

# RESURRECTION NEWS



**JANUARY 2018**



## Pastor's Letter

January, 2018

"Therefore we do not loose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light and momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison..."

2 Corinthians 4:16-17

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Who likes affliction? Who looks at affliction as a 'good' thing? 'Not I,' said the pastor. 'Not I,' said the parishioners. I was thinking about Paul's encouragement to the Corinthians regarding affliction and how they should think about it and handle it when it comes - and it always comes - to everyone. What I was thinking about is this, what difference does faith in Christ make when affliction comes upon us or when it comes upon others, especially others whom we love and with whom we suffer when they suffer.

Just a few verses earlier, Paul had written these words, "We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed..." (vss.8,9) I'd like to be able to handle affliction in all its shapes and sizes like this.

So what's Paul's secret? (*Actually, it's not a secret!*) Paul reminds us, that in our baptism where we have been united to Christ and He to us, we are "...always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies." (vs.10) In any affliction, Paul looks to Jesus, whom he carries in his body. This Jesus faced affliction in severest measure and cruelest form. And through His affliction, He gives life in the fullest and most blessed form. Actually, as hard as this is for we who strive to avoid all afflictions, God is actually at work in us, forming and conforming us into the image of His Son - through affliction.

A man found a cocoon of an emperor moth and took it home to watch it emerge. One day a small opening in the cocoon appeared, and for several hours the moth struggled but couldn't seem to force its body past a certain point. The man thought he would be helpful and, with a pair of scissors, he snipped the remaining bit of cocoon. Now the moth emerged easily, its body large and swollen, the wings small and shriveled. He expected that in a few hours the wings would spread out in their natural beauty, but they did not. Instead of developing into a creature free to fly, the moth spent its life dragging around a swollen body and shriveled wings. The struggle necessary to pass through the tiny opening is God's way of forcing fluid from the body of the moth into the wings. And so because the man did not allow the moth to struggle, the moth never really developed right.

Sometimes the struggle is exactly what we need too. Under the providence of our loving God the struggle has a salutary purpose. "For this light and momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison..."

Living by faith makes a difference in the way we handle affliction when it comes. We not only trust that our Lord will bring us through every trial and tribulation, we also believe that He is working in and through every trial and tribulation to strengthen our faith as we learn to trust Him and use the affliction for our good. Therefore we do not loose heart.

Yours in Christ,  
*Pastor Nielsen*

# *Notes from your Deaconess*

*January, 2018*

Dear Brothers and Sisters of LCR,

As we turn the calendars in our homes and return to the season of Epiphany in this new church year, we take a brief look at the *Prayer of Thanksgiving (Eucharistic Prayer)* in the Divine Service. “Eucharistic” comes from a Greek word with roots *eu*=good, and *charizeshthai*=favor or grace. We use this prayer with slight variations in three of our settings for worship – I, II, and IV. In this prayer, we praise and give thanks to God, stating briefly what God *has* done for us, *does* for us each time we partake of this meal, and reminding him of all He has promised he *will* do for us by this meal and in his kingdom yet to come. This prayer sounds like an abbreviated version of the historic creeds which we use regularly.

Our daily lectionary readings move from readings in Isaiah and Luke once we begin the season of Epiphany on January 6. We turn to the prophet Ezekiel who, had many vivid strange visions and prophecies given him by the Lord during the exile of Israel. The season of Epiphany relates to how Christ is revealed throughout the world—not just to the people of Israel through whom and by whom he came for us all. Ezekiel’s prophecies relate to this topic, and the epistle to the Romans, the New Testament reading for most of the month, also show clearly how he came for all people.

I will plan to hold women’s Bible studies on January 13 and 27—but the weather may shift up those meetings. Please let me know of ideas you might have for Bible study topics, books or persons. Also, keep in mind the Friday morning prayer group. If you have prayers you’d like included or would like to join us, let me know. We *usually* meet at 11am.

“I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleanness’s, and from all your idols, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. In I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.” (Ezekiel 36:25-27)

Under his mercy,  
*Sharon M. Conover*

## **MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY RESUMES - THURSDAY - JANUARY 11<sup>TH</sup> - 10:30AM.**

Miracles in the New Testament:

- 1/11 The Virgin Birth
- 1/18 The Possessed Set Free
- 1/25 Making Dinner for 5000

## **MEN’S BREAKFAST - SATURDAY, JANUARY 13<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. Just in time to get back home to do those chores.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR JANUARY: 8:45AM.**

- 1/7 Dorcas - Acts 9:36-43  
1/14 Peter and Cornelius - Acts 10  
1/21 Peter's Escape from Prison - Acts 12  
1/28 Paul's First Missionary Journey - Acts 13-14

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY FOR JANUARY: 8:45AM.**

- 1/7 "Psalm of the Month" - Psalm 29 "The voice of the Lord is powerful"  
1/14 "Exploring Genesis with Luther" - Cain and Abel - Genesis 4  
1/21 "New Testament Review" - The Gospel of Mark  
1/28 "The Conversion of Saul" - Acts 9

**NEW FLOWER AND FELLOWSHIP SIGN UP SHEETS FOR 2018** are posted on the Bulletin Board in the Narthex. Please sign up now. The cost for sponsoring flowers for the altar is now \$25 for two weeks.

**THANK YOU FROM SEMINARIAN- GRANT SORENSEN**

To my Brothers and Sisters in Christ at Lutheran Church of the Resurrection,  
My wife and I would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas, as the church gathers to remember the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. May this season be filled with peace and joy from the One who is Peace and Joy incarnate. Let us rejoice that our God has come down to save us! May God watch over you this Christmas and ever richly bless you with His gifts!

I also wanted to take the time during this busy holiday season to say thank you for your continued support and prayers. It has meant a lot to my wife and me. By your support, I have been able to greatly reduce the amount of student loans I have needed for Seminary! I daily praise God for all he has done for me through you! Thank you!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

In Christ,

*Grant & Kim Sorenson*

**THANK YOU FROM THE GARUNA FOUNDATION**

Dear Pastor Nielsen and Mission Partners LCR:

Greetings to you in the name of Jesus our Savior!

On behalf of the Garuna Foundation, I want to thank you for your very generous donation of \$720.00 to provide two Garuna Kids tuition grants. Your gracious contribution will be used to help bring the grace, mercy and compassion (Garuna) of Jesus Christ to the multitudes of those in Thailand, Cambodia and surrounding countries who have not yet had an opportunity to her of His precious love and forgiveness.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Jeffery J. Ehlers, Chairman - The Garuna Foundation

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

Dear Shelter Friends,

Through your generosity, a path has been paved for brighter, stronger future for people experiencing homelessness. We are genuinely appreciative of your gift of \$1,450 for sponsorship of our 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament...

With gratitude for all you do,

Betty Palmer - Executive Director



## BIBLE QUIZ

### Monthly Worship

**January 7, 2018**

**The Baptism of our Lord**

**Psalm:** 29

**First Reading:** Genesis 1:1-15

**Epistle:** Romans 6:1-11

**Holy Gospel:** Mark 1:4-11

**January 14, 2018**

**Second Sunday after the Epiphany**

**Psalm:** 139:1-10

**First Reading:** 1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)

**Epistle:** 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

**Holy Gospel:** John 1:43-51

**January 21, 2018**

**Third Sunday after the Epiphany**

**Psalm:** 62

**First Reading:** Jonah 3:1-5, 10

**Epistle:** 1 Corinthians 7:39-31 (32-35)

**Holy Gospel:** Mark 1:14-20

**January 28, 2018**

**Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany**

**Psalm:** 111

**First Reading:** Deuteronomy 18: 15-20

**Epistle:** 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

**Gospel:** Mark 1:21-28

**1. Where did Jesus turn water into wine?**

A) at the Passovers B) at the Feast of Tabernacles C) at a funeral D) at a wedding

**2. Who hid the two Israelites who were spying out Jericho?**

A) Rahab B) Rebekah C) Roma D) Ruth

**3. What was significant about the poor widow's offering of the two least valuable coins?**

A) they were just found on the dusty ground outside; she sacrificed nothing to God B) they were two of the last ten coins she owned; she sacrificed a lot to God C) they were the last of her dowry inheritance; she sacrificed her nest egg to God D) they were the last two coins she owned in life; she sacrificed her all to God

**4. On which day of creation did God create the oak tree?**

A) second B) third C) fourth D) fifth

**5. What potentially fatal thing occurred during one of Paul's late-night preaching gigs?**

A) he was bitten by a viper B) a legion of Roman soldiers suddenly stormed the place C) a sleeping man fell from a third floor window to the ground below D) a leprous man entered the room

**6. What was the former name of Jerusalem?**

A) Palestine B) Salim C) Jebusi D) Jetasebesl



## Just for Laughs (and groans)

### Profit Sharing

Gigi and her husband taught first grade Sunday school at their affluent suburban church. For several weeks they had been studying Old Testament prophets. Before moving on to Jeremiah, Gigi asked the children if they remembered what a prophet is.

Daughter Natalie was the only child to raise her hand. Gigi beamed. *My angel has listened and remembered*, she thought. “Now Natalie, tell us what a prophet is.”

Little Natalie stood proudly and announced, “A prophet is when you make more money than you can spend.”

- 1/8 Vary Fischer
- 1/11 Cianon Morris
- 1/16 Caden Fitzpatrick
- Lee Anne Larsen
- 1/19 Vesta Holt
- 1/21 Steve Love
- 1/26 Deb Nielsen

### Fair is Fair

Hank: “God, I was wondering, how long is a million years to you?”

God: “Son, a million years is like a second to me.”

Hank: “God, how much is a million dollars to you?”

God: “Son, a million dollars to me is like one penny to you.”

Hank: God, can I have one of your pennies?”

God: “Just a minute, son.”



### BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

- 1/1 Kari Farr
- Steve Farr
- 1/30 Maira Goldsmith
- 1/?? Yvonne Batson

### Here Goes...

“So far today, God, I’ve done all right. I haven’t gossiped, haven’t lost my temper, haven’t been selfish, grumpy or nasty, or overindulgent. I’m really glad about that.”

“But in a few minutes, God, I’m going to get out of bed, and from then on I’m probably going to need a lot more help”

“Thank you. In Jesus’ name, amen.”



### Confirmation Anniversaries

- 1/14 Kenneth Zahner

### Bible Quiz Answers

1. D (John 2:2-10)
2. A (Joshua 2:3-4)
3. D (Luke 21:1-4)
4. B (Genesis 1:12-13)
5. C (Acts 20:9)
6. C (Joshua 18:28)

# Stewardship for January, 2018

	<u>January 7</u>	<u>January 14</u>	<u>January 21</u>	<u>January 28</u>
<u>Acolyte</u>	Andrew Farr	Caden Fitzpatrick	Mia Fitzpatrick	Allison Farr
<u>Comm. Assistant</u>	Glenn Carlson	Brian Watson	Dan Callahan	Mike Hein
<u>Ushers</u>	Seth Carlson & Brian Watson	Bill Jahnke & Steve Love	Mark Larsen & Tom Huesers	Moe Cote & Glenn Carlson, Jr.
<u>Greeters</u>	Christine & Tiana Thomas	John & Esther Gould	Brad & Sasha Fitzpatrick	Dan & Sharon Callahan Matt Esculano
<u>Altar Care</u>	Sharon Conover	Amanda Goldsmith	Amy Ouellette	Kitty Carlson
<u>Flowers</u>	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
<u>Fellowship</u>	The Keefes	Sharon Klipp	OPEN	OPEN

# The Daily Lectionary

A guide to help you be in the Word daily

1/1	Isaiah 61:1-11 / Luke 1:57-80
1/2	Isaiah 62:1-12 / Luke 2:1-20
1/3	Isaiah 63:1-14 / Luke 2:21-40
1/4	Isaiah 63:15-65:2 / Luke 2:41-52
1/5	Isaiah 65:8-25 / Luke 3:1-20
1/6	Isaiah 66:1-20 / Luke 3:21-38
1/7	Ezekiel 1:1-14,22-28 / Romans 1:1-17
1/8	Ezekiel 2:1-3:11 / Romans 1:18-32
1/9	Ezekiel 3:12-27 / Romans 2:1-16
1/10	Ezekiel 18:1-4, 19-32 / Romans 2:17-29
1/11	Ezekiel 33:1-20 / Romans 3:1-18
1/12	Ezekiel 34:1-24 / Romans 3:19-31
1/13	Ezekiel 36:13-28 / Romans 4:1-25
1/14	Ezekiel 36:33-37:14 / Romans 5:1-21
1/15	Ezekiel 37:15-28 / Romans 6:1-23
1/16	Ezekiel 38:1-23 / Romans 7:1-20
1/17	Ezekiel 39:1-10 / 17-29 / Romans 7:21-8:17
1/18	Ezekiel 40:1-4; 43:1-12 / Romans 8:18-39
1/19	Ezekiel 44:1-16, 23-29 / Romans 9:1-18
1/20	Ezekiel 47:1-13,21-23 / Romans 9:19-33
1/21	Joel 1:1-20 / Romans 10:1-21
1/22	Joel 2:1-17 / Romans 11:1-24
1/23	Joel 2:18-32 / Romans 11:25-12:13
1/24	Joel 3:1-21 / Romans 12:14-13:14
1/25	Zechariah 1:1-21 / Romans 14:1-23
1/26	Zechariah 2:1-3:10 / Romans 15:1-13
1/27	Zechariah 4:1-5:11 / Romans 15:14-33
1/28	Zechariah 6:1-7:14 / Romans 16:17-27
1/29	Zechariah 8:1-23 / 2 Timothy 1:1-18
1/30	Zechariah 9:1-17 / 2 Timothy 2:1-26
1/31	Zechariah 10:1-11:3 / 2 Timothy 3:1-17

*(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.*