

# **RESURRECTION NEWS**



**MARCH 2018**



## Pastor's Letter

March, 2018

*"Private Confession and Absolution"*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

*"Private Confession and Absolution."* I know. It sounds too "Catholic" to be "Lutheran," right? Wrong! "Private Confession and Absolution" belongs to the whole Church as a precious gift for all Christians.

### So, what's it all about?

First, the practice of confession and absolution is central to the teachings of the Scriptures. We do just this every Sunday at the very beginning of the Divine Service. We confess, **"I, a poor miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You..."** And then we receive the absolution. "Upon this your confession, I as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all of your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

In CORPORATE Confession and Absolution, no specific, personal sins are mentioned. It's all very general and deals with who we are 'by nature' before God - 'sinful and unclean,' 'imploring His mercy.'

PRIVATE Confession and Absolution is the same Confession and Absolution except that it gives the penitent the opportunity to address particulars sin he/she has been carrying and hand them over to Jesus Who has already atoned for it by His blood. In return, the Absolution is just as personal. "I forgive you (name), in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

The Confession is the acknowledgement of the sin, vocally, and in the presence of another person, usually the pastor. There's no opportunity for explanation or excuse or rationalization. Likewise, there's no scolding or preaching from the pastor. Neither is there any judgment about whether or not the penitent is 'truly contrite' or whether the confession is 'sincere.' Confession is just that - 'out loud confession.' And the goal of Confession is 'out loud absolution.'

The Absolution is nothing other than the Gospel being applied directly to you. It's not 'advice' or 'counseling.' It's God's act of forgiving you here and now. Absolution does not simply promise forgiveness, nor does it give assurance or reassurance of God's forgiveness. It actually grants and bestows forgiveness, here and now, TO YOU for THIS SIN!

It is God Himself who forgives all sins. But He carries out this power through the Gospel spoken, proclaimed. And when His Word is proclaimed, He Himself is present in that proclamation. It is His voice. The Augsburg Confession puts it like this, "It (*absolution*) is not the voice or word of the man who speaks it, but it is the Word of God, who forgives sins, for it is spoken in God's stead and by God's command." (*Augsburg Confession XXXV:3*) It should also be said that everything that is said in Confession falls under the strict seal of confidentiality.

The benefits of Confession and Absolution for the penitent are too numerous to list here. But it most certainly includes the assurance of God's love and forgiveness, consolation, relief from anxiety and/or guilt, peace for a troubled heart. The grateful heart now wants to amend his sinful life and do better and gathers strength from God's grace to do so.

I invite you to take advantage of this precious gift that God has given to His Christians. Luther once wrote, "Therefore, when I urge you to go to confession, I am simply urging you to be a Christian." (*Large Catechism*) Private confession and absolution is scheduled with me by appointment.

Yours in Christ,  
*Pastor Nielsen*

## *Notes from your Deaconess*

March, 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters of LCR,

March may come in like a lion and go out like a lamb, as the saying goes, but this year it will certainly go out like both a lamb AND a lion as we observe Good Friday and Holy Saturday just as the month comes to an end. Jesus goes to the cross as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and as the Lion of Judah he descends into hell, defeating death and opening the gates of life for all who have died in the faith.

In the Divine Service of the Sacrament, just after we hear the Words of Institution, the brief but important exchange of the **Peace of the Lord** (*Pax Domini* in Latin) always occurs before the Distribution. Our Pastor tells (or sings to) us "The peace of the Lord be with you always," and we reply "Amen"--or (from Hebrew) "Yes, indeed this is true and certain." Jesus told his disciples on that night when he was betrayed "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you" (John 14:27). Nearly every epistle from Paul of the New Testament includes in its opening greetings "Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ". Through His gifts of body and blood, the bread and wine which we share, we have peace with our Lord and with each other as he dwells in us. The announcement of peace on earth came to the shepherds on the night of Jesus' birth, and was completed with his death for us on the cross. Certainly not the kind of peace that the world gives.

During the first half of March with our lectionary readings we will complete the second half of Genesis, spending most of those days with Jacob and his very complicated and strife-filled family. How merciful of God to work through such individuals—and through us as well! Then we will begin to read Exodus, the calling of Moses as chosen servant for leading Israel out of Egypt, and reading about the first Passover during Holy Week. We will finish reading the gospel of Mark just before Holy Week, and during the last few days of the month begin the letter to the Hebrews in the New Testament. This epistle of uncertain authorship shows how Jesus is our high priest before the Lord God, offering himself as the final and complete sacrificial lamb for our sin.

I will once again plan to hold women's Bible studies on two Saturdays of the month—March 10 and 24. As I noted last month, these are informal times of fellowship, reading scripture together and seeing what God is saying to us through the word. Questions and suggestions for study are certainly welcome. We have mainly read accounts of many different women in the Bible, and still have not exhausted the possible individuals who could be considered. Hope to have you join me!

"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." (Hebrews 4:15-16)

Under his mercy,  
*Sharon M. Conover*

## **MID-WEEK LENT SERVICES - 2018**

### **"WE FOLLOW CHRIST TO THE CROSS"**

**SERVICES AT NOON AND 7:00PM.**

2/14 - ASH WEDNESDAY	- THE MOUNT OF OLIVES
2/21 - WEDNESDAY	- THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE
2/28 - WEDNESDAY	- BEFORE THE HIGH PRIESTS
3/7 - WEDNESDAY	- BEFORE THE SANHEDRIN
3/14 - WEDNESDAY	- BEFORE PILATE AND HEROD
3/21 - WEDNESDAY	- BEFORE PILATE WITH BARABBAS
3/29 - MAUNDY THURSDAY	- THE UPPER ROOM
3/30 - GOOD FRIDAY	- GOLGOTHA

### **MEN'S BREAKFAST MEETING - SATURDAY, MARCH 10<sup>TH</sup> - 8:00AM.**

**"The Miracle of Exorcism of Demons by Our Lord."** Men, come join us for a great time of conversation, fellowship and examination of God's Word. Chris is doing breakfast, so you know it'll be good. Bring a friend! We're done by 10:00am. Plenty of time to get home to do those chores!

### **CHILDREN'S FUN NIGHT - SATURDAY, MARCH 10<sup>TH</sup> - 5:00PM. - 7:30PM.**

The Senior High Youth group is once again providing this 'children's fun night' at church. All youth are welcome to attend. They will provide dinner, games and crafts. A free will offering will be accepted to put toward upcoming sr. youth group service projects/trips. Sign up now. This is always a great night.

### **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS - March 11<sup>th</sup>.**

Be sure to remember to turn your clocks AHEAD ONE HOUR before retiring on Saturday night.

### **HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE:**

- 3/29 - Noon and 7:00pm. **Maundy Thursday.** The institution of the Lord's Supper.
- 3/30 - Noon and 7:00pm. **Good Friday.** The passion of Christ.
- 4/1 - 10:00am. **Easter.** The resurrection of Jesus.  
8:30am. Easter Breakfast / Children's Easter egg hunt.

### **SATURDAY EASTER VIGIL ANYONE?**

It has long been the church's custom to conclude Holy Week with a period of three, holy days (*Triduum*), culminating in the Great Feast of Easter. We have a long tradition here, of observing two of those three holy days - "Maundy Thursday" and "Good Friday." The "Vigil of Easter" concludes Holy Week with a special focus on the expectation of Christ's victory over death and the grave by His resurrection on Easter. The order of worship for the Easter Vigil is unlike any other in the church's year and involves an outdoor fire, darkness, candlelight procession from outdoors to the sanctuary, readings and Holy Baptism. The service climaxes with the shout of the long awaited news - "*Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!*" I would be willing to conduct this service if there were at least 10 people committed to attend. The service would begin at **8:30pm. on Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup>.** If you are interested, please see the EASTER VIGIL signup form on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

*Pastor Nielsen*

## **EASTER LILIES FOR THE CHANCEL**

Forms are available on the table in the Narthex if you would like to order an Easter Lily to grace the chancel for our Easter worship. Please be sure to take your plant home with you after the service. Each plant will cost \$13.00. Please make check to LCR and be sure to designate it "flowers."

## **BOARD FOR MISSIONS MEETING MINUTES** - February 18, 2018

Attendees: Steve Farr, Bec Keefe, Mike Hein, Yvonne Batson, Nathaniel Batson, Kari Farr, Avis Grant, Michelle Hein, Pastor Nielsen, Deb Nielsen, Andrea Watson, Brian Watson, Sharon Conover.

Michelle called the meeting to order after our worship service and Pastor Nielsen led us in an opening prayer.

Michelle reviewed the current monthly giving which included our Seminary student (\$250), Hope Lutheran Church (\$200) and the LCMS District (5% of offerings).

A discussion regarding the balance of \$2,041.29 carried over from last year took place and it was decided to split this balance evenly between the Elle Louis Konetzki Memorial fund and the Deaconess Carla Strehlow Endowment. It was also decided not to fund the tuition program at Ft. Wayne as it appears they have met their goals for the year. It was also noted this request did not have to go before the Church Council as it was approved at the Congregational Meeting held in December.

A conversation took place about potential contingency plans should we not meet offerings budgeted in the 2018 budget passed at the congregational meeting. Pastor Nielsen reminded the group that our primary mission is to, "Open Hearts through Christ Crucified." We therefore need to maintain our congregational presence and all that is required to support it. Should there be excess, we would be able to fulfill our desire to provide support for other works through the Board for Missions. If we were to run into a shortfall in offerings, this discretionary giving could be reduced with a clear conscience. This will be managed by the Church Council in close communication with the Board for Missions.

Pastor Nielsen reported that missionary Rev. Steven Schumacher will come to Waterville as our mission guest for Missions Sunday. He and his wife are doing mission work in Africa and will be available May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> to visit with us. Our BFM proposes to fund their travel expenses and present them with a gift of support for their mission work. Deb, Yvonne and Avis generously volunteered to organize the Mission Sunday events outside Church service that weekend.

We reviewed several websites for new giving suggestions Michelle had sent out with the agenda. These included Veterans of the Cross and a resource called LCMS Recognized Service Organizations. All in attendance were encouraged to look into these opportunities in preparation of further discussion. Michelle proposed to the group we hold on additional funding outside of Mission Sunday and current commitments for now.

There was an excellent discussion about a giving challenge where we could involve the children of our congregation. It involves the Lutheran World Relief Fund and would be around a several week campaign to raise funds to purchase items that vary from clean water to livestock. There could be a presentation at fellowship to kick this off prior to Mission Sunday. Michelle and Sharon will coordinate this effort.

We viewed a brief video produced by Lutheran Hour Ministries that highlighted the collaborative efforts between them and the Garuna Foundation. It was an excellent story.

There was a brief discussion about the meals we provide for the Mid Maine Homeless Shelter and additional ways we can help. This included Thrivent Action Team Dollars and other options. This conversation was tabled for a later meeting.

### **THANK YOU FOR NEW BIBLE MAPS!**

At its recent meeting, the LWML voted to use a memorial gift from Armand Mathieu given in memory of Bonnie, to fund a set of 'BIBLELAND MAPS' for Sunday School and Adult Bible Study at a cost of \$223. Eight large maps include:

- Ancient Near East Before the Exodus
- The Exodus
- Israel's Settlement in Canaan
- The Prophets and the Exile
- Paul's Journeys
- Palestine in the Time of Jesus
- The United Monarchy
- Jerusalem - Old Testament/New Testament Comparison

This wonderful addition to our Christian Education program are in classroom #201. Check them out!

### **THANK YOU FROM SEMINARIAN – GRANT SORENSEN**

To my Brothers and Sisters in Christ at Lutheran Church of the Resurrection,  
Thank you so much for your prayers and support! I cannot say thank you enough for everything you have done. It has helped tremendously. Because of your support, I have been able to pay for tuition in full, without taking out any more student loans! That has been one of the biggest blessings for me. I praise God, daily, for you. Thank you!

As for me, I sincerely apologize as it has been awhile since I have last written. I just finished my winter quarter and am already looking forward to the next (and last) quarter before my Vicarage. As of right now, I am enjoying a couple weeks of break. I look forward to my future studies in this next quarter, and even more to receiving my placement for Vicarage in April!

Thank you again for all your care and support! It has meant the world to my wife and me! God's richest blessings!

In Christ,

*Grant and Kim Sorenson*

### **THANK YOU FROM LUTHERANS FOR LIFE**

Dear Friends of Life,

We offer our sincerest appreciation for your recent gift of \$750. We rejoice especially for the fellowship that your contribution represents. Your sharing with us in the sufferings and successes of Gospel-motivated voices FOR LIFE substantially sustains our courage and compassion...

In truth and love,

Rev. Michael W. Saleminck. Executive Director.

**LIFE LINE SCREENING**, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will offer their affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at **The Lutheran Church of the Resurrection** on 5/1/2018. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 1-888-653-6441 or visit: [www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle](http://www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle)



## **Monthly Worship**

**March 4, 2018**

**Third Sunday in Lent**

**Psalm:** 19

**First Reading:** Exodus 20:1-17

**Epistle:** 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

**Holy Gospel:** John 2:13-22 (23-26)

**March 11, 2018**

**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

**Psalm:** 107:1-9

**First Reading:** Numbers 21:4-9

**Epistle:** Ephesians 2:1-10

**Holy Gospel:** John 3:14-21

**March 18, 2018**

**Fifth Sunday in Lent**

**Psalm:** 119:19-16

**First Reading:** Jeremiah 31:31-34

**Epistle:** Hebrews 5:1-10

**Gospel:** Mark 10:(32-34) 35-45

**March 25, 2018**

**Palm Sunday**

**Psalm:** 118:19-29 or 31:19-61

**First Reading:** Zechariah 9:9-12

**Epistle:** Philippians 2:5-11

**Holy Gospel:** Mark 14:1—15:47 or Mark 15:1-47  
or John 12:20-43

## **BIBLE QUIZ**

**1. Why was Jesus dismayed in regard to the epileptic boy who sometimes fell into a fire or water during a seizure?**

A) the disciples has first tried to heal the boy but failed due to their lack of faith B) there were so many demons in the boy that it was overwhelming C) the Pharisees were using the poor boy as a means to trick Jesus again D) the crowd just wanted Jesus to perform another miracle for “entertainment”

**2. Where did the prophet Samuel find David so he could be anointed the next king?**

A) eating dinner with his father and brothers B) eating dinner by himself C) shepherding his father’s sheep with his brothers D) shepherding his father’s sheep by himself

**3. For seven years, what did God condemn Nebuchadnezzar to because of his pride?**

A) he became a POW to the hated enemy Egyptians B) he became a slave among his own people C) he became like a wild animal and ate grass D) he became a bed-ridden invalid who never left his castle

**4. What was the early Christian sect originally called?**

A) the Way B) the Truth C) the Life D) the Jesusonians

**5. Why do we need to put on the whole armor of God?**

A) so that we can correctly point out the errors and injustices around us B) so we can pray and focus on godly matters C) so we can withstand in the evil day D) so we can guaranteed of getting into heaven

**6. Who said this: “For whatsoever a man soweth, so shall he also reap”?**

A) Jesus B) Jacob C) Samuel D) Paul



3/4 Esther Gould  
 3/5 Evan Farr  
 Elizabeth Ann Larsen  
 3/12 Joseph Pelletier  
 3/18 Arthur Conover  
 3/21 Glenn Carlson  
 3/25 Kari Farr  
 Michael Hein  
 3/28 Twila Kaska (90<sup>th</sup>)



## BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

3/10 Evelyn Gaug  
 3/13 Fernando Gouvea  
 3/15 Vary Fischer  
 3/19 Frederick Ouellette, Sr.  
 Frederick Ouellette, Jr.  
 3/?? Evelyn Gilbert



3/23 Robert & Vary Fischer



## Confirmation Anniversaries

3/16 Rebecca Cote  
 3/17 Gail Carrano  
 3/27 Mark Larsen  
 3/?? Twila Kaska

## Just for Laughs (and groans)

### The Verge

A Sunday school teacher asked her class, "What was Jesus' mother's name?"

Little Susan answered, "Mary."

The teacher then asked, "And who knows what Jesus' father's name was?"

Little Burt called out, "The Verge."

Confused, the teacher asked, "Where did you get that, Burt?"

The little boy smiled and responded, "Well, you know they are always talking the 'Verge 'n Mary.'"

### Lot

A father was reading a Bible story to his young son. He read, "the man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt."

His son asked, "What happened to the flea?"

## Bible Quiz Answers

1. A (Matthew 17:16-20)
2. D (1 Samuel 16:11)
3. C (Daniel 4:25)
4. A (Acts 9:2)
5. C (Ephesians 6:13)
6. D (Galatians 6:7)



# The Daily Lectionary

A guide to help you be in the Word daily

3/1	Genesis 24:1-31 / Mark 7:24-37
3/2	Genesis 24:32-52, 61-67 / Mark 8:1-21
3/3	Genesis 27:1-29 / Mark 8:22-38
3/4	Genesis 27:30-45; 8:10-22 / Mark 9:1-13
3/5	Genesis 29:1-30 / Mark 9:14-32
3/6	Genesis 35:1-29 / Mark 9:33-50
3/7	Genesis 37:1-36 / Mark 10:1-12
3/8	Genesis 39:1-23 / Mark 10:13-31
3/9	Genesis 40:1-23 / Mark 10:32-52
3/10	Genesis 41:1-27 / Mark 11:1-19
3/11	Genesis 41:28-57 / Mark 11:20-33
3/12	Genesis 42:1-34, 38 / Mark 12:1-12
3/13	Genesis 43:1-28 / Mark 12:13-27
3/14	Genesis 44:1-18, 32-34 / Mark 12:28-44
3/15	Genesis 45:1-20, 24-28 / Mark 13:1-23
3/16	Genesis 47:1-31 / Mark 13:24-37
3/17	Genesis 49:29-50:26 / Mark 14:1-11
3/18	Exodus 1:1-22 / Mark 14:12-31
3/19	Exodus 2:1-22 / Mark 14:32-52
3/20	Exodus 2:23-3:22 / Mark 14:53-72
3/21	Exodus 4:1-18 / Mark 14:1-15
3/22	Exodus 4:19-31 / mark 15:16-32
3/23	Exodus 5:1 – 6:1 / Mark 15:33-47
3/24	Exodus 7:1-25 / Mark 16:1-20
3/25	Exodus 8:1-12 / Hebrews 1:1-14
3/26	Exodus 9:1-28 / Hebrews 2:1-18
3/27	Exodus 9:29-10:20 / Hebrews 3:1-19
3/28	Exodus 10:21-11:10 / Hebrews 4:1-16
3/29	Exodus 12:1-28 / Hebrews 5:1-14
3/30	Exodus 12:29-13:16 / Hebrews 6:1-20
3/31	Exodus 13:17-14:9 / Hebrews 7:1-22

*(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.*

# Stewardship

## March, 2018

	<u>March 4</u>	<u>March 11</u>	<u>March 18</u>	<u>March 25</u>	<u>March 30</u> <i>(Maundy Thursday)</i>
<u>Acolyte</u>	Emily-Lynn Carlson	Andrew Farr	Mia Fitzpatrick	Caden Fitzpatrick	Allison Farr <i>(Evening)</i>
<u>Comm. Assistant</u>	Mike Hein	Mark Larsen	Steve Farr	Brian Watson	Glenn Carlson <i>(Noon )</i>  Chris Batson <i>(Evening)</i>
<u>Ushers</u>	Seth Carlson & Glenn Carlson, Jr.	Brad Fitzpatrick & Bill Jahnke	Tom Huesers & Steve Love	John Ayotte & John Gould	John Ayotte <i>(Noon)</i>  Mike Hein & Mark Larsen <i>(Evening)</i>
<u>Greeters</u>	Christine & Tiana Thomas	Peter & Lois Doran	Tom & Katie Huesers	Moe & Becky Cote	Julie & Sarah Kohl <i>(Evening)</i>
<u>Altar Care</u>	Deb Nielsen	Sharon Conover	Lee Anne Larsen	Amy Ouellette	Kitty Carlson
<u>Fellowship</u>	Kitty Carlson	The Callahans	Sharon Klipp	The Ouellettes	