

# RESURRECTION NEWS



**JANUARY 2017**



## Pastor's Letter

January, 2017

### "The Epiphany of Our Lord"

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The celebration of Epiphany centers upon the account of the Magi who come from the east in search of the "king of the Jews." **"Where is he who is born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." "And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him."**

They came to 'worship.' The truth of the matter is, everyone worships. God created man to be a worshipping creature. It's one of the things that distinguish human beings from the animals. God made man with a bendable knee for lots of reasons - to worship first of all.

After the fall into sin, man did not lose his God-given nature to worship. But sin corrupted that nature so that now man worships what is not God. In the beginning, God gave man 'dominion' over the creation. But in our sin, we have turned that around so that now, we bend the knee and worship 'created things.' That's called 'idolatry,' and it's dangerously serious business.

Everyone worships. The question is, what do we worship? Luther was exactly right when he said that we worship what we "fear, love and trust above all things." The question is, what is that?

We dare not be fooled by 'body language.' The bend of the knees and the bowing of the head do not always communicate what is really going on in the heart. King Herod sent the Magi to Bethlehem saying, **"Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and WORSHIP HIM."** But what he really meant was, **"that I may come and MURDER HIM."**

Unlike Herod, we 'worship Him' when we allow Him to rule over us. Not as we think He should rule over us, but when we believe that He is good and gracious and full of mercy and abounding in steadfast love and we eagerly strive to live under His rule and way for our life.

When we have a right belief about Him, a right worship naturally follows. We willingly and gladly bend the knee to His Commandments because we know that they come from Him and therefore must be good for us, because He is the King of love.

At the end of Matthew's gospel, there is a scene that parallels that of the Magi worshipping Jesus. The scene is of 11 men gathered around Jesus who was crucified and raised from the dead. Matthew writes, **"And when they saw Him they worshiped Him..."**

May it be so for us!

Blessed Epiphany,  
*Pastor Nielsen*

# *Notes from your Deaconess*

January, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters of LCR,

Now we come to Christmas and Epiphany, the entrance of our Lord into our human nature. We prepare to hear the word he brings as the Word made flesh.

In the Divine Service, we come next to the *Introit*, which begins the Entrance Rite (which also includes the Kyrie, Hymn of Praise and Collect). We continue to prepare for the Service of the Word to and among us. The introit contains verses from the Psalms, and occasionally includes other scripture verses related to the readings or theme for the day.

The earliest Christian worship services, which took place in houses, most likely did *not* include this entire Entrance Rite portion of the service. This developed to fill some of the time before the service and prepare the people as they gathered and as the priest or priests entered and processed to the front of large churches. Sometimes many psalms were chanted before the service continued. It also has roots in the Hebrew worship of the Old Testament itself. We're fairly confident that for the festivals in Jerusalem those attending would sing or chant the set of Psalms numbered 120 through 124, the "Psalms of Ascent," as they entered Jerusalem and the temple for the services of feasts and festivals. Consider the first verse of 122: "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD!'" Generally we sing the introit antiphonally—pastor and people taking turns with phrases.

The introit itself is one of those *proper* parts of the service which means that it changes from week to week depending on seasons, feasts and festivals. The introit, while proper, nearly always concludes with the brief hymn of praise *Gloria Patri* ("Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever, Amen"), which is actually an *ordinary* (meaning it does **not** change).

While we monthly consider pieces of the Divine Service used weekly, I hope you daily feast on God's word. The lectionary readings will soon bring us into the prophet Ezekiel who spoke God's word and wrote for his fellow Hebrew brothers and sisters in exile in Babylon. We, too, live in exile and need this nourishment. The New Testament readings will move into Romans, that epistle from Paul's hand which deeply convicted Martin Luther of God's justification of us by his grace not our works.

May the Lord's peace and comfort bring you into this new year.

Under his mercy,

*Sharon M. Conover*

MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY RESUMES - THURSDAY - JANUARY 12<sup>TH</sup> - 10:30AM.

2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians. Plan to join us and bring a friend.

MEN'S BREAKFAST - SATURDAY, JANUARY 14<sup>TH</sup> - 8:00AM.

Plan to join us for this special Men's Breakfast Meeting. Great fellowship, bible study and breakfast. We'll be done by 10:00am. In time to get back home to do those chores.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR JANUARY: 8:45AM.

- 1/1 *New Years Day - No Sunday School*  
1/8 Jesus Calls His Disciples - Matthew 4:12-25  
1/15 Jesus Heals Many - Luke 4:31-44  
1/22 Jesus Heals A Man Who Is Paralyzed - Mark 2:1-12  
1/29 Jesus Calls Matthew - Mark 2:13-17

ADULT BIBLE STUDY FOR JANUARY: 8:45AM.

- 1/1 *New Years Day - No Adult Bible Study*  
1/8 **"Whole Life Stewardship"** - How does biblical stewardship apply to our whole life?  
1/15 **"Overcoming Homelessness"** - *We will be meeting at the Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter at 8:45am.*  
1/22 **"Book of the Bible Survey"** - 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel - Israel under Saul and David.  
1/29 **"The Hymns of Paul Gerhardt"** - Called the greatest Lutheran hymn-writer.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15<sup>TH</sup> - SPECIAL ADULT BIBLE STUDY / LIFE SUNDAY / STEWARDSHIP PLEDGES DEDICATED

- SUNDAY, JANUARY 15<sup>TH</sup> - ADULT BIBLE STUDY - "ELIMINATING HOMELESSNESS"  
For the past several years, the Board for Missions has arranged for the Director of the Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter to be our guest for Adult Bible Study and worship. This year, we will meet at the Shelter for Adult Bible Study at 8:45am. Betty Palmer and Brian Watson will give us a tour of the newly developed 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. *We meet at the Homeless Shelter, 19 Colby St., Waterville at 8:45am.*
- LIFE SUNDAY  
A special 'door offering' for Lutheran For Life will be taken this Sunday. The Board for Missions will match the congregation's offerings.
- 2017 STEWARDSHIP PLEDGES DEDICATED  
Please remember to bring your 2017 Stewardship Pledge Card with you on January 25<sup>th</sup> where they will be dedicated to the Lord during worship.

NEW FLOWER AND FELLOWSHIP SIGN UP SHEETS FOR 2017 ARE POSTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD in the Narthex. Please sign up now. The cost for sponsoring flowers for the altar is now \$28 for two weeks.

THANK YOU FROM MAINE CHILDREN'S HOME FOR LITTLE WANDERERS

12/7/16

Dear Lutheran Church of the Resurrection,

On behalf of the Maine Children's Home for Little Wanderers, please accept our sincere appreciation for your gift of \$1000 in support of our Christmas Program. Due to your efforts, the Maine Children's Home will be able to serve 1,700 underprivileged children this holiday season. Your thoughtfulness will help bring smiles of joy to many youngsters Christmas morning.

Richard Dorian - Executive Director

ANNUAL VOTERS' MEETING MINUTES - DECEMBER 11, 2016 (EXCERPTS)

The **Report of the Pastor** was given by Pastor Nielsen. He reported one baptism in 2016. He commended the work of the Church Council, groups, and individuals for their contributions to the life of the church, specifically the work of the Altar Guild. The installation of Deaconess Conover was a highlight of the year. Outreach continues to be a primary concern and objective. Pastor Nielsen asked church members to invite people to attend a service, and he will encourage them to attend an Inquirers Class.

2017 will represent the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the congregation and the church will form a short-term subcommittee to develop ideas for celebrating

these anniversaries. Pastor Nielsen provided a good example of stewardship with the whole life insurance policy Avis Grant took out in 1994 and gave the proceeds to the church. The policy matured and provided almost \$25,000 to the church recently which paid for the church's roof and added to the church's Capital Improvement Fund.

The **Report of the Deaconess** was given by Deaconess Conover. The summer Women's Retreat went very well. She is leading a Women's Bible Study, semi-monthly on Saturday mornings. Sharon leads weekly prayer group meetings and assists with the Senior High Youth Group events and activities. She is making several visits to various members of the congregation.

The **Report of the Financial Secretary and Treasurer** was given by Yvonne Batson. She noted the church's recent transition to PayChex payroll service and reviewed the Income and Expense Statement for November, 2016. The church has received a total of \$186,929.79 in income and has incurred \$166,771.86 in expenses.

Yvonne proposed to move the \$901.08 in the Designated Memorials Fund to the Undesignated Memorials Fund due to no longer having specific designations information for that amount. After discussion, this motion passed with two abstentions. She proposed using the \$200 which has been designated for Seminary students by giving an additional \$100 each to the two seminary students which the church currently supports. This motion passed unanimously. Yvonne proposed the church pay off the remaining \$1,200 on the organ loan by the end of 2016. This motion passed unanimously.

The **Report of the Board for Missions** was given by Amanda Goldsmith. In 2016, mission support was given to several local, national, and international charities and missions. The Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter received donations of men's clothing from the church and \$2,000 recently went to support their purchase of washers and dryers. Hope Lutheran Church receives \$400/month in financial support from our church.

Other charitable giving by the church included the Lutheran Heritage Fund, L.C.M.S. Disaster Relief, the Waterville-Area Food Bank, Lutherans for Life, the Garuna Foundation, Maine Children's Home, and the L.C.M.S. - New England District. Future charitable giving may include the Lutheran Braille Workers and the church's Senior High Youth Group Missions Trip to Boston.

The **Report of the Elders** was given by Chris Batson. One new member was received into membership in 2016, by baptism - David Grierson. There were no releases from membership. The church has 123 baptized members, with 107 of these members confirmed. There are 23 children and 54 family units. The average 2016 church worship attendance, through November, was 67.

Chris reported the church's Fall Men's Retreat went well, with 12 men attending. They continue to oversee the Early Communion Program. The Elders recently began a study on the topic of stewardship. The Elders plan a Men's Breakfast for January 14<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m.

The **Report of the Trustees** was given by Mark Larsen. Mark outlined the church's roof replacement and church sanctuary renovation over the past year. He thanked Mike Hein for recently taking on the church custodial duties on a long-term volunteer basis. The church will consider sealing and striping the parking lot and replacing older lighting fixtures over the next year. He thanked Brian Watson and Tom Huesers for their help in overseeing the church projects this year and Pastor Nielsen.

The **Report of the Board for Youth** was not given. Pastor Nielsen reported the Senior High Youth Group will participate in a "Five Sixteen Missions Project" in Boston in June, 2017.

Deb Nielsen gave the **Lutheran Women's Missions League** report. The recent annual craft fair raised approximately \$1,900. There was an L.W.M.L. annual party on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

The **2017 Church Council and Officers** were nominated for approval: Brian Watson, President; Dan Callahan, Vice President; Yvonne Batson, Treasurer; Pat Kablitz, Financial Secretary; Dorthy McAllister, Assistant Financial Secretary; Amanda Goldsmith, Recording Secretary; Chris Batson, Head Elder; Glenn Carlson, Sr. and Tom Huesers, Elders; Mark Larsen, Head Trustee; Brian Watson and Tom Huesers, Trustees; and Amanda Goldsmith, Board for Missions Chair. There was no nomination for the Board for Youth Chair position. A motion to approve the Church Council and officer nominees passed unanimously.

Chris Batson detailed the proposed **2017 Church Budget**. The total proposed expense for 2017 is \$195,548. A motion to accept the proposed 2017 budget passed unanimously.

In **New Business**, Chris Batson thanked Fernando Gouvêa for his leadership as President of the Church Council and Mike Hein for his service as Recording Secretary, both over many years. The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m. with Pastor Nielsen leading those in attendance in singing the Common Doxology.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Mike Hein*

#### THANK YOU FROM SEMINARIAN - MICHAEL MCGINLEY

November 26, 2016

Rev. Nielsen and the Congregation of Lutheran Church of the Resurrection,



God's Blessings to you and yours as we quickly approach the Advent season! We hope this letter finds everyone doing well. Thank you for your continued support this academic year. The money you provide goes a long way in sustaining us throughout the year. I look forward to working with Rev. Nielsen on a trip out to preach and see everyone in person!

As for me, my time over the summer and the fall have been busy either preaching or studying. I had the honor of preaching twice while in Iowa and again just recently here in Indiana... Even though I am currently on break until after Thanksgiving, I am already looking ahead to the Winter quarter, where I will take: Options in Sermon Form, Pastoral Counseling, Catechetics, Pauline Epistles, and Theologia: Baptism. The Winter quarter will, no doubt, also be incredibly busy.

I want everyone to know that while time has not allowed me to update as often as I wish, that Kelsi, Katka, and I all appreciate and are thankful for your love and support in every form it has been given to us - in prayer, financially, or words of encouragement...

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all,

*Michael J McGinley*

Michael, Kelsi, and Katka McGinley

*(The entire letter is on the bulletin board in the Narthex)*



## BIBLE QUIZ

### Readings for Worship

#### January 1, 2017

Circumcision & Name of Jesus

Psalm: 8

First Reading: Numbers 6:22-27

Epistle: Galatians 3:23-29

Holy Gospel: Luke 2:21

#### January 8, 2017

The Baptism of our Lord/First Sunday after the Epiphany

Psalm: 29

First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9

Epistle: Romans 6:1-11

Holy Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

#### January 15, 2017

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Psalm: 40:1-11

First Reading: Isaiah 49:1-7

Epistle: 1Corinthians 1:1-9

Holy Gospel: John 1:29-42a

#### January 22, 2017

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Psalm: 27:1-9 (10-14)

First Reading: Isaiah 9:1-4

Epistle: 1Corinthians 1:10-18

Holy Gospel: Matthew 4:12-25

#### January 29, 2017

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Psalm: 15

First Reading: Micah 6:1-8

Epistle: 1Corinthians 1:18-31

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

1. What is the longest book in the Old Testament?

A) Genesis B) Obadiah C) Psalms D) Jeremiah

2. What will happen to every single idle word spoken (that is, in a fit of temper, little white lies, etc.)?

A) We will give an account on judgment day  
B) God will overlook them  
C) nothing, because no one is recording them  
D) our passage into heaven is based on the degree of idle words used

3. Zacharias was struck mute for unbelief. When did God allow him to speak again?

A) after bathing in the Jordan River seven times  
B) after ten years of faithful service in the temple  
C) after declaring his baby son's name was John  
D) he never spoke again

4. What was Saul's original purpose for going to Damascus before he was converted?

A) to check out how many people were still faithful Jews  
B) to visit his vacation spot  
C) he was lost due to the sudden windstorm God sent  
D) to harass and imprison every single Christian man or woman

5. After Jesus rose from the dead, how much authority did God give him?

A) all authority on the earth  
B) all authority in the heavens and on earth  
C) all authority over spiritual unseen beings  
D) all authority over material seen beings

6. Who said this: "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle"?

A) Peter B) Paul C) James D) Jesus



- 1/11 Cianan Morris
- 1/16 Caden Fitzpatrick
- Lee Anne Larsen
- 1/19 Vesta Bealieu
- 1/20 Travis Watson
- 1/21 Steve Love
- 1/26 Deb Nielsen



### BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

- 1/1 Kari Farr
- Steven Farr
- 1/26 Sherman Hill
- 1/30 Maira Goldsmith
- 1?? Yvonne Batson



### Confirmation Anniversaries

- 1/14 Ken Zahner
- 1/26 Sherman Hill

## 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. Don't change horses.....until they stop running.
2. Strike while the.....bug is close.
3. It's always darkest.....Daylight Saving Time.
4. Never underestimate the power of.....termites.
5. You can lead a horse to water but.....How?
6. Don't bite the hand that.....dirty.
7. No new is.....impossible.
8. A miss is as good as a.....Mr.
9. You can't teach an old dog new.....math.
10. If you lie down with dogs, you'll.....stink in the morning.
11. Love all, trust.....me.
12. The pen is mightier than the.....pigs.
13. An idle mind is.....the best way to relax.
14. Where there's smoke there's.....pollution.
15. Happy the bride who.....gets all the presents.
16. A penny saved.....is not much.

(The final ten, next month.)

### Bible Quiz Answers

1. C (150 chapters)
2. A (Matthew 12:36)
3. C (Luke 1:59, 63-64)
4. D (Acts 9:1-2)
5. B (Matthew 28:18)
6. D (Matthew 19:24)



# January 2017 Stewardship

	<u>January 1</u>	<u>January 8</u>	<u>January 15</u>	<u>January 22</u>	<u>January 29</u>
<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Andrew Farr</b>	<b>Emily-Lynn Carlson</b>	<b>Allison Farr</b>	<b>Callum Goldsmith</b>	<b>Mia Fitzpatrick</b>
<b>Comm. Assistant</b>	<b>Glenn Carlson</b>	<b>Tom Huesers</b>	<b>Mike Hein</b>	<b>Mark Larsen</b>	<b>Brian Watson</b>
<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Glenn Carlson, Jr. Steve Love</b>	<b>Jacob Huesers &amp; Chris Batson</b>	<b>Bill Jahnke &amp; Moe Cote</b>	<b>Glenn Carlson &amp; John Ayotte</b>	<b>Seth Carlson &amp; Steve Love</b>
<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Julie &amp; Sarah Cole</b>	<b>Jim &amp; Darryll Zahner</b>	<b>Jared &amp; Amanda Goldsmith</b>	<b>Mark &amp; Lee Anne Larsen</b>	<b>Brad &amp; Sasha Fitzpatrick</b>
<b>Altar Care</b>	<b>Andrea Watson</b>	<b>Esther Gould</b>	<b>Lee Anne Larsen</b>	<b>Katie Huesers</b>	<b>Avis Grant</b>
<b>Flowers</b>	<b>OPEN</b>	<b>OPEN</b>	<b>OPEN</b>	<b>OPEN</b>	<b>OPEN</b>
<b>Fellowship</b>	<b>-----</b>	<b>Sharon Klipp</b>	<b>Anna Rowe</b>	<b>OPEN</b>	<b>OPEN</b>