

RESURRECTION NEWS



SEPTEMBER 2016



Pastor's Letter

September, 2016

"The Scandal of the Cross"

"Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified...the power of God and the wisdom of God." (1 Corinthians 1:22,24)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Undoubtedly, the cross was not the sort of sign that the Jews were looking for that they might be able to identify the Messiah by. It is hard for us today to comprehend just how scandalous the idea of a crucified Messiah was. During Roman times, there were various death sentences commuted but crucifixion was the ultimate penalty. It was the sentence reserved for the dregs of society, mostly criminals or slaves. Jesus' death on the cross was scandalous to Jews and Greek alike. This helps us to understand why the cross was not used as the universal Christian symbol for over a century after Jesus' death. It was just too disgusting.

The idea of "Christ crucified" is such a contradiction in terms. Someone might be the Christ, and someone might be crucified. But someone may not be both. "Messiah" means power, triumph, and deliverance. "Crucifixion" means weakness, humiliation and failure. Even Jesus' disciples, when He told them that as the Christ, he would be crucified couldn't comprehend such a contradiction. Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. It's a rebuke that is still heard among us today. "If He is who He says He is, why does He let this happen? Why doesn't He fix this problem?" But never considering that He has done all of that by His suffering and death on the cross. That would be folly.

And so we can understand why many in our own day have a hard to taking the message of Bible seriously. In a world where 'signs' of success and the possession of 'power' is everything, the message of 'Christ crucified' can sound as ridiculous today as it did in the 1st century.

"But to us who are being saved, it is the power of God and the wisdom of God." If you want to be assured that God is in control and rules the world in all its little details, look to the cross where He has exercised His mighty power over sin, death and the devil. At the cross God has overpowered his enemies with the weakness of His grace and forgiveness.

If you want find comfort in the 'wisdom of God,' look to the cross where He has outsmarted the devil and us human beings with the foolishness of a Messiah who has come to die for the sin of the world.

So, as weak as it sounds, as much as many may roll their eyes at such foolishness, we will continue to pursue our mission to 'Open Hearts by preaching Christ crucified'. Anything else is simply weak and foolish.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Nielsen

Notes from your Deaconess

Dear Brothers and Sisters of LCR,

Having just completed my studies this last month, I thought I might take a bit of time with upcoming newsletters to share some of the things I learned in my final class at the seminary, "Heaven on Earth". During that class we learned about the history of our Lutheran Service Book and hymnals through the last century and a half. We also discussed the reasons that we worship the way we do—why our liturgy has its particular shape. Most of you have discussed these things a bit during the Inquirers Class or confirmation classes, and occasionally Sunday School classes have addressed the topic.

This month I just offer some general comments about our service. Next month we'll take a bit closer look at its overall shape. Then we'll begin stepping through it slowly with some historical, biblical and theological background. Feel free to contact me with further questions or for more reading about these things if you're interested.

We often think of the word **liturgy** strictly in terms of the formal order of a church service. Yet it includes more of a sense of *servicing* and *being served* than we generally consider. The Greek word whence liturgy derives, *leitourgia*, has to do with work of and on behalf of the people—and as Lutherans we look for and receive God’s work and gifts of forgiveness and salvation for us in this service each week. Christ performed this service for the whole world, and our pastor serves us through the word and sacrament. We respond with thanks and praise to these gifts, so while heaven comes to us, we speak back to God and to each other about these gifts.

If we think of these gifts as precious like a diamond, we also need to consider the setting, as in a ring or necklace, for their delivery. In church terms, our pastor uses **rites** to deliver these gifts to us. We find orders of service, the balance of law and gospel, various readings and canticles, and the church year itself included under the notion of rite. Biblical references undergird the rites we use and those rites may be brief and simple, or long and complex.

With a diamond ring we might consider various ways of accenting the beauty of the diamond by using extra gems or decorative gold leaf. This corresponds to **ceremony** within a church service. These include music, posture, gesture, vestments (clothing), vessels, movement, location, incense. These various items involve human decision and aren’t necessary, but all have various meanings which direct us toward more fully understanding the gifts. How we worship will shape and affect what we believe, and conversely, what we believe should shape the way we worship. In coming months I’ll write particularly about the rites we use, but will have a few comments about particular ceremonies as well.

Thank you so much for your support through these two years of studies, and I look forward to serving you and hearing from you. A twice-monthly Saturday morning Bible study will likely begin in a few weeks—I’ll let you know details as they develop.

Under his mercy,
Sharon M. Conover

REGULAR WORSHIP SCHEDULE BEGINS: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH

- 8:45am. Sunday School / Adult Bible Study
- 10:00am. Worship

SUNDAY SCHOOL KICK OFF CELEBRATION PICNIC - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH

Please plan to join us immediately after worship on the 11th as we celebrate the beginning of a new season in God’s Word together. The Board for Youth will plan the games and activities and supply the hamburgers and hotdogs. Bring a picnic cover-dish to share.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH - 8:45AM.

Parents are encouraged to read the Bible references with their children before Sunday mornings.

- ❖ 9/11 - Entering the Promised Land - Joshua 3:1-5:12
- ❖ 9/18 - The Fall of Jericho - Joshua 6
- ❖ 9/25 - Deborah - Judges 4-5

Pre-school Class: Room #103 - Sasha Fitzpatrick
Grade School Class: Room #102 - Darryll Zahner
High School Class: Room #104 - Sharon Conover

ADULT BIBLE STUDY BEGINS, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH - 8:45AM.

- ❖ 9/11 - “The Office of Deaconess in the Congregation and District” - District Deaconess Tiffany Manor
- ❖ 9/18 - “Monday though Saturday Worship” – Developing the habit of home devotions - Deaconess Sharon Conover
- ❖ 9/25 - “Anatomy of a Zombie – Life Among the Walking Dead” – Pastor Nielsen will present his ‘break-away’ session from the Higher Things Youth Conference this summer.

INSTALLATION OF SHARON CONOVER TO THE OFFICE OF DEACONESS - SEPTEMBER 11TH

Rev. Timothy Yeadon, president of the New England District, LCMS, will be present as guest preacher to install Sharon into the office of Deaconess. A very special day in the life of the congregation not to be missed.

MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY RESUMES - THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH - 10:30AM

Join us if you can as we continue our study of Paul's letters to the Corinthians. We'll review and conclude our reading of 1st Corinthians and move into a study of 2nd Corinthians.

MEN'S RETREAT: SEPTEMBER 23-24

The 3rd Annual Men's Retreat kicks off on Friday at 6:00pm. with a rousing 'Corn hole' tournament, followed by bible, prayer and campfire. Saturday begins with breakfast, followed by bible study, prayer and the conclusion of the 'Corn hole' tournament. This year's theme is: "The Augsburg Confession" - 'Dare to be Lutheran.' Please speak to an Elder to sign up now - Chris Batson, Glenn Carlson, Tom Huesers.

HIGHER THINGS SUNDAY - SEPTEMBER 25TH

This summer, four youth and sponsors spent a week at the Higher Things Conference in Tennessee. On Sunday the 25th, they would like to share their experience with you and thank you for your generous support. Worship on the 25th will feature the Order of Matins and several of their favorite hymns. Following the service, the youth will present a slide show and reports on their experience. Don't miss this!

FALL INQUIRERS CLASS BEGINS: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6th

Now is the time to begin to invite a friend to come with you to the "Inquirers Class." This 9 week tour of the fundamentals of the Christian faith is for those who would like to learn more AND for those who would like to refresh their knowledge of the basics. Please see pastor Nielsen or sign up on the bulletin board now.

UPDATE ON BUILDING LOAN

The principle balance due on the sanctuary renovation loan is \$61,808 as of the end of August. The loan was issued on February 2, 2016 for \$80,000. In 6 month, we have paid off \$18,192, or 23% of the loan. Good work! We are on the way to meet the goal of paying this loan off in 5 years. Thank you for your faithful stewardship.

HOPE LUTHERAN NEWS

From Rev. Robert Fischer, Vacancy Pastor, Hope Lutheran Church, Bangor

Beginning this month, Hope Lutheran Church, Bangor, will be entering a new phase of its life as it transitions from the faithful ministry of Rev. Ted Evertsen to that of myself and Rev. Brett Balfour. You can tell that Rev. Evertsen's shoes are tough to fill as it's taking the two of us to replace one of him! Another reason for the dual service to Bangor is the distance from the Portland area. I live in Windham and Rev. Balfour lives in Saco. The long weekly drive up to Bangor will be made easier when the duties are shared. I will be doing the majority of the preaching there and Rev. Balfour will assist as his schedule permits.

The important thing is that Word and Sacrament ministry will continue at Hope this coming year, and the prayer is that a Domestic Missionary for the congregation will be available starting next Fall.

As I begin my service to Hope Lutheran I want to take this opportunity to thank the saints at Lutheran Church of the Resurrection for your continued prayers and generous financial support of your daughter congregation. The people at Hope are strong in faith but small in number, thus the congregation is not yet self-sustaining. We pray that the congregation will grow and someday reach self-sufficiency, but in the meantime it depends on the support of people like yourself who want to see Luther's message of the pure Gospel spread throughout Maine--especially significant as we will celebrate the Quincentennial (500th) anniversary of the Reformation this coming year.

Thank you again for your prayers and support; and to Rev. Evertsen, and his faithful assistant, Dorothy!

In Christ, *Pastor Fischer*

ENCOURAGING THE HABIT OF READING YOUR BIBLE DAILY.

“Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” – Psalm 119:105

Daily Lectionary Readings for September:

9/1 1 Kings 18:1-19 / Ephesians 1:1-23
9/2 1 Kings 18:20-40 / Ephesians 2:1-22
9/3 1 Kings 19:1-21 / Ephesians 3:1-21
9/4 2 Kings 2:1-18 / Ephesians 4:1-24
9/5 2 Kings 2:19-25; 4:1-7 / Ephesians 4:25-5:14
9/6 2 Kings 4:8-22,32-37 / Ephesians 5:15-33
9/7 2 Kings 4:38-5:8 / Ephesians 6:1-24
9/8 2 Kings 5:9-27 / Philippians 1:1-20
9/9 2 Kings 6:1-23 / Philippians 1:21-2:11
9/10 2 Kings 9:1-13; 10:18-29 / Philippians 2:12-30
9/11 2 Chronicles 29:1-24 / Philippians 3:1-21
9/12 2 Chronicles 31:1-21 / Philippians 4:1-23
9/13 2 Chronicles 32:1-22 / Colossians 1:1-23
9/14 2 Chronicles 33:1-25 / Colossians 1:24-2:7
9/15 2 Chronicles 34:1-4, 8-11, 14-33 / Colossians 2:8-23
9/16 2 Chronicles 35:1-7, 16-25 / Colossians 3:1-25
9/17 2 Chronicles 36:1-23 / Colossians 4:1-18
9/18 Nehemiah 1:1-2:10 / 1 Timothy 1:1-20
9/19 Nehemiah 2:11-20; 4:1-6 / 1 Timothy 2:1-15
9/20 Nehemiah 4:7-23 / 1 Timothy 3:1-16
9/21 Nehemiah 5:1-16; 6:1-9, 15-16 / 1 Timothy 4:1-16
9/22 Nehemiah 7:1-4; 8:1-18 / 1 Timothy 5:1-16
9/23 Nehemiah 9:1-21 / 1 Timothy 5:17-6:2
9/24 Nehemiah 9:22-38 / 1 Timothy 6:3-21
9/25 Malachi 1:1-14 / Matthew 3:1-17
9/26 Malachi 2:1-3:5 / Matthew 4:1-11
9/27 Malachi 3:6-4:6 / Matthew 4:12-25
9/28 Deuteronomy 1:1-18 / Matthew 5:1-20
9/29 Deuteronomy 1:19-36 / Matthew 5:21-48
9/30 Deuteronomy 1:37-2:15 / Matthew 6:1-15
(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.*



BIBLE QUIZ

Monthly Worship

September 4, 2016

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm: 1

First Reading: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Epistle: Philemon 1-21

Holy Gospel: Luke 14:25-35

September 11, 2016

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm: 119:169-176

First Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-24

Epistle: 1Timothy 1: (5-11) 12-17

Holy Gospel: Luke 15:1-10

September 18, 2016

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm: 113

First Reading: Amos 8:4-7

Epistle: 1Timothy 2:1-15

Holy Gospel: Luke 16:1-15

September 25, 2016

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm: 146

First Reading: Amos 6:1-7

Epistle: 1Timothy 3:1-13 or 1Timothy 6:6-19

Holy Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

1. What type of wood did God command Moses to build the ark of the covenant out of?

- A) oak B) acacia/shittim C) gopher D) cedar

2. How did the Israelites know for sure that the Egyptian army would never again threaten them?

- A) They saw the dead soldiers and horses washed up on the shore B) the invincible Edomites promised their ‘protection’ on the Israel/Egyptian border C) Pharaoh signed a peace treaty on papyrus scrolls D) God said so

3. What was King Saul’s first big sin?

- A) he didn’t want to fight a perceived losing battle as God commanded him to do B) he didn’t kill every living thing as God commanded him to C) he fought a battle that God neither commanded nor sanctioned D) he sacrificed burnt offerings instead of waiting for the prophet Samuel to do it

4. Which two gospels trace Jesus’ lineage through his earthly father, Joseph?

- A) Matthew and Luke B) Luke and John C) Matthew and John D) Mark and Luke

5. What Old Testament prophet’s writings was the Ethiopian eunuch reading from, but not understanding?

- A) Isaiah B) Jeremiah C) Moses D) Abraham

6. Who said this: “Is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee?”

- A) Pharaoh of Egypt B) King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon C) King Darius of Media/Persia D) Pontius Pilate of Rome



- 9/2 Chris Batson
Pat Kablitz
- 9/4 Jim Zahner
- 9/12 Becky Cote
Andrew Farr
- 9/18 Frankie Ouellette
- 9/19 Olive Grierson
- 9/22 Alarik Morris
- 9/27 Siena Fitzpatrick



Happy Anniversary

- 9/17 Rev. Paul & Deb Nielsen
- 9/19 Fred & Amy Ouellette
- 9/27 Jared & Amanda Goldsmith



- 9/3 Nathaneal Batson
- 9/20 Lois Doran
- 9/21 Chris Batson
- 9/24 Ben Morren
- 9/30 Frankie Ouellette
- 9/?? Sharon Klipp

BULLETIN BLOOPERS

- Next Sunday, a special collection will be taken to defray the cost of the new carpet. All those wishing to do something on the new carpet will come forward and get a piece of paper.
- Wednesday the Liturgy Group will meet. Mrs. Johnson will sing, "Put Me in My Little Bed.", accompanied by the Pastor.
- Next Sunday Mrs. Vinson will be soloist for the morning service. The pastor will then speak on "It's a Terrible Experience."
- The third verse of "Blessed Assurance" will be sung without musical accomplishment.
- Glory to God to all and peas to his people on earth.
- The audience is asked to remain seated until the end of the recession.
- Jean will be lading a weight-management series Wednesday nights. She's used the program herself and has been growing like crazy.
- (For the group of ladies called "Moms Who Care" and pray for the children in school). When their meeting was cancelled one week; "There will be no Moms who care this week."

Bible Quiz Answers

1. B (Exodus 25:10)
2. A (Exodus 14:30)
3. D (1 Samuel 13:9-13)
4. A (Matthew 1; Luke 3)
5. A (Acts 8:32; Isaiah 53:7-8)
6. C (Daniel 6:20)

The Lutheran Church of the Resurrection

Calendar of Events

September, 2016

Week of September 4

Sunday - 4th 9:00am. - Worship

Wednesday - 7th 6:30pm. - Board for Missions

Week of September 11

Sunday - 11th ***Regular Sunday Schedule Resumes***
8:45am. - Sunday School / Adult Bible Study
10:00am. - Worship
11:30am. - Sunday School Kick Off Picnic

Monday - 12th 6:00pm. - Board of Elders Meeting
7:00pm. - Church Council Meeting

Thursday - 15th 10:30am. - Mid-Week Bible Study - 1 Corinthians 16

Week of September 18

Sunday - 18th 8:45am. - Sunday School / Adult Bible Study
10:00am. - Worship

Thursday - 22nd 10:30am. - Mid-Week Bible Study - 2 Corinthians 1

Friday / Saturday - 23rd - 24th 6:00pm. - Men's Retreat - St. Albans

Week of September 25

Sunday - 25th 8:45am. - Sunday School / Adult Bible Study
10:00am. - Worship

Tuesday / Wednesday - 27th - 28th - Pastor Nielsen away at Circuit Meeting

Thursday - 29th 10:30am. - Mid-Week Bible Study - 2 Corinthians 2

SEPTEMBER STEWARDSHIP

	<u>September 4</u> (9:00)	<u>September 11</u> (10:00)	<u>September 18</u> (10:00)	<u>September 25</u> (10:00)
Acolyte	Allison Farr	Caden Fitzpatrick	Mia Fitzpatrick	Emmy Carlson
Comm. Assistant	Brad Fitzpatrick	Rev. Tim Yeadon	Mike Hein	Glenn Carlson
Ushers	Jacob Huesers & Tom Huesers	Mike Hein & Seth Carlson	John Ayotte & Brad Fitzpatrick	Glenn Carlson, Jr. & Bill Jahnke
Greeters	John & Karen Ayotte	Pat Kablitz & Deb Nielsen	Moe & Becky Cote	Anna Rowe & Sharon Klipp
Altar Care	Katie Huesers	Avis Grant	Deb Nielsen	Sharon Conover
Flowers	John & Esther Gould	Moe & Becky Cote	Moe & Becky Cote	LWML
Fellowship	Pat Kablitz	Sunday School Kick-off	Amanda Goldsmith	Senior Youth Group

*Lutheran Church of the Resurrection
36 Cool St.
Waterville, ME 04918*

