

# **RESURRECTION NEWS**



**FEBRUARY 2020**



## Pastor's Letter

February, 2008

"For by grace you have been saved through faith." Ephesians 2:8

### What is "Grace"?

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

A LCMS pastor died and went to heaven (*as only a few LCMS pastors actually do*). As he arrived at the pearly gates, St. Peter asked him for the password to enter. This pastor explained how he had shepherded a small congregation in a very non-Lutheran part of the world and had held faithfully to the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions throughout his career. St. Peter just shook his head from side to side and the gates remained shut. The pastor explained how he had planted a new congregation where there had been almost no LCMS presence before. Still, St. Peter just shook his head and the doors remained shut. The pastor explained how he had tithed on the gross and not the net, rarely taken all the Sunday's allotted to him for vacation and spent a lot of his days off writing a sermon instead of fishing or hiking. But still, St. Peter would not open the doors. Finally, the pastor said, "I give up." At that the gates opened and St. Peter welcomed him into heaven.

It is either by grace you are saved or by works - but it can't be both because 'grace' excludes all 'works.' And the scriptures say, **"It is by grace you have been saved."**

A good definition for grace would be "the kindness which bestows upon one a goodness which he does not deserve." Grace is the giving of something for free that the receiver doesn't deserve. If there is anything deserving in the receiver - then it may still a gift but it isn't grace.

What could possibly be the motive that lies behind grace? There can be only one - love. It is not our worthiness or our goodness that motivates God to save us. It is His love for us. Paul describes this to the Ephesians by saying, **"Because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even while we were dead in transgressions - it is by grace you have been saved."**

It is good for us to examine ourselves honestly and identify all of those big and little hopes we have that are based on our own goodness or works and that stand in the way of our full appreciation and gratitude for God's love for us. How do we try to add merit to motivate God to save us? Are we afraid that the love of God is not great enough or the mercy of God not rich enough to save us as we are? Are we afraid that it's just too simple or too free?

If we were honest with ourselves, we would all have to confess that we do not really believe that God is that loving and that merciful to love us and save us as we are. Our faith is weak and our doubts are strong.

Yet, even here, God is greater than we are! Even our faith may not be counted or considered to be our "good work" before God. How wonderfully freeing it is to entrust your life to God who loves you simply because He loves to love you.

Yours in Christ,  
*Pastor Nielsen*

# *Notes from your Deaconess*

February, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters of LCR,

The theme of light runs through the Epiphany season as our days here in Maine slowly but surely get brighter. Two hymns focusing on that light of Christ drew my attention as I looked through our Epiphany section of the Lutheran Service Book, #402 and #403.

**“The Only Son from Heaven”** (402) has a text from Martin Luther’s time, the early 1500’s, written by a woman named Elisabeth Cruciger. One of the earliest female hymn writers of our service book, she was amongst the nuns who fled from convents to Wittenberg after reading some of Luther’s writings. The text contains references to Jesus as the Morning Star, scriptural allusions to prophecies about the Messiah, a synopsis of the gospel message in the second verse, a prayer for God’s presence and assistance in the third, and we join the hymn of praise with those in heaven in its final verse – as we do during our service of the sacrament. The tune has murkier origins, and may have been based on a folk melody of the time. J.S. Bach later used the tune in a couple of his cantatas and prelude compositions.

**“O Savior of Our Fallen Race”** (403) weds a very old *text* whose writer is unknown, with a tune composed less than twenty years ago. Sometime between the fifth and tenth century, this text also draws our attention to Jesus as the light of the world. During that time period, the heresy of Arianism, which we still combat, had spread through the church world. This belief, contrary to our creeds and to scripture, teaches that Jesus did not exist from eternity with the Father and Holy Spirit, but was created like any other man and then became God the Son. With connections to the opening of John’s gospel and outlining the gospel message throughout, this hymn concludes with praise to our triune God. The composer of the tune, Stephen R. Johnson, is also a pianist, choral director, and music instructor living in New York state. He named the tune “Putnam,” after the county of New York where he resides. I think it has a sound akin to some of the older chant tunes we have for some other hymns.

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 the 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 seem contrary to a loving God (*“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. We’ll read nearly half of Job, and just over a third of John’s gospel before turning back to the beginning of Genesis, and moving to Mark’s gospel on Ash Wednesday, which is February 26 this year.

I plan to hold Saturday morning Bible studies for women on February 8 and 22 downstairs at church from about 8:30 to 10. We’ll continue on through Hebrews – chapters 8 and 9 most likely (with review of course). This intriguing epistle/sermon clearly links the worship of the Jews in the Old Testament to our worship now with Jesus’ fulfillment of all the requirements of those laws and regulations.

Under his mercy,

*Sharon M. Conover*

## **ADULT BIBLE STUDY FOR FEBRUARY: The Hymns of Epiphany**

Join us for this lively study of the hymns we during the season of Epiphany!

- 2/2 "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright" - #395
- 2/9 "Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning" - #400
- 2/16 "From God the Father, Virgin Born" - #401
- 2/23 "Tis Good Lord To Be Here" - #414

## **MEN'S BREAKFAST MEETING - SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15<sup>TH</sup> - 8:00AM.**

Join us for some great food, fellowship, and discussion of C.S. Lewis' - "Mere Christianity." This month we'll dive into Book 3: Chapter 7 - 'Forgiveness' and Chapter 8 - 'The Great Sin' (*pride*).

## **ASH WEDNESDAY / LENT 2020**

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>. Once again, we will conduct mid-week services during Lent at Noon and 7:00pm. The theme for this year's mid-week services will be **"The Apostle's Creed."** Plan to join us as we explore this ancient Creed which confesses the faith of the baptized in the Triune God.

## **E-MAIL HACK UPDATE**

It looks as though someone has tapped into my 'contact list' or gotten ahold of our Directory and is sending e-mails to members of the congregation in my name. Please ignore all messages from "lutheranblessing88@gmail.com". If you're able to do so, mark this address as 'Junk' and 'Block' it. Pastor.

## **YEAR END MISSION FUNDS DISTRIBUTION**

At its January meeting, the Church Council approved the following distribution of Mission Funds for the 2019 year. This distribution brings the congregation's Missions Giving to its budgeted 15% of offerings.

- Garuna Foundation (*sponsorship of two students*) - \$720
- Lutheran Heritage Foundation - \$1,000
- Lutherans For Life - \$1,000
- Concordia Theological Seminary (*Clothing and Food Bank*) - \$1,000
- Waterville Food Bank - \$1,000
- Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter - \$1,000
- Maine Children's Home - \$1,000

## **HELP STOCK OUR CHURCH FREEZER**

In an effort to prepare ourselves for assisting members of our church family with meals during times of recovery from surgery and illness, or other need, we have begun to freeze portions of meals. This way we will be quickly able to have a main dish (in particular) on hand to provide. If you cook a soup, casserole, or baked pasta/rice type of dish and have leftovers you typically freeze, consider bringing a container for two or more portions, labeled to indicate what the food is and including the portion amount, in order to add to our growing stash. In addition, if the food is gluten-free, make that clear for anyone who might need that as well. Desserts which freeze would also be welcome.

We're beginning to work on a smooth way to help each other. The sign-up sheets on the bulletin board in the upstairs hallway also will be used to help collect additional parts of meals, as well as with delivery as we learn of the needs.

--Deaconess Conover



## **Monthly Worship**

**February 2, 2020**

**The Purification of Mary and  
The Presentation of our Lord**

**Psalm:** 84

**First Reading:** 1 Samuel 2:21-28

**Epistle:** Hebrews 2:14-18

**Holy Gospel:** Luke 2:22-32 (33-40)

**February 9, 2020**

**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 16, 2020**

**Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany**

**Psalm:** 119:1-8

**First Reading:** Isaiah 49:1-7

**Epistle:** Deuteronomy 30:15-20

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

**February 23, 2020**

**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

**February 26, 2020**

**Ash Wednesday**

**Psalm:** 51:1-13 (14-19)

**First Reading:** Joel 2: 12-19

**Epistle:** 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

**Holy Gospel:** Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

## **BIBLE QUIZ**

***1. Who initiated the citywide riot in Ephesus?***

A) Peter B) Paul C) the city rulers (D) Demetrius

***2. What was the Jewish leaders' biggest problem with Jesus' miraculous healings?***

A) the healings were done without official approval  
B) the healings were done on the Sabbath C) the healings were done to known sinners and tax collectors D) the healings were done as a means of showing off

***3. Why is Jesus taking so long in returning to earth?***

A) He is patiently waiting so many people will repent and not be destroyed B) He is carefully watching us to see who will live by faith C) He is amusing himself by playing with our lives for as long as possible D) He has actually forgotten about returning

***4. Why did the dynamic divinely appointed team, Paul and Barnabas split up?***

A) Barnabas was arrested B) Paul was arrested (C) they could not agree about bringing the deserter John Mark with them D) God called Barnabas to go to Tarshish

***5. How long did the flood waters cover the earth?***

A) 40 days B) 150 days C) 365 days D) 515 days

***6. Who said this: "Ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger?"***

A) slaves under Nebuchadnezzar B) soldiers under David C) the crowd under Moses D) a mob under Pilate



2/5 Darryll Zahner  
 2/6 Steve Farr  
 Elizabeth Larsen  
 2/9 Kemp Anderson  
 2/12 Rachel Anderson  
 Chester Gilbert  
 2/20 Brad Fitzpatrick  
 Jenifer MacPherson  
 2/22 Kay Gideon



2/7 Fernando Gouvea  
 Mari Gouvea  
 2/20 Arthur Conover  
 Siena Fitzpatrick  
 Elizabeth Larsen  
 Taylan Thomas  
 Tiana Thomas

### A RIDDLE--FOR A FEW CHUCKLES!

Once upon a time, a perfect man and a perfect woman met. After a perfect courtship, they had a perfect wedding. Their life together was, of course, perfect. One snowy, stormy Christmas Eve, this perfect couple was driving their perfect car along a winding road, when they noticed someone at the side of the road in distress. Being the perfect couple, they stopped to help.

There stood Santa Claus with a huge bundle of toys. Not wanting to disappoint any children on the eve of Christmas, the perfect couple loaded Santa and his toys into their vehicle.

Soon they were driving along delivering the toys. Unfortunately, the driving conditions deteriorated, and the perfect couple and Santa Claus had an accident. Only one of them survived the accident.

**Question:** Who was the survivor?

**Answer:** The perfect woman survived. She's the only one who really existed in the first place. Everyone knows there is no Santa Claus and there is no such thing as a perfect man.

Women stop reading here, that is the end of the joke. Men keep reading.

So, if there is no perfect man and no Santa Claus, the woman must have been driving. This explains why there was an accident.

By the way if you're a woman and you're still reading, this illustrates another point:

**Women never listen!!!!**



### BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

2/1 Caden Fitzpatrick  
 2/12 Becky Cote  
 2/13 Vesta Holt  
 2/23 Robert Sieber  
 2/24 Andrew Farr  
 2/25 Lee Anne Larsen  
 2/29 Natalie Crowley

### Bible Quiz Answers

1. D (Acts 19:24-29)
2. B (Luke 13:14)
3. A (2 Peter 3:9)
4. C (Acts 15:37-39)
5. B (Genesis 7:24)
6. C (Exodus 16:3)

# February Stewardship

	<u>February 2</u>	<u>February 9</u>	<u>February 16</u>	<u>February 23</u>	<u>February 26</u> (Ash Wednesday)
<u>Acolyte</u>	Callum Goldsmith	Mia Fitzpatrick	Emily Lynn Carlson	Evan Farr	Allison Farr (P.M.)
<u>Comm. Assistant</u>	Chris Batson	Brad Fitzpatrick	Mike Hein	Steve Farr	Glenn Carlson (A.M.) Mark Larsen (P.M.)
<u>Ushers</u>	Mark Larsen & Wayne Pellitier	Brian Watson & Glenn Carlson, Sr.	Glenn Carlson, Jr. & Mo Cote	Dan Keefe & John Ayotte	John Ayotte (A.M.) Chris Batson & Tom Huesers (P.M.)
<u>Greeters</u>	Mo & Becky Cote	The Farr Family	Dan & Becca Keefe	Mike & Michelle Hein	Chris & Yvonne Batson (P.M.)
<u>Altar Care</u>	Lee Anne Larsen	Katie Huesers	Avis Grant	Deb Nielsen	Avis Grant
<u>Flowers</u>	Sharon Conover	Sharon Conover	Sharon Klipp	Sharon Klipp	-----
<u>Fellowship</u>	Katie Huesers	Amy Ouellette	OPEN	OPEN	-----

# 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*