

RESURRECTION NEWS



JANUARY 2019

Pastor's Letter

January, 2019

"The Epiphany of Our Lord"



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Have you ever had the 'delightful' experience of listening to someone tell you a long story, and as you listen you find yourself saying to yourself, *'self, I have no idea where this is going?'* But you patiently listen to the story, because patience is a virtue, and you desire to be a virtuous person. And every once in a while your patience is rewarded - *"Eureka! Now I see where this very long story was headed."* (If only it was rewarded more often.)

Sometimes it's like that with God. The Bible is a very long story. And who hasn't attempted to read it, and along the way, wondered, *"where is this going?"* (The thing with the bible that makes it different than a lot of 'those stories,' is that we absolutely know that it's going somewhere.)

Take for example that pretty long story about two guys named Balak and Balaam. Balak is the king of the Moabites who has got his tail feathers in a tussle over the fact that the Israelites that have come out of Egypt seem to be settling in Moab. (It's an immigration issue. Not that we would know anything about that.)

Balaam seems to be one of those 'spiritual but not religious' guy who claims to have some sort of special connection with God. He's what you'd call 'a wise man.'

Balak needs a 'wise man' to get in touch with some divine intervention. He googles *"wise men"* and gets "Balaam, son of Beor." Balak wants Balaam to get God to curse the Israelites and make them go away. As hard as he tries, Balaam just can't come up with the right incantation to make it happen. Instead, God puts words into Balaam's mouth that pronounce blessing upon blessing upon Israel. One in particular goes like this, **"a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel; it shall crush the forehead of Moab and break down all the sons of Sheth."** (Numbers 24:17)

Now, here's the interesting part that caught my attention. For some reason, God seems to think it's important that we know where Balaam is from. **"Balak sent messengers to Balaam the son of Beor at Pethor, which is near the River in the land of the people of Amaw."** (Numbers 22:5). After checking Google maps for Pethor and Amaw and coming up empty, I checked my "The Lutheran Study Bible" only to discover that "the River" is the Euphrates River and Pethor is in Babylonia. Eventually, Babylon will be a place which becomes known for having lots of 'wise men.' (Read the book of Daniel).

By this time, I'm sure you're asking yourself, *"self, where's he going with this?"* Hold on, here it comes. Centuries later, 'wise men' from the east, see a star in the sky and say to themselves, *'let's chase it.'* And when their wise men friends asked them, *"why would you do a crazy thing like that,"* they said, *"because this is the star that our old wise man friend Balaam was talking about. It points to the one who is born to be king of kings."* (Or something like that.) And off they went with gifts fit for a king.

You just knew this was going somewhere didn't you? Our God always knows where His story is going. And patience is always a virtue.

Blessed Epiphany!

Pastor Nielsen

Notes from your Deaconess

January, 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters of LCR,

We've begun again to experience more daylight hours here in Maine. A month ago we started the new church year, and now we turn the calendars in our homes to January. As the new year begins, we remember with sadness and joy things past. But we also make plans and have hopes for events to come. We do well to bring all these things to our heavenly Father in prayer.

The church has always together sung and prayed the Psalms—which include these kinds of memories, along with hopes and requests. The Psalms, as a poetic portion of God's word, teach us who we are and also help us to speak to God. We find psalms of praise, lament, penitence (sorrow for sin), and even asking for God's vengeance. We can sing, read, and pray these words all together as a church body, but also in our homes in groups, or alone. Before Jesus had given his disciple the Lord's Prayer, the Hebrew people, including Jesus, had been using psalms as prayer for centuries.

Our tour of the Lutheran Service Book continues with a set of pages where you will find many of the Psalms. You'll notice that all of these have the *Gloria Patri* – a trinitarian doxology – placed at their conclusion. The included Psalms occur in the various readings for the Sunday service. As this lectionary does not include *all* of the Psalms, and as the editors of our hymnal had limited space, you'll notice skipped Psalms, and also only portions of others. You also will see a page just before the Psalms section (page xxvi) describing how to sing the Psalms with various chant tones.

You might like to read through all the Psalms on your own—you can do so one or more a day in order, except Psalm 119, which may be better read over a few days. Or you might try the schedule noted at the end of the daily lectionary reading section on page 304. That schedule doesn't cover all the Psalms either, but has a majority subset like the LSB.

Once we begin the season of Epiphany on January 6, our daily lectionary readings move from Isaiah and Luke 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 plan to hold women's Bible studies on Saturdays January 12 and 26 – weather permitting and unless some travel plans arise unexpectedly.

Romans 10:11-13: For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." [The quotes in this text come from Psalm 25 and Joel 2.]

Under his mercy,
Sharon M. Conover

MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY RESUMES - THURSDAY - JANUARY 10TH - 10:30am.

Plan to join us and bring a friend.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR JANUARY: 8:45AM.

- 1/6 The Birth of Jesus – Luke 2:1-20
- 1/13 The Presentation of Jesus – Luke 2:22-40
- 1/20 The Visit of the Magi – Matthew 2
- 1/27 The Boy Jesus in the Temple – Luke 2:41-52

ADULT BIBLE STUDY FOR JANUARY: 8:45AM.

- 1/6 Small Catechism: 2nd Article – II: Questions #162-175
- 1/13 Small Catechism: 2nd Article – III: Questions #176-185
- 1/20 Small Catechism: 3rd Article – I: Questions #186-200
- 1/27 Small Catechism: 3rd Article – II: Questions #201-218

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13TH - Lutherans For Life Special Offering

A special ‘door offering’ for Lutheran For Life will be taken this Sunday. The Board for Missions will match the congregation’s offerings.

Lutherans For Life Statement of Philosophy:

Lutherans For Life believes that the Church is compelled by God’s Word to speak and act on behalf of those who are vulnerable and defenseless. The crisis of our times is the repudiation of Biblical truth manifested in the wanton destruction of innocent human life through legalized abortion-on-demand and the growing threat to the lives of others through legalized assisted suicide and euthanasia. Therefore, as Lutherans For Life, we will strive to give a Gospel-motivated witness, to the Church and society on these and other related issues such as chastity, post abortion healing, and family living. We will call God’s people to compassionate action and foster life-affirming alternatives for those facing difficult situations. *(Taken from the website: www.lutheransforlife.org)*

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 \$28 for two weeks.

BOARD FOR MISSIONS: HOMELESS SHELTER MEAL FOR JANUARY 12th

The Board for Missions has committed once again to supply dinner for the residents at the Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter on the 2nd Saturday of every month. This month’s meal is scheduled for Saturday, January, 12th. Deb Nielsen coordinates the menu. Assignments need to be at the church kitchen by 4:30pm. on Saturday. On behalf of the Homeless Shelter staff and all the residents, thank you for your loving care for your neighbor in need.



Monthly Worship

January 6, 2019

The Epiphany of Our Lord

Psalm: 72:1-11 (12-15)

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Epistle: Ephesians 3:1-12

Holy Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

January 13, 2019

Baptism of Our Lord/

First Sunday after the Epiphany

Psalm: 29

First Reading: Isaiah 43:1-7

Epistle: Romans 6:1-11

Holy Gospel: Luke 3:15-22

January 20, 2019

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Psalm: 128

First Reading: Isaiah 62:105

Epistle: 1Corinthians 12:1-11

Gospel: John 2:1-11

January 27, 2019

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Psalm: 19: (1-6) 7-14

First Reading: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Epistle: 1Corinthians 12:12-31a

Holy Gospel: Luke 4:16-30

BIBLE QUIZ

1. *What is real charity/love?*

A) popularity and wealth B) sex within marriage C) godly characteristics D) there is no such thing as real love

2. *Which king ordered the slaughter of a priest and his whole family for the supposed crime of treason?*

A) Saul B) David C) Solomon D) Ahab

3. *What was the point to the parable of the prodigal son?*

A) God seeks the backsliders, the “sinners,” according to society, so they can repent and enter heaven B) God wants everyone to live perfectly like the older son C) God enters into communion with those who finally become holy D) God has the “warm fuzzies” for all his creatures

4. *What did god command Ezekiel to use for fuel to cook his meals?*

A) cow dung B) human flesh C) rotting animals D) donkey jawbones

5. *Which prophet was taken up in a chariot of fire?*

A) Elijah B) Elisha C) Ezekiel D) Daniel

6. *Who said this: “Naked came I out of my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return thither”?*

A) David B) Daniel C) Job D) Jesus



1/7 Vary Fischer
1/9 Joan Drageland
1/11 Cieran Morris
1/16 Caden Fitzpatrick
LeeAnne Larsen
1/19 Vesta Holt
1/21 Steve Love
1/26 Deb Nielsen

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

1/20 Joan Drageland
1/30 Maira Goldsmith
1/?? Yvonne Batson

Confirmation Anniversaries

1/13 Kenneth Zahner
1/21 Wayne Pelletier
Laverne Pelletier
12/19 Richard Dostie

January Bible Quiz Answers:

1. C (1 Corinthians 13:4-8)
2. A (1 Samuel 12:12-18)
3. A (Luke 15:7, 10, 32)
4. A (Ezekiel 4:15)
5. A (2 Kings 2:11)
6. C (1:20-21)

Church Chuckles

....The Sunday school teacher had spent three weeks teaching the story of the prodigal son to her second grade class. She wanted to make sure the children understood every important point of the story, including the resentful brother, the loving and forgiving father, and so on. As she was quizzing her class, she came to this question: "Now children, out of all the characters in the story, who was not happy to see the prodigal son returning home?" "I know, I know," shouted sweet Marianna. "It was the fatted calf!"

...The pastor was growing a bit tired of eating leftovers for dinner. One night they sat down to leftovers again, and the wife was stunned to notice the husband begin to poke around at his meal without saying grace. "Dear! Aren't you going to offer thanks before we eat?" He put down his fork and sighed. "If you can point out one thing on this plate I haven't already said thanks for at least twice this week, I'll be glad to."

....My husband is the church's senior pastor, and the last time he was leaving to lead a mission trip, he sat our young children down and talked to them about the type of behavior he expected from them while he was away. One point he stressed was that they were all to sleep in their own beds and not sneak into ours, as they had a habit of doing. On the Sunday morning he returned, we met him at the church, and the children ran up to him in the midst of a crowd of congregants. "Daddy, you're going to be so happy! No one slept with Mommy while you were gone!"

January Stewardship

	<u>January 6</u>	<u>January 13</u>	<u>January 20</u>	<u>January 27</u>
<u>Acolyte</u>	Andrew Farr	Evan Farr	Allison Farr	Mia Fitzpatrick
<u>Comm. Assistant</u>	Brian Watson	Glenn Carlson	Mark Larsen	Chris Batson
<u>Ushers</u>	Brad Fitzpatrick & Dan Keefe	Wayne Pelletier & Mike Hein	Glenn Carlson, Jr. & Seth Carlson	Moe Cote & John Ayotte
<u>Greeters</u>	Wayne & Laverne Pelletier	Fred & Amy Ouellette	Dan & Rebecca Keefe	Tom & Katie Huesers
<u>Altar Care</u>	Sasha Fitzpatrick	Kitty Carlson	Andrea Watson	Lee Anne Larsen
<u>Flowers</u>	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
<u>Fellowship</u>	OPEN	Darryll Zahner	Darryll Zahner	The Evertsens

The Daily Lectionary

A guide to help you be in the Word daily

January

- 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*