

# **RESURRECTION NEWS**



**FEBRUARY 2019**



## Pastor's Letter

February, 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I read an article a while ago about a booming new trend in South Korea where men and women are paying to ***go to jail*** for the weekend!!! They're given prison clothes, a cell with a bed and few other basic amenities. They must turn in their computers and cell phones. Lights on, lights off, meals served, all according to normal prison routines. And for this, they're paying big bucks. And there's a waiting list! Why? Because it's the only way they feel they can escape the pressure for performance.

The pressure for performance is unrelenting, never satisfied. Demands of the company, the family, the spouse, the friends, the school, the sports league, the dance team, the community organization, etc, etc, are unrelenting and never satisfied. How to escape? Where to find some rest?

And the really strange thing is that we've become so conditioned to life in high gear, striving to meet these demands, that when we're not working and busy and checking the next box and making progress, we actually feel guilty and think that something's wrong. In St. Paul's words, "our conscience accuses us." If God's law doesn't accuse us, we create our own laws that accuse us. It's like living in a prison that we have committed ourselves into. And, as odd as it sounds, some believe that the best escape from this prison is to go to prison.

There's this true story about a man who hired a company of movers to carry he and his possessions through a jungle in Africa. He pushed them hard to make as much progress as quickly as possible. One day, the company stopped in mid-day and refused to go further until they had sufficient time to rest. As they put it, 'we need some time to let our souls catch up with our bodies.' Sound familiar?

The prophet Isaiah could be addressing our day as easily as his own when he wrote, "**Even youths shall faint and grow weary, and young men shall fall exhausted...**" Evidently, we're not the first to have this problem. Our bodies have outrun our souls. We need to rest.

Isaiah's remedy however is starkly different than ours. Rather than prescribing ways in which we can work harder and accomplish more, the prophet prescribes "**waiting**," something that we call 'a waste of time.' "**But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength...**"

Coming to church for worship on Sunday is as counter-cultural as it gets in many ways. When we come to worship, we come to let our soul catch up to our body by doing NOTHING. The Divine Service is all about doing nothing and waiting on our Lord do His work of refreshing us; not with more law and expectations and guilt, but with His forgiveness and love and full acceptance; not because of what we have accomplished, but because of what His Son has accomplished for us.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, the gospel preached and communed speaks to weary bodies and souls saying, "**They who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.**" (Isaiah 40:30-31). Don't let the unrelenting and never-satisfied demands rob you of the rest you need. In Jesus Christ, "**you will find rest for your soul.**" (Matthew 11:29)

Yours in Christ,  
*Pastor Nielsen*

# *Notes from your Deaconess*

February, 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters of LCR,

Snow storms, freezing rain, thaws, more rain, followed by Arctic fronts moving in from Canada...the swings of weather during Maine winters can tire and frustrate even the most congenial northerner. However much we enjoy spontaneity and flexibility in our schedules, we all find stability and security in repetition, familiar routines, and predictable order.

When the church gathers together, we know overall how the time will be spent. Since the very early church, believers have met together to hear and study God's word, to praise God, for fellowship, for breaking bread (the Lord's Supper), and for prayers (Acts 2:42, 47). Not all of these activities took place at every meeting, and over the centuries, different services for different purposes and times of day developed – but still with recognizable patterns to each other.

Our *Lutheran Service Book* contains over 140 pages of services or specific portions of services. The first group includes the five different settings of the Divine Service. I went through these in fairly detailed fashion over a couple of years, so I will move to the next group included. Beginning on page 219, Matins, Vespers, Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer, and Compline all relate to our daily rhythm of light and darkness, waking and sleeping. The first four of these have the recognizable components of Psalmody (the singing or speaking of a psalm), scripture readings, a canticle (a song drawn from scripture), and prayers. The Matins and Vespers services are earlier traditional forms of the Morning and Evening Prayer services – as their names *come* from the Latin words for morning and evening. None of the services begin with the usual invocation, but with versicles, which are short verses sung back and forth between leader and congregation. The Evening Prayer service includes a "Service of Light" as it begins, which may date back as far as the second century A.D! I'll write about the Compline service next month.

Beginning on the fourth of February our daily lectionary readings come from the Old Testament book of Job, and from the gospel according to John. While this season of Epiphany focuses on the revelation of who Jesus is for the world, Job struggled with the hidden ways of God – those difficult circumstances which from our point of view contradict our sense of justice, mercy, and fair play. (*"Oh the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!" Romans 11:33*) The apostle John helped to unveil some of that mystery of our Lord's work and ways. Who is: the light of the world? The Word who was in the beginning and became flesh? The Lamb of God? The Bread of Life?

I plan to hold women's Bible studies on February 9 and 23. We will continue to explore a bit more in depth some of the fruits of the Spirit.

*Job 19:25-27a: For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another.*

Under his mercy,  
*Sharon M. Conover*

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR FEBRUARY**

2/3 John Prepares the Way – Matthew 3:1-12

2/10 The Baptism of Jesus – Luke 3:15-22

2/17 The Temptation of Jesus – Luke 3:15-22

2/24 Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael – John 1:43-51

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

## **ADULT BIBLE STUDY FOR FEBRUARY: A Year with the Small Catechism**

2/3 3<sup>rd</sup> Article: part III. Questions #219-229

2/10 Lord's Prayer – Introduction. Questions #230-249

2/17 Lord's Prayer – 1<sup>st</sup> Petition. Questions #250-254

2/24 Lord's Prayer – 2<sup>nd</sup> Petition. Questions #255-260

## **MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY - THURSDAYS, 10:30AM.**

Join us for this lively study of the epistle to the Hebrews.

## **LWML REPORT**

The LWML held a "Quilting Day" on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018. With \$250 seed money from Thrivent Financial, we purchased batting and backing. Evelyn Gaug and Dorothy McAllister sewed together 5" squares ahead of time. A fun day was had by all 15 women who participated. We were able to complete 24 quilts for the Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter. It was decided to do it again next year.

The Annual Christmas Fair was a huge success which raised over \$2,000. A big thank you to all who contributed and participated. All of the funds from this event will be dispersed to charities and mission projects, locally, nationally and internationally as allocated at our January 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Our annual Christmas Party was held on December 12<sup>th</sup> at Joseph's Fireside Steak house. All 21 women had a great time. Anna Rowe made gift bags for all those attending, which was followed by a Yankee Swap. How blessed we are by each other's friendship and fellowship.

Sincerely,

*Deb Nielsen*

## **SANCTUARY REMODEL MORTGAGE LOAN STATUS**

The initial mortgage loan for the sanctuary remodeling project, completed in January, 2016, was \$80,000. Through the faithful giving of the congregation, the remaining principal due on this loan at the beginning of this year is \$8,889.42. Keep up the good work as we look forward to paying off this mortgage before the end of this year.

## **THANK YOU FROM STEP AA GROUP**

Happy New Year!

The Tuesday Night Step Meeting remains grateful for the location you allow us for our meeting. Please find a donation of gratitude enclosed. Though we are a small group, I believe we have helped many newcomers on a starting journey into sobriety. Thank you again for allowing us to use this location.

Mark

## Monthly Worship



### February 3, 2019

#### **Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany**

**Psalm:** 71:1-6 (7-11)

**First Reading:** Jeremiah 1:4-10 (17-19)

**Epistle:** 1 Corinthians 12:31b-13:13

**Holy Gospel:** Luke 4:31-44

### February 10, 2019

#### **Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany**

**Psalm:** 138

**First Reading:** Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13)

**Epistle:** 1 Corinthians 14:12b-20

**Holy Gospel:** Luke 6:1-11

### February 17, 2019

#### **Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany**

**Psalm:** 1

**First Reading:** Jeremiah 17:5-8

**Epistle:** 1 Corinthians 15: (1-11) 12-20

**Gospel:** Luke 6: 17-26

### February 24, 2019

#### **Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany**

**Psalm:** 103:1-13

**First Reading:** Genesis 45:3-15

**Epistle:** 1 Corinthians 15:21-26, 30-42

**Holy Gospel:** Luke 6:27-36

## **BIBLE QUIZ**

**1. What did God change Jacob's name to?**

A) Sidon B) Israel C) Nimrod D) Babylon

**2. Which bird did Noah send out that returned with an olive leaf in her beak/**

A) pigeon B) dove C) crow D) sparrow

**3. What did the Jerusalem mob assume Paul had done that led to his arrest?**

A) murdered a fellow human being B) eaten bacon and wine C) polluted the Lord's temple by letting Greek gentiles in D) healed on the Sabbath

**4. What occurred in the valley in Ezekiel's vision?**

A) a few raindrops turned into flood waters B) many enemy soldiers suddenly fell down dead for no reason C) hundreds of four-footed beasts stampeded Babylon D) thousands of scattered skeleton bones rattled to life

**5. When the angel helped Peter escape from prison, how did the praying Jews receive him?**

A) with disbelief B) with anger C) with both D) with neither

**6. Who said this: "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord"?**

A) God B) an angel C) a prophet D) a shepherd



2/3 Cindy Davis  
 2/4 Darryll Zahner  
 2/10 Steven Farr  
 Elizabeth Larsen  
 2/11 Chester Gilbert  
 2/19 Brad Fitzpatrick  
 2/22 Kay Gideon



## BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

2/1 Caden Fitzpatrick  
 2/13 Becky Cote  
 2/14 Vesta Holt  
 2/23 Robert Sieber  
 2/24 Andrew Farr  
 2/25 Lee Anne Larsen  
 2/?? Natalie Crowley



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

## Church Chuckles

.....A well-known minister was invited to speak at a city council meeting on a Friday afternoon, since he was in town to preach all weekend. Knowing he would be repeating some of the same jokes during the Sunday sermons, he requested the newspaper reporter in attendance not include them in her article. On Saturday morning, there was a nice write-up about the visiting minister, with this unfortunate ending: "The minister told a number of funny stories that we simply could not publish."

.....After the church service, Billy told the pastor, "When I grow up, I'm going to give you some money. My daddy says you're one of the poorest preachers we've ever had."

## February Bible Quiz Answers:

1. B (Genesis 32:28)
2. B (Genesis 8:11)
3. C (Acts 21:26-28)
4. D (Ezekiel 37:1-10)
5. A (Acts 12:15-16)
6. B (Luke 2:10-11)

# February Stewardship

	<u>February 3</u>	<u>February 10</u>	<u>February 17</u>	<u>February 24</u>
<u>Acolyte</u>	Emily Lynn Carlson	Evan Farr	Andrew Farr	Allison Farr
<u>Comm. Assistant</u>	Mike Hein	Dan Callahan	Steve Farr	Brad Fitzpatrick
<u>Ushers</u>	Bill Jahnke & Dan Keefe	Mark Larsen & Wayne Pelletier	Dan Callahan & Chris Batson	Mike Hein & Tom Heusers
<u>Greeters</u>	Christine & Tiana Thomas	Peter & Doris Doran	John & Esther Gould	Fernando & Mari Gouvea
<u>Altar Care</u>	Katie Huesers	Avis Grant	Deb Nielsen	Joan Drageland
<u>Flowers</u>	Sharon Conover	Sharon Conover	The Goldsmiths	The Goldsmiths
<u>Fellowship</u>	Katie Huesers	Deb Nielsen	Becky Cote	Sharon Klipp

# The Daily Lectionary

A guide to help you be in the Word daily

## February

2/1 Zechariah 11:4-17 / 2 Timothy 4:1-18  
2/2 Zechariah 12:1-13:9 / Titus 1:1-2:6  
2/3 Zechariah 14:1-21 / Titus 2:7-3:15  
2/4 Job 1:1-22 / John 1:1-18  
2/5 Job 2:1-3:10 / John 1:19-34  
2/6 Job 3:11-26 / John 1:35-51  
2/7 Job 4:1-21 / John 2:1-12  
2/8 Job 5:1-27 / John 2:13-25  
2/9 Job 6:1-13 / John 3:1-21  
2/10 Job 6:14-30 / John 3:22-4:6  
2/11 Job 7:1-21 / John 4:7-26  
2/12 Job 8:1-22 / John 4:27-45  
2/13 Job 9:1-35 / John 4:46-54  
2/14 Job 10:1-22 / John 5:1-18  
2/15 Job 11:1-20 / John 5:19-29  
2/16 Job 12:1-6, 12-25 / John 5:30-47  
2/17 Job 13:1-12 / John 6:1-21  
2/18 Job 13:13-28 / John 6:22-40  
2/19 Job 14:1-22 / John 6:41-59  
2/20 Job 15:1-23, 30-35 / John 6:60-71  
2/21 Job 16:1-22 / John 7:1-13  
2/22 Job 17:1-16 / John 7:14-31  
2/23 Job 18:1-21 / John 7:32-53  
2/24 Job 19:1-12, 21-27 / John 8:1-20  
2/25 Job 20:1-23, 29 / John 8:21-38  
2/26 Job 21:1-21 / John 8:39-59  
2/27 Job 30:16-31 / John 9:1-23  
2/28 Job 31:1-12, 33-40 / John 9:24-41

(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*