

RESURRECTION NEWS



MARCH 2019



Pastor's Letter

March, 2019

Do Lutherans Fast for Lent?

Dear Brothers and Sister in Christ,

The season of Lent begins on March 6th with Ash Wednesday. Ashes, made in the sign of the cross (*roughly*) on the forehead with the poignant reminder that *"from dust you have come and to dust you shall return,"* prepare our hearts and minds for the celebration of our resurrection from death to life that our Lord accomplished for us on Easter Sunday.

The question of 'fasting during these 40 days of Lent (*Sundays are excluded from the count*) is sometimes raised. "Do Lutherans fast for Lent?" The best answer is, *"they certainly may."* Good Lutherans are always careful not to declare 'musts' and 'must nots' unless the Bible does. Granted, for those who like things in black and white, Lutherans can be frustratingly vague. "Should we fast or shouldn't we?" *"All depends. Why are you asking?"* "I think God would be pleased with me if I fasted during Lent." *"Then absolutely NOT!"* "My Catholic friends all fast and I want them to know that we Lutherans are just as pious as they are." *"Seriously?"* "I think it might be good for me." *"Okay, let's talk some more."*

Here are just a couple of thoughts on how fasting during Lent might be a beneficial way of connecting the physical aspects of daily life to the spiritual disciplines of Lent.

Fasting can help increase the 'appreciation factor.'

We're very thankful for all that we have – 'clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home,' etc. etc. Skipping a meal once a week might cause the belly to sound an alarm, reminding me just how blessed I am to have such daily bread. This may lead me to give thanks to God with a deeper appreciation. This of course, is much different than deciding to quit my evening overdose of ice-cream during Lent because I need to loose a few pounds. I should probably still do that. Just don't call it my Lenten fast.

Fasting can help increase the 'compassion' factor.

It's east to talk about the problems of world hunger and homelessness, but its hard to identify with those who are hungry and/or homeless. Sleeping on the couch one night a week during Lent may help increase our 'compassion' for those who 'couch surf.' We might not like being a little stiff and sore in the morning. But ours was a voluntary fast. What must it be like for those who are *lucky* to have a couch to sleep on.

Also, this might be a good place to insert the suggestion that 'fasting' does not always have to be about 'giving something up.' It can also be a 'taking something on.' Cooking a meal for the Homeless Shelter, working at a Soup Kitchen, pulling a couple of shifts at the Waterville Food Bank will go a long way to improving 'compassion' for those whom we serve and be more fervent praying for the same.

Fasting can help increase the 'identity' factor.

The connection to our sisters and brothers whom we read about in the Bible seems distant and detached because of all that separates us – time, culture, history, etc,. But when we read that they often 'fasted' as their way of living out their faith in God, we 'identify' with them as we fast for the same reasons. And when we consider how our Lord Himself fasted in the desert for 40 days on our behalf, we can 'identify' with Him in a tangible way as we fast during these 40 days of Lent."

(See: 1 Samuel 7:3-6; 2 Samuel 1:11-12; 2 Samuel 12:15-17; Psalm 35:11-14; Jonah 3:1-5; Matthew 4:1-11.)

So, back to your question, “do Lutherans fast for Lent?” My answer is, “*they certainly may.*”

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Nielsen

Notes from your Deaconess

March, 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters of LCR,

The days have begun to lengthen as we approach springtime, and begin the Lenten season. The word “Lent” derives from words in Dutch and old German meaning “spring,” even though it likely will not seem very spring-like for a while here in Maine. The nights can still seem long.

The service of “Compline,” found on pages 253 to 259 of our Lutheran Service Book, likely is as unfamiliar to most of you as it is to me. Nevertheless, it has been used for many centuries in religious communities (like monasteries) and various church traditions to close the day before sleeping. It begins with several versicles followed by confession. Traditionally it included very specific Psalms (4, 91, 134, and a portion of 31), and also specific scripture texts. Prayers followed these scriptures, with the service concluding with the *Nunc Dimittis* (the Song of Simeon) and a benediction. While you may not feel like trying to sing the parts which include music, I encourage you to read through this service before bedtime some night soon—alone or with others in your home.

The “Service of Prayer and Preaching,” which follows “Compline” in our LSB, can be used in any church season for a service at any time of day, and which does not include the Lord’s Supper. We’ve sung both the Old and New Testament Canticles which it includes at one time or another.

Our daily lectionary readings for the first few days of March bring us nearly to the end of the Old Testament book of Job, so I urge you to finish reading Job anyway! In John’s gospel we make it to the account of Palm Sunday. As occurs each year on Ash Wednesday, our readings now return us to the beginning, Genesis in fact. We read once again about God’s creation of all things “visible and invisible”, about our separation from Him, and how God first graciously worked on our behalf through quite messed-up families, just like ours. We also will read Mark’s Gospel throughout Lent, jumping “immediately” into Jesus’ ministry with his teaching, healing, preaching, and performing signs, all on our behalf.

I plan to hold Saturday morning Bible studies for women on March 2, 16, and 30, weather permitting, and hope that you might consider joining in. We meet at 8:30 or so in a downstairs classroom and finish around 10am. 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 been spending recent meetings focused on different “fruit of the Holy Spirit.”

Jesus said: “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” Matthew 11:28-30

Under his mercy,
Sharon M. Conover

WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS:

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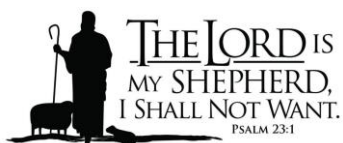
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MID-WEEK LENT SERVICES - 2019 - All Mid-Week Lent Services—Noon and 7:00pm.



This year's Lenten series is drawn from the **23rd Psalm**. Each service we will explore the profound wonder of God's love for us in our Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ, as portrayed through the imagery of this prayer of David.

Mar. 6 "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want." (*Ash Wednesday*)

Mar. 13 *No Midweek Services.*

Mar. 20 "He leads me to green pastures and still waters."

Mar. 27 "He restores my soul and leads me on the right way."

Apr. 3 "I walk through death with no fear of evil."

Apr. 10 "You are with me and comfort me."

Apr. 18 "You prepare a table for me." (*Maundy Thursday*)

Apr. 19 "Goodness, mercy and life in Your house." (*Good Friday*)

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS - March 10th.

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

BOARD FOR MISSIONS MEETING: - Sunday, March 24th after worship.

Everyone is welcome to participate in this wonderful board. There will be reports on the missions support given through this congregation in 2018. We will also discuss an upcoming MISSION SUNDAY after Easter. See Michelle Hein for more information.



LWML REPORT ON DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEEDS FROM CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR.

Below is the list of disbursements of the proceeds from our December Christmas Craft Fair and from a generous donation in memory of Twila Kaska:

1. New England District	\$ 340
2. Garuna Foundation (sponsorship of 1 child)	360
3. Bethesda Lutheran Communities	200
4. Lutheran Hour Ministries	100
5. Waterville Boys and Girls Club	200
6. Lutheran World relief (emergency water filtration system-\$190 & 2 coffee seedlings for 2 families-\$150)	340
7. Maine Children's Cancer Program (gas and café vouchers)	300
8. Trinity First Lutheran Church School (Minneapolis)	300
9. Concordia Seminary Food Bank (Fort Wayne)	200
10. Waterville Women's Initiative	200

11. Maine Children's Home	175
12. Travis Mills Foundation	200
13. LCMS Disaster Response	300
14. LCR's Concordia Students	<u>400</u>
	\$ 3,615

A reminder: We are currently collecting tissues, envelopes, thank-you cards, sanitizer and note pads for Waterville First Choice. There is a collection box in the Narthex.

The next meeting of the LWML will be on Thursday, February 28th at 9:30 AM. All ladies of the congregation are welcome.

In God's love,

Deb Nielsen, Pres.

THANK YOU FROM MID-MAINE HOMELESS SHELTER

January 23, 2019

Dear Shelter Friends,

For 28 years, the community has responded to the needs of persons experiencing homelessness. Together we have changed over 8,000 lives. Through your generosity, a path has been paved for a brighter, stronger future for people experiencing homelessness. You have helped to price the support necessary for our community's most at-risk citizens to find a place to belong and a way to rebuild their lives. We are genuinely appreciative of **your gift of bowls and silverware** received on 1/19/2019. And we are genuinely appreciative of **your gift of \$500 from the youth group** fundraiser received on 1/22/2019. You are helping us to provide hope and healing to hundreds of people each year who are facing an urgent need to improve their quality of life.

With gratitude for all you do,

Karyn Bournival – Interim Executive Director

FROM SEMINARIAN – ALARIK MORRIS

February 17th, 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Lutheran Church of the Resurrection,

Greetings to you all! I hope that you are all doing well as the tail-end of winter (hopefully) approaches soon. It was a blessing to be back in Maine during the months of December and January and to be able to have worshiped with you again. I pray that this winter has not been too harsh on you and that you have all been able to stay safe and warm during these last few months. The past couple of weeks have been particularly cold as we experienced near-zero temperatures here in St. Louis, but the weather has been much more favorable lately in the 20's-30's. My fiancée Angela recently experienced temperatures as low as -15 degrees in Michigan and classes at Concordia, Ann Arbor were canceled for 3-4 days! However, it has been much warmer for them since then.

After leaving Maine, I flew to Detroit where Angela picked me up and we drove straight to St. Louis together from the airport (about an 8 hour drive) where Angela then stayed with one of our mutual friends for about a week. We spent some time in coffee shops (where I mostly studied for a January-term class), visiting different sites around the city, and enjoying a snow storm that left us with about 8 inches of snow. Angela was even able to come to the first day of my January-term class which was on Luther's writings on Christian life in the world and Christian living. After Angela flew back to Detroit, I spent most of my day reading and discussing the readings for this class which was highly beneficial and highlighted some great points about how Christians are called to live in the world rightly with God and with their neighbors.

After this class I worked for the grounds department on-campus again and prepared for the new semester of classes where I am now taking classes such as Practical Theology, Creeds and

Confessions, Synoptic Gospels, Pauline Epistles, Homiletics, and some labs for Hebrew and pastoral formation. I also will be fulfilling an Institutional Module assignment where I will be working with and under the chaplains at Memorial Hospital located in Belleville, IL where I will be visiting patients and getting an experience in clinical pastoral care. I look forward to the coming Spring and our celebration of Easter and I pray that you are all blessed during this exciting time of the year where we celebrate not only the annual renewal of life, but the life which Christ has won for us in his own resurrection, of which we look forward to taking part in.

Blessings to you all,

Alarik Morris

PRESIDENT HARRISON ADDRESSES RECENT ABORTION EXPANSION ACTIONS

The following statement from President Harrison is intended not only to address the current situation in our country, but also to provide a continued confession of the LCMS' position opposing abortion. President Harrison's statement is available for use in your congregation, local paper or any avenue proper for your situation.

"In him was life, and the life was the light of men" (John 1:4).

On Jan. 22, 2019, the 46th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion on demand, the governors of both New York and Illinois signed laws to extend and promote abortion.

"This is the evolution of humankind in America," said New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo as he signed the Reproductive Health Act into law. In Illinois, Gov. J.B. Pritzker signed an executive order to ensure taxpayer funding of abortions, saying that it would make his state "the most progressive ... in terms of women's reproductive rights."

Life, not death, is the goal of humanity. History testifies that death is never the means through which justice and human rights prevail. We do not advance on the graves of our children. Germany, which sought eugenics as the solution to problems, now has strict abortion laws. To defend and support life is the goal of every just government, and the right to life is the hallmark of a good society.

Yet abortion laws have allowed the abortion of more than 61,000,000 children since Roe v. Wade. That's nearly 50 times the number of American soldiers killed in all wars. The abortion industry and its proponents take great lengths to avoid facing the fact that abortion dismembers a living child in a horrid pool of its own blood. This is barbaric.

Abortion is a lie. Science is on the side of life. We shall stand against the barbarism of abortion until our dying breath. Abortion is illogical, as we slaughter babies in the womb while developing ever-better care for other unborn children. Abortion contradicts the natural law written on human hearts that teaches us it is wrong to kill.

Lawmakers and bureaucrats in our country have become emboldened to force citizens to go against their conscience. People publicly celebrate laws that lead to the deaths of children.

How long, O Lord, how long?

Our Christian faith teaches us to value life and to love each and every person as our neighbor. Love is life, and life is the great gift of love. Death is our natural enemy. This can be seen in our lives and in our world each day. Even the birds that seek food in winter testify that life is the goal of their

movements and their work. The flowers that grow toward the sun seek the light that enlivens them. We all live under God, who grants life to His whole creation.

And in the giving of His Son to be the Savior, God shows that He is the Lord of life. Jesus came to love. He taught us to love all people, including those whom we consider our enemies. He taught us to unconditionally love every person, even those whom this world considers unworthy of love. Jesus not only taught us to love. He brought healing and wholeness to the broken. He proclaimed peace to those who were troubled. He sat with those who were excluded. He lifted up those who were beaten down. But most of all, He loved through the sacrifice of His own life on the cross. He died to forgive the sins of all humanity. His forgiveness is a free gift for all who trust in Him, including those who suffer from guilt for aborting their child. He rose on the third day.

The resurrection of Jesus is God's grand statement that life is the goal of this creation. The resurrection of Jesus proclaims that all creatures find the goal of their existence in life. Just as God raised Jesus from the dead, so we learn that God treasures life over death.

We live as citizens in this world, and we seek to be obedient to our nation's laws. We thank God for our leaders and for this great land He has given to us and for its precious freedoms and opportunities. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod advocates strong citizenship and active participation in government. We obey the laws of our land and encourage those around us to do so. We are, however, bound by our conscience to speak against those laws that are unjust and, especially, those laws that violate God's law and the natural law that binds all mankind. Abortion and other means through which humans kill humans violate these natural and moral laws that form the foundation of society.

Therefore, we stand against these actions and against all laws that sanction abortion or the taking of innocent life. We cannot stand silent when people elected to positions in which they are to protect citizens continue to pass laws and advocate for legislation that undermines the sanctity of human life. Our conscience is bound by both the Word of God and reason to speak for life as a precious gift of God and to speak against any and all who promote the killing of unborn children. We cannot hide the evil of these laws under the banner of "rights" or "privilege." Children's lives are at stake. They cannot speak for themselves. We will speak for them, and we will work to protect their lives.

And we will continue to work to love and support the women who face difficult choices or suffer from the consequences of abortion. We support young mothers who have chosen life for their children. We work to provide adoption and other opportunities to care for children in need. And we continue to show God's mercy to all, just as He, in Jesus, has mercy on all.

We will work, love and pray that all might know the love of Jesus and trust in Him for salvation. "In him was life, and the life was the light of men" (John 1:4).

Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, President
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



Monthly Worship

March 3, 2019

The Transfiguration of Our Lord

Psalm: 99

First Reading: Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Epistle: Hebrews 3:1-6

Holy Gospel: Luke 9:28-36

March 10, 2019

First Sunday in Lent

Psalm: 91:1-13

First Reading: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Epistle: Romans 10:8b-13

Holy Gospel: Luke 4:1-13

March 17, 2019

Second Sunday in Lent

Psalm: 4

First Reading: Jeremiah 26:8-15

Epistle: Philippians 3:17—4:1

Gospel: Luke 13:31-35

March 24, 2019

Third Sunday in Lent

Psalm: 85

First Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-20

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Holy Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

March 31, 2019

Psalm: 32

First Reading: Isaiah 12:1-6

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

BIBLE QUIZ

1. When the Jewish exiles returned home and started to rebuild the temple, what did their nearby neighbors do?

A) helped them with supplies and labor B) gave them their cedar trees for a low price C) raided their camp for many months D) frustrated every effort through a nasty letter-writing campaign

2. What was King Saul's chief reason for hating David?

A) revenge B) jealousy C) rivalry D) anger

3. What miraculously filled all the poor widow's many borrowed jars?

A) gold B) coins C) oil D) flour

4. How did Moses destroy the golden calf?

A) he broke it up into many pieces and buried them deep in the earth B) he burned it, crushed it, mixed it with water, and forced the Israelites to drink it C) he saved it as an example of supreme disobedience to the Lord God Almighty D) he melted it down and used the gold for holy articles in the tabernacle

5. What does the name Barnabas mean?

A) "son of thunder/noise" B) "son of consolation/encouragement" C) "son of happiness/joyful" D) "son of sorrow/sadness"

6. Who said this: "Nevertheless not my will, but thine be done"?

A) Isaiah B) Jeremiah C) Jesus D) Paul



3/4 Esther Gould
 3/5 Evan Farr
 3/12 Wayne Pelletier
 3/21 Glenn Carlson
 3/25 Kari Farr
 Mike Hein



3/18 Kevin & Sharon Kinter
 3/23 Rev. Robert & Vary Fischer



BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

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



3/16 Rebecca Cote
 3/17 Gail Carrano
 3/27 Mark Larsen

Bulletin Bloopers

(We've seen many of these hilarious mistakes before, but they're always fun to revisit!)

----The Fasting and Prayer Conference includes meals.

-----The sermon this morning: Jesus Walks on the Water. The sermon tonight: Searching for Jesus.

-----Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

-----Miss Charlene Mason sang "I Will Not Pass This Way Again," giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

-----Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

-----Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM—prayer and medication to follow.

March Bible Quiz Answers:

1. D (Ezra 4:4-24)
2. B (1 Samuel 18:8-9)
3. C (2 Kings 4:3-7)
4. B (Exodus 32:20)
5. B (Acts 4:36)
6. C (Luke 22:42)

The Daily Lectionary

A guide to help you be in the Word daily

3/1 Job 33:1-18 / John 10:22-42
3/2 Job 33:19-34:9 / John 11:1-16
3/3 Job 34:10-33 / John 11:17-37
3/4 Job 36:1-21 / John 11:38-57
3/5 Job 37:1-24 / John 12:1-19

Lent begins the annual schedule of Daily Readings

3/6 Genesis 1:1-19 / Mark 1:1-13
3/7 Genesis 1:20-2:3 / Mark 1:14-28
3/8 Genesis 2:4-25 / Mark 1:29-45
3/9 Genesis 3:1-24 / Mark 2:1-17
3/10 Genesis 4:1-26 / Mark 2:18-28
3/11 Genesis 6:1-7:5 / Mark 3:1-19
3/12 Genesis 7:11-8:12 / Mark 3:20-35
3/13 Genesis 8:13-9:17 / Mark 4:1-20
3/14 Genesis 11:27-12:20 / Mark 4:21-41
3/15 Genesis 13:1-18 / Mark 5:1-20
3/16 Genesis 15:1-21 / Mark 5:21-43
3/17 Genesis 16:1- 17:22 / Mark 6:1-13
3/18 Genesis 18:1-15 / Mark 6:14-34
3/19 Genesis 21:1-21 / Mark 6:35-56
3/20 Genesis 22:1-19 / Mark 7:1-23
3/21 Genesis 24:1-31 / Mark 7:24-37
3/22 Genesis 24:32-52, 61-67 / Mark 8:1-21
3/23 Genesis 27:1-29 / Mark 8:22-38
3/24 Genesis 27:30-45; 8:10-22 / Mark 9:1-13
3/25 Genesis 29:1-30 / Mark 9:14-32
3/26 Genesis 35:1-29 / Mark 9:33-50
3/27 Genesis 37:1-36 / Mark 10:1-12
3/28 Genesis 39:1-23 / Mark 10:13-31
3/29 Genesis 40:1-23 / Mark 10:32-52
3/30 Genesis 41:1-27 / Mark 11:1-19
3/31 Genesis 41:28-57 / Mark 11:20-33

(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.

March Stewardship

	<u>March 3</u>	<u>March 6</u> (Ash Wednesday)	<u>March 10</u>	<u>March 17</u>	<u>March 24</u>	<u>March 31</u>
<u>Acolyte</u>	Evan Farr	Andrew Farr (evening)	Mia Fitzpatrick	Emily- Lynn Carlson	Allison Farr	Evan Farr
<u>Comm. Assistant</u>	Chris Batson	Glenn Carlson (noon) Steve Farr (evening)	Mike Hein	Brad Fitzpatrick	Dan Callahan	Mark Larsen
<u>Ushers</u>	Bill Jahnke & Dan Keefe	John Ayotte (noon) Chris Batson & Moe Cote (evening)	Dan Callahan & Brad Fitzpatrick	Mark Larsen & Wayne Pelletier	Mike Hein & Moe Cote	Glenn Carlson & Brian Watson
<u>Greeters</u>	Wayne & Laverne Pelletier	The Batson Family (evening)	The Fitzpatrick Family	Avis Grant & Gail Carrano	The Goldsmith Family	The Huesers Family
<u>Altar Care</u>	Sharon Conover	Avis Grant	Amanda Goldsmith	Amy Ouellette	Sasha Fitzpatrick	Kitty Carlson
<u>Flowers</u>	The Ouellettes	No Flowers- Lent	No Flowers- Lent	No Flowers- Lent	No Flowers- Lent	No Flowers- Lent
<u>Fellowship</u>	The Ouellettes	-----	Fischers and & Steve Love	Darryll Zahner	Drageland & Rowe	Dan & Sharon Callahan

