion regarding "Lutheran Braille Mission" and a desire to support when funds are available.

### **Proposal to Church Council at January Meeting:**

- Matching funds for Lutherans For Life.
- \$1000 plus expenses for Mission Sunday.
- \$875 for Sr. Youth Mission Trip
- \$500 for Hope parishioner who lost their home in a fire.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, February 1 - 6:30pm. Members of the congregation who are interesting in serving are welcome to attend.

### **Important Dates to Schedule in February:**

2/1	6:30pm.	Board for Missions
2/2	10:30am.	Mid-Week Bible Study
2/11	8:30am.	Women's Bible Study
2/16	10:30am.	Mid-Week Bible Study
2/22	7:00pm.	Church Council Meeting
2/23	10:30am.	Mid-Week Bible Study
2/25	8:30am.	Women's Bible Study
3/1	Noon & 7:00pm.	Ash Wednesday Services

### **THANK YOU FROM GRANT SORENSON - SEMINARIAN**

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

Thank you so much for your continued prayers and support! I am deeply honored and grateful. Your support helps tremendously with buying textbooks and all my other expenses. It allows me to focus on my studies, for the Lord has provided through you. Thank you! As for me, I have had a very eventful last month. I traveled to see my fiancée graduate from Concordia University Wisconsin. On New Year's Eve, I got married to my best friend, Kimberly. We look forward to the path God has placed us on and facing life's journeys together! Most of all, this Christmas season, we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! For He came to save us from our sins! May God be praised! The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you all! God's richest blessings!

In Christ,

*Grant and Kim Sorenson*

*"I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me shall remain in darkness." John 12:46*

### **THANK YOU FROM HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH – BANGOR**

12/30/16

Dear Lutheran Church of the Resurrection

We, the members of Hope Lutheran Church would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your financial support in 2016. Please see the enclosed financial giving summary. (\$5,000)

Your funding helps keep our church under Pastoral care and provide Hope Lutheran Church with the resources necessary to tackle larger scale building needs. Thanks you for your continued support and your continued prayers for Christ to grow His church on earth (especially in Bangor, Maine).

*Curtis Slininger; Becky Reeve*

### **THANK YOU FROM THE MID-MAINE HOMELESS SHELTER**

12/22/16

Dear Shelter Friends,

Through your generosity, a path has been paved for brighter, stronger future for youth experiencing homelessness. You have helped to provide support and provisions for the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Empowering Youth, YES program. We are genuinely appreciative of **your gift of \$2,000** received on 12/9/2016. Your support is helping us to provide safe, affordable long-term transitional housing for at risk youth, 18-24 years old. The transformational housing options will include 1 bedroom apartments, efficiency apartments and a suite of six rooms with a shared kitchen.

The YES program will also provide programs including but not limited to: life skill development, management of goals, housing, financial stability, education, family, transportation, employment, safety planning, social skills, mental health, substance abuse, legal and domestic violence support.

Together we are transforming lives, building brighter futures and enhancing the capacity of youth and young adults to make healthier life choices.

With gratitude for all you do, *Betty Palmer* - Executive Director



We will be collecting items for the Homeless Shelter for the months of February, March and April. A list of items needed has been placed in your mailboxes, as well as being posted at the collection box in the Narthex. Again, thank you for your generous contributions.

Below is a listing of the income and disbursements from the 2016 Craft Fair.

**Income: \$1,949.91**

**Disbursements:**

10% to NED-LWML	\$195.00
The Garuna Foundation (sponsor 2 children)	360.00
LCMS, Human Care, World Relief	100.00
Bethesda Lutheran Communities	100.00
Lutheran Hour Ministries	100.00
Boys & Girls Club (kitchen)	100.00
Lutheran World Relief (for water filtration kit)	190.00
ME Children's Cancer Program (help for families)	200.00
First Trinity Lutheran School	100.00

Greater Waterville Area Food Bank 100.00

Women's Initiative 100.00

LCR's Concordia System College Students

Elizabeth Larsen 100.00

Alarik Morris 100.00

**Total \$1,845.00**

**\$1,949.91**

**-1,845.00**

**\$ 104.91 Balance**

(to be used for future contributions and expenses for 2017 craft fair)

In God's Love,

Deb Nielsen

**A Few Chuckles (or groans)**

- ✓ Saul knew that he had moved to a heavily Christian town when he was watching the *Star Wars* trilogy at the local movie theater. Every time the phrase "May the force be with you," was uttered on the screen, the audience replied, "And also with you."
- ✓ I once asked my third grade Sunday School class to stand up and share, in just one sentence, "What Easter means to me." Some of the answers were sweet and some poignant, however, this is the one I remember the most: "Egg salad sandwiches for the entire week."



## **Monthly Worship**

**February 5, 2017**

**Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany**

**Psalm:** 112:1-9

**First Reading:** Isaiah 58:3-9a

**Epistle:** 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)

**Holy Gospel:** Matthew 5:13-20

**February 12, 2017**

**Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany**

**Psalm:** 119:1-8

**First Reading:** Deuteronomy 30:15-20

**Epistle:** 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

**Holy Gospel:** Matthew 5:21-37

**February 19, 2017**

**Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany**

**Psalm:** 119:33-40

**First Reading:** Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18

**Epistle:** 1 Corinthians 3:10-23

**Holy Gospel:** Matthew 5:38-48

**February 26, 2017**

**The Transfiguration of Our Lord**

**Psalm:** 2:6-12

**First Reading:** Exodus 24:8-18

**Epistle:** 2 Peter 1:16-21

**Holy Gospel:** Matthew 17:1-9

## **BIBLE QUIZ**

**1. Who has committed enough sin to bar them from entering heaven?**

A) everyone who has ever lived except sinless Jesus B) everyone who has ever been a murderer, rapist, or has committed another serious sin C) everyone who has been really evil, like Hitler D) everyone who has ever cut someone off in traffic

**2. When Jacob finally met Pharaoh face-to-face, what did he do?**

A) kick him B) kiss him C) curse him D) bless him

**3. How did God first speak to young Samuel?**

A) by giving him prophetic dreams for three nights in a row B) by audibly calling his name during the night C) by appearing like an angel during the nighttime sacrifice D) by setting a bush on fire without burning it to the ground

**4. Late in the day of Jesus' resurrection, He met up with two followers on the road to where?**

A) Joppa B) Jerusalem C) Ephesus D) Emmaus

**5. What physical ailment accompanied the direct communication between Saul and Jesus?**

A) he became blind B) he became deaf C) he became mute D) he became paralyzed

**6. Who said this: "We have no king but Caesar"?**

A) slaves B) foreigners C) Jews D) soldiers





2/ 4 Darryll Zahner  
 2/9 Steven Farr  
 Elizabeth Larsen  
 2/11 Chester Gilbert  
 2/19 Brad Fitzpatrick  
 2/22 Kay Gideon



## BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

2/1 Caden Fitzpatrick  
 2/9 Karen Morren  
 2/13 Becky Cote  
 2/14 Vesta Bealieu  
 2/20 Jonathan Morren  
 2/23 Robert Sieber  
 2/24 Andrew Farr  
 2/25 Lee Anne Larsen  
 2/?? Natalie Crowley

### Bible Quiz Answers

1. A (Romans 3:23)
2. D (Genesis 47:7)
3. B (1 Samuel 3:3-10)
4. D (Luke 24:1-3, 13-15)
5. A (Acts 9:8-9)
6. C (John 19:15)

## Confirmation Anniversaries

2/8 Fernando Gouvea  
 Mari Gouvea  
 2/20 Arthur Conover  
 Siena Fitzpatrick  
 Elizabeth Larsen  
 Taylan Thomas  
 Tiana Thomas

## In The Classroom

A 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher had twenty-six students in her class. She presented each child with the 1<sup>st</sup> half of a well-known proverb and asked them to come up with the remainder of the proverb. It is hard to believe these were done by first-graders!

1. An idle mind is .....the best way to relax.
2. Where there's smoke.....pollution.
3. Happy the bride who.....gets all the presents.
4. A penny saved is.....not much.
5. Two's company, three's.....the Musketeers.
6. Laugh and the whole world laughs with you, cry and.....you have to blow your nose.
7. There are none so blind as.....Stevie Wonder..
8. Children should be seen and not.....spanked or grounded.
9. If at first you don't succeed.....get new batteries.
10. You get out of something only what you.....see in the picture on the box.
11. When the blind lead the blind.....get out of the way.
12. A bird in the hand.....is going to poop on you.

# Stewardship

## February – 2017

	<u>February 5</u>	<u>February 12</u>	<u>February 19</u>	<u>February 26</u>
<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Caden Fitzpatrick</b>	<b>Allison Farr</b>	<b>Andrew Farr</b>	<b>Emmy Carlson</b>
<b>Comm. Assistant</b>	<b>Chris Batson</b>	<b>No Communion</b>	<b>Brad Fitzpatrick</b>	<b>Steve Love</b>
<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Bill Jahnke &amp; John Gould</b>	<b>Mark Larsen &amp; Mike Hein</b>	<b>Steve Love &amp; Chris Batson</b>	<b>Brian Watson &amp; Jacob Huesers</b>
<b>Greeters</b>	<b>John &amp; Karen Ayotte</b>	<b>Chris &amp; Yvonne Batson</b>	<b>Mike &amp; Michelle Hein</b>	<b>John &amp; Esther Gould</b>
<b>Altar Care</b>	<b>Deb Nielsen</b>	<b>Sharon Conover</b>	<b>Amanda Goldsmith</b>	<b>Amy Ouellette</b>
<b>Flowers</b>	<b>Pat Kablitz</b>	<b>Fred &amp; Amy Ouellette</b>	<b>Fred &amp; Amy Ouellette</b>	<b>Julie &amp; Sarah Kohl</b>
<b>Fellowship</b>	<b>Kitty Carlson</b>	<b>Avis Grant</b>	<b>Sharon Conover</b>	<b>Board for Missions</b>