

RESURRECTION NEWS



MAY 2017



Pastor's Letter
May, 2017
"Justification by Grace for the Busy Person"

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we prepare for the celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation in October, we give thanks to God for Martin Luther and many others who worked so hard to remind us of what had been forgotten – the Christian faith is based on salvation by grace alone through faith alone for Christ's sake alone.

This is not to say that the church in Luther's day was lifeless or inactive. In fact, the medieval church was incredibly active. Daily worship services were the norm and many people attended worship many times during the course of the week and certainly on Sunday. The vast majority of people were deeply religious and desirous of God's mercy and grace. Despite all of the religious activity and awareness of the day, the vital truth of how sinful men and women are justified before God got lost.

There is a warning in this for our own time. There is a powerful message being circulated these days that it is our activity and busyness that justifies us. For example, there was a time when, if someone asked, 'how are you doing,' we would have replied with 'fine' or 'okay.' Even if we aren't, we still reply this way because we don't want anyone to think we're not 'fine' or 'okay.' Talk about pressure!

But when asked the same question today, we're much more likely to respond with, 'busy.' 'Busy' has become the new measure of 'worth' and 'value.'

The more hectic and frantic things are, the more worthy and valuable you must be, right? The poor soul who is not overworked or and who is never stressed out having more to do than there's time for must not be pulling his weight and doing enough. Talk about pressure!

The problem of course is, there is no such thing as enough. We could always do more and better. But the very fact that we are driven by such demands of the law means that we must believe that this is the way that we justify ourselves. Of course, this is not the 'Law of God.' These are man-made laws that are imposed on us by 'the world' and we buy into them wholeheartedly, even as we complain about the law's demands. But they hold us captive nonetheless – maybe even more so than the 'Law of God.'

So the need for the Reformation may well be as urgent today as it was in 1517. We need to be reminded again of the good news that gets lost in all the activity to justify ourselves. You are justified by GRACE alone – not because of your worthiness but because God loves you in spite of the fact that you are not worthy. You are justified through FAITH alone – not by your busyness and hectic life. You are justified for CHRIST'S sake alone – all because of what He has done for you.

In his Heidelberg Disputation of 1518, Luther captured the Christian gospel in this remarkable thesis: *"The law says 'do this,' and it is never done. Grace says, 'believe this,' and it is already done."* (Thesis 26). All of the pressure to justify ourselves has been lifted off of us and put onto Christ. Christ has set us free from the demands of the law. Free to do less or free to do more – but neither as the measure of our worthiness or value. Now we're free to do all that we do in joyful thanks to God and with sincere love for others. Talk about freedom!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Nielsen

Notes from your Deaconess

May, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters of LCR,

During the last several months we've looked at pieces of the Divine Service which take place during the entrance rite, before the **Service of the Word** itself. Recall that the form of our service corresponds to how Jesus frequently interacted with his disciples during his incarnate life in this world: **Word** and **Sacrament**, teaching followed by meal. Look for how frequently he teaches around mealtimes in the lectionary readings from the gospel of Luke this coming month.

We hear from our God, creator and redeemer, and then we see, touch, taste, and take him into ourselves through the sacrament (that Word become flesh and blood for us). We can recognize this pattern in the scope of scriptures – the Word of God creating in the beginning, coming to human ears through the mouths of God's people, and finally becoming a human in Jesus Christ, the second Adam who lived and died and rose again. The Last Supper, which we recall every week, but upon which we also focused just a couple of weeks ago, initiated this meal for our forgiveness and strengthening. Jesus' teaching journey and meal with two disciples on the road to, and at table in Emmaus on the day of resurrection especially shows this order. (If you missed Pastor Nielsen's sermon on April 30, read or listen to it for more on this!)

The Word needs to precede Sacrament, for faith comes through hearing the word. That word comes to us from outside of us and acts on us. In the early churches, all were welcome through the service of the word, and then there was a transition in the service when all who had not yet been baptized, were still receiving instruction, along with visitors, were asked to leave. The Service of the Word includes **readings** from the Old Testament (usually), an Epistle, and the Gospel, with a gradual (generally a psalm), and alleluia between these readings. Confession of the **creed**, a hymn of the day, and the **sermon** follow – sometimes with the creed following the sermon. We'll look a bit closer at these elements of the service over the next few months.

Our lectionary readings continue all this month in Luke, following the journeys of the disciples who watch, listen to, learn from, and eat, with Jesus. We also will read of the journeys of the people of Israel as they follow Moses through the wilderness in Exodus, Leviticus and Numbers, hearing him speak God's word to them and teaching how to live in community.

This month I will again hold Saturday morning Bible studies for women on the second (5/13) and fourth (5/27) Saturdays of this month. We meet at 8:30 or so in a downstairs classroom and finish in the vicinity of 10am. I'm still conferring with some folks about a date for a one-day women's retreat hopefully sometime in the next couple of months. Stay tuned.

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God."
Colossians 3:16

Under his mercy,
Sharon M. Conover

SUMMER SERVICE SCHEDULE BEGINS SUNDAY, MAY 29TH

Worship will begin at 9:00am.

Sunday School will be in recess for the summer.

SUNDAY SCHOOL IN MAY: Sundays - 8:45am.

5/7 **Jesus Appears to Thomas** - John 20:19-31

5/14 **Jesus Appears in Galilee** - John 21:1-19

5/21 **Jesus Ascends into Heaven** - Acts 1:1-11

5/28 No Sunday School for summer

ADULT BIBLE STUDY IN MAY: Sundays - 8:45am.

5/7 **Psalm of the Month: Psalm 44** - "Come to our help!"

5/14 **Hymnody Review: "The Hymnody of Ambrose of Milan"**

5/21 **Book of the Bible Survey: "Song of Songs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Lamentations, Esther"**

5/28 No Sunday School for summer

LWML NEWS

- LWML will be hosting the fellowship on Mother's Day. Join us for cake and other goodies.
- Several ladies will be going to the Northern Zone Rally on May 20th at Community Lutheran church in south Burlington Vt. If you want to get up very early and join them let Deb Nielsen know.
- The New England District is almost half way to its goal of \$64,000 for the 2016-2018 biennium. Don't forget to bring your mites.
- Redeemer Lutheran church in Gorham is sponsoring a baby shower for "ABBA" (Women's resource center) on May 20th. Since we are unable to attend we voted to send a check for \$50.
- We will continue to collect for the Homeless shelter until the end of May.
- If you have any old blankets or towels or quilts (can be stained but clean). Bring them to church and we will take them to the animal shelter.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORT FOR REV. ST.ONGE

4/19/2017

My dear fellow redeemed,

We thank God for you and your gift to the LC-MS of \$200. It will be used in support of Rev. Charles and Deborah St.Onge.

THANK YOU FROM SEMINARIAN GRANT SORENSON

To my Brothers and Sisters in Christ at Lutheran Church of the Resurrection,

Thank you for your support and prayers. It has been much needful! I am deeply honored and grateful. It is thanks to you that I have made it through this year with very little debt. For that, I rejoice greatly and give thanks to God!

Concordia Theological Seminary has been lively the last few weeks as we draw to the close of the school year. The second-year students just received their Vicarage placements and the fourth-year students just received their first calls. As for me, I am in my last three weeks of classes before summer break. I look forward to the end of the year and rejoice at all I have learned this year. Thank you again for your support and prayers as they have sustained me through this year!

God's richest blessings!

Grant and Kim Sorenson

THANK YOU FROM SEMINARIAN MICHAEL McGINLEY

March 29, 2017

Rev. Nielsen and Lutheran Church of the Resurrection,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you for your continued prayers and financial support through my time here at the seminary. It always is an incredible blessing to my family and me. I hope to be in contact with Rev. Nielsen in the next month or two concerning our trip to see everyone there. At this point in my wife's pregnancy, it is still uncertain if this summer will work. As I told Rev. Nielsen before - it is not a matter of if, but of when. We look forward whenever the Lord provides this opportunity!

Before any updates, I want to remind everyone that we are only a few weeks away from the Vicarage Assignment Service. Vicarage is the time when I be assigned a year-long internship at a congregation and under a supervising pastor. We will be moving, but we will not know where until the service - although it will most likely be in the midwest. The service itself will be on April 24th at 6 pm (CT)/ 7 pm (ET) at Kramer Chapel on the Concordia Theological Seminary campus.

Now for our updates! You may recall from our previous letter that Katka is excited to be a big sister. Our big news over the past month is that she will be welcoming a baby brother into the world this July...

As for myself, during winter quarter I was swamped. Not only with family concerns, but also with a heavy course load. It was the last overloaded class load I needed to catch up in credits (I started a quarter behind due to Kat being born the summer of 2015 - when most students start). However, every course was successfully passed, much was learned, and I am now back on a normal schedule. The classes I most recently completed included: Pauline Epistles, Options in Sermon Form, Catechetics, Theologia I: Baptism, and Pastoral Counseling. My current (lighter) course load includes: Pentateuch II (Exodus-Deuteronomy), Pastoral Theology, Theology of the Greek Fathers, and Church History IV (American Lutheranism). At my fieldwork church, Emmanuel, I am liturgist for the Divine Service every week and continue to teach 6th-8th grade catechism. Emmanuel continues to be a great experience and treats my family very well...

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



Michael, Kelsi, and Katka McGinley

(Michael's entire letter is posted on the "Missions" bulletin board in the Narthex.)

The Daily Lectionary

May, 2017

May

4/30 Exodus 32:15-35 / Luke 6:39-49
5/1 Exodus 33:1-23 / Luke 7:1-17
5/2 Exodus 34:1-28 / Luke 7:18-35
5/3 Exodus 34:29-35:21 / Luke 7:36-50
5/4 Exodus 38:21-39:8 / Luke 8:1-21
5/5 Exodus 39:32-40:16 / Luke 8:22-39
5/6 Exodus 40:17-38 / Luke 8:40-56

5/7 Leviticus 8:1-36 / Luke 9:1-17
5/8 Leviticus 9:1-24 / Luke 9:18-36
5/9 Leviticus 10:1-20 / Luke 9:37-62
5/10 Leviticus 16:1-24 / Luke 10:1-22
5/11 Leviticus 17:1-16 / Luke 10:23-42
5/12 Leviticus 18:1-19:8 / Luke 11:1-13
5/13 Leviticus 19:9-37 / Luke 11:14-36

5/14 Leviticus 20:1-27 / Luke 11:37-54
5/15 Leviticus 21:1-24 / Luke 12:1-12
5/16 Leviticus 23:1-22 / Luke 12:13-34
5/17 Leviticus 23:23-44 / Luke 12:3-53
5/18 Leviticus 24:1-23 / Luke 12:54-13:17
5/19 Leviticus 26:1-20 / Luke 13:18-35
5/20 Leviticus 26:21-44 / Luke 14:1-24

5/21 Numbers 3:1-48 / Luke 14:25-15:10
5/22 Numbers 8:5-26 / Luke 15:11-32
5/23 Numbers 9:1-23 / Luke 16:1-8
5/24 Numbers 10:11-36 / Luke 16:19-31
5/25 Numbers 11:1-35 / Luke 17:1-19
5/26 Numbers 11:24-12:16 / Luke 17:20-37
5/27 Numbers 13:1-33 / Luke 18:1-17

5/28 Numbers 14:1-25 / Luke 18:18-34
5/29 Numbers 14:26-45 / Luke 18:35-19:10
5/30 Numbers 16:1-22 / Luke 19:11-18
5/31 Numbers 16:23-40 / Luke 19:29-48
6/1 Numbers 16:41-17:13 / Luke 20:19-44
6/2 Numbers 20:1-21 / Luke 20:19-44
6/3 Numbers 20:22-21:9 / Luke 20:45-21:19

Read your bible every day

(Daily lectionary readings taken from LSB #299-304)

Some helpful habits for home devotions:

- *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.*

BIBLE QUIZ



Monthly Worship

May 7, 2017

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Psalm: 23

First Reading: Acts 2:42-47

Epistle: 1 Peter 2:2:19-25

Holy Gospel: John 10:1-10

May 14, 2017

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Psalm: 146

First Reading: Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60

Epistle: 1 Peter 2:2-10

Holy Gospel: John 14: 1-14

May 21, 2017

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Psalm: 66:8-20

First Reading: Acts 17:16-31

Epistle: 1 Peter 3:13-22

Holy Gospel: John 14:15-21

May 28, 2017

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Psalm: 68:1-10

First Reading: Acts 1:12-26

Epistle: 1 Peter 4:12-19; 5:6-11

Holy Gospel: John 17:1-11

1. How did the busy disciples accept the parents bringing their children to Jesus for a blessing?

A) they welcomed them with open arms B) they told them to go away C) they ignored them with forced indifference D) they responded warily as any one of them could try to assassinate Jesus

2. On which day of creation did God create the Big Dipper?

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

3. Why didn't God allow Moses to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land?

A) he was too old—he was already 120 years old B) it was punishment for not believing in God's power over the complaining Israelites C) Joshua needed to start gaining experience as God's number one man D) it was a lesson to teach Moses who was ultimately in charge of his life

4. What did Jesus say when he stood before Herod during his trial?

A) He answered all questions with one- or two-word answers B) all answers focused on how Jesus was of the heavenly kingdom C) He told parables as the "heard but with no understanding" D) He spoke not one word

5. Who is the Lamb's wife?

A) the twelve tribes of Israel B) the faithful prophets C) the believers living in the New Jerusalem D) there really is no such thing

6. Who said this: "Come now, and let us reason together"?

A) God B) Jesus C) Moses D) Abraham



5/1 Brian Watson
 5/3 Don Pryor
 5/4 Emily-Lynn Carlson
 5/15 Kitty Carlson
 5/16 Bonnie Mathieu
 Kenneth Zahner
 5/18 Fenn Ouellette
 5/22 Sasha Fitzpatrick
 5/23 Michelle Hein
 Anna Rowe
 5/24 Amanda Goldsmith
 5/27 Christine Thomas
 5/30 Ted Evertsen
 Frances Sieber
 5/31 Jared Goldsmith



BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

5/11 Avis Grant
 5/17 Callum Goldsmith
 5/23 Fenn Ouellette
 5/31 Richard Dostie
 5/?? Gail Carrano



5/4 Gail & Art Carrano
 5/5 Moe & Becky Cote
 5/7 Pat & Jeffrey Kablitz



5/8 Moe Cote
 5/10 Matthew Esculano
 Amanda Goldsmith
 Jared Goldsmith
 5/11 Avis Grant
 5/18 Peter Doran
 5/31 Lee Anne Larsen
 5/?? Lois Doran

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This...is...the...way...the...church...sometimes...
looks...to...the...pastor...when...he...goes...to...
the...pulpit.

BUT

The church would look like this if everybody brought
somebody else to church with them.

Bible Quiz Answers

1. B (Luke 18:15)
2. B (Genesis 1:14-19)
3. B (Numbers 20:12)
4. D (Luke 23:9)
5. C (Revelation 21:2-3)
6. A (Isaiah 1:18)

The Lutheran Church of the Resurrection

Calendar of Events

May, 2017

Week of May 7th

Thursday - 5/4	10:30am.	Mid-Week Bible Study
Sunday - 5/7	8:45am.	Sunday School / Adult Bible Study
	10:00am.	Worship
Monday - 5/8	7:00pm.	Church Council Meeting <i>[Pastor Nielsen attending Spring Pastor's Conf. - Mass. 5/8-10]</i>
Thursday - 5/11	10:30am.	Mid-Week Bible Study
Saturday - 5/13	8:30am.	Women's Bible Study - Deaconess Conover

Week of May 14th

Sunday - 5/14	8:45am.	Sunday School / Adult Bible Study
	10:00am.	Worship - <i>Mother's Day</i>
		<i>[Pastor Nielsen on vacation - 5/17-30]</i>

Week of May 21st

Sunday - 5/21	8:45am.	Sunday School / Adult Bible Study
	10:00am.	Worship
Saturday - 5/27	8:30am.	Women's Bible Study - Deaconess Conover

Week of May 28th

Sunday - 5/28	<u>9:00am.</u>	Worship
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Beginning of Summer Schedule

Stewardship

May, 2017

	<u>May 7</u>	<u>May 14</u>	<u>May 21</u>	<u>May 28</u> (9:00 Service)
Acolyte	Andrew Farr	Callum Goldsmith	Emily-Lynn Carlson	Mia Fitzpatrick
Comm. Assistant	Dan Callahan	Steve Love	No Communion	No Communion
Ushers	Tom Huesers & John Gould	Seth Carlson & Moe Cote	John Ayotte & Dan Callahan	Mike Hein & Mark Larsen
Greeters	Jim & Darryll Zahner	Fred & Amy Ouellette	Dorthy McAllister & David Leigh	Moe & Becky Cote
Altar Care	Andrea Watson	Esther Gould	Lee Anne Larsen	Katie Huesers
Flowers	Moe & Becky Cote	Fred & Amy Ouellette	Fred & Amy Ouellette	Avis Grant
Fellowship	Sasha Fitzpatrick	LWML	OPEN	Amy Ouellette