

RESURRECTION NEWS



February 2024

Pastor's Letter February 2024

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

Each time that the Church gathers for a Divine Service, it joins in confessing the words of the Nicene Creed wherein the nature of the Church is described with these familiar words: *"I believe in one holy Christian (catholic) and apostolic Church."* Each of these four adjectives used in the Nicene Creed uniquely contributes to a right and complete understanding of the nature of the Church of Christ.

The first adjective used by the Nicene Creed to describe the Church of Christ is the word one. Simply put, the Church of Christ is One Church. To the human eye, this does not appear to be the case. There are almost an infinite number of denominations and beliefs. There are numerous divisions within the Church dating back to the earliest Christian records. And yet, the Church remains One Church. Saint Paul clearly taught this to the troubled and splintering congregation at Corinth: *"Now you are the body of Christ"* (1 Corinthians 12:27a) and *"Is Christ divided?"* (1 Corinthians 1:13a). Though the Church may fracture and split, still there remains only One Church of Christ because Christ is not divided, and we are all partakers in His Body (1 Corinthians 10:16). Though it may not seem to be the case on the surface, we who believe in Jesus Christ are One Church because He has prayed for our unity (John 17:21-23) and His desire ever remains to gather all children of God together as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings (Matthew 23:37). How is the Church of which we are a part One? Only God knows. And yet, despite appearances, we cling to His Word that we, indeed, are One Church.

The second adjective used by the Nicene Creed to describe the Church of Christ is the word holy. In biblical thought, the generic sense of the word "holy" is simply "to be set apart." We who are a part of the Church through faith in Christ are made holy by the Spirit of God, who may be thought of as the "holying" Spirit—that is, the One who sanctifies, or makes us holy. And yet, the Spirit's work of sanctification is not relegated to individuals, as Saint Peter teaches us: *"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation"* (1 Peter 2:9a). It is not the individual but the collective which is described by Saint Peter as "holy." Somehow, someway the Church of Christ is Holy. Though we are a group of poor, miserable sinners, though our sins are often more visible than our positive virtues, yet we are a "holy nation." The sanctifying Spirit of God makes us, a rag-tag group of sinners, holy. Despite appearances, this is the truth.

By this point, you are, no doubt, beginning to notice a pattern: The Church lives by faith—not only faith in and about Jesus, but faith in and about who He has made us to be. The "oneness" and the "holiness" of the Church is not often visible to our five senses. It is as our Lord told His disciples: *"The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you"* (Luke 17:20b-21). Or, as Saint John wrote to the Church: *"Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure"* (1 John 3:2-3).

The "oneness" and the "holiness" of the Church of Christ are present realities that remain hidden to us on this side of glory. Apart from the eyes of faith, we will not see the truth of our confession that the Church of Christ is One and Holy until Christ returns and reveals it to us. Until then, the Church lives as it always has—by faith in the One who justifies sinners. For *"faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see"* (Hebrews 11:1, NIV 1984).

Next month, we will consider the remaining two adjectives used by the Nicene Creed to describe the Church of Christ: "Christian (catholic)" and "apostolic."

In Christ,
Pastor Akers

Notes from your Deaconess

Dear Brothers and Sisters of LCR,

The Apocryphal book of Judith contains the story of a woman used by the Lord God to deliver the Israelites from their enemies. An unknown author wrote Judith some time between the return of the people of Israel from Exile in Babylon and the birth of Christ. In his introduction to it, Martin Luther called it “a beautiful religious fiction by a holy and ingenious man who wanted to sketch and depict therein the fortunes of the whole Jewish people and the victory God always miraculously granted them over all their enemies.”

The name Judith means “a Judean woman.” Locations, other persons, and time periods within the book do not correspond to other historical documents. Themes of prayer, fasting, and relying on God weave through the tale, however. You may be reminded of Queen Esther, Deborah, Ruth, perhaps Tamar (of Genesis 38), and especially Jael (in Judges 4). She sounds like the three friends of Daniel who refused to bow to the image set up by Nebuchadnezzar when she states “[God] has power to protect us within any time he pleases or even to destroy us in the presence of our enemies” (Judith 8:15b). She also testifies in her prayers “For your power depends not upon numbers, or your might upon men of strength; for you are God of the lowly, helper of the oppressed, upholder of the weak, protector of the forlorn, Savior of those without hope” (Judith 9:11). Yet her use of lies and deceit in order to trick the enemy do seem contrary to our understanding of living godly lives.

We will meet for Saturday women’s Bible studies on February 3 and 17. (February 3 also includes the ladies’ fellowship time in Farmington—so if consensus from usual participants is that it would be too much, we may not meet.) We will have one more study concluding Ephesians, and I don’t know what we’ll tackle together next. I can add you to my email list if you let me know. I send an email during the week prior to each meeting. I also can provide a Zoom link if you’d like to join that way instead of in person. We meet downstairs in classroom 104 at 8:30 a.m. for a time of fellowship, Bible study, and sharing of prayer concerns.

Under his mercy,
Sharon M. Conover

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil...praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. Ephesians 6:10, 11, 18a

Sunday Morning Bible Class

Sunday morning Bible Class meets weekly at 8:45 a.m. in Room 201. Each week, Pastor will lead a deeper study of the Epistle Reading to help us prepare for the Divine Service. We will also have time to discuss your questions from the Read the Bible in Two Years readings.

Thursday Bible Class

Thursday Bible class meets at 10:30 a.m. in Room 201. We will be concluding our study of 1 Corinthians on 2/8. We will be on break for the season of Lent.

Game Night

The next Game Night will be **Wednesday, February 21, from 5:30-7 p.m.** We will have the popcorn machine going and a few games to choose from but please feel free to bring your own drink, a snack to share, and a few games! For questions, please contact Josh Schiebel at (240) 839-8074 or Amber Akers.

Men’s Breakfast

The next men’s breakfast is scheduled for **Saturday, February 17.** Breakfast will be served at 8 a.m. with a study to follow at 9 a.m. We will be discussing St. Valentine and the Biblical idea of “love” based on 1 Corinthians 13.

Wednesday Lenten Services

Lent begins on **Wednesday, February 14,** with Ash Wednesday. On Ash Wednesday, we will have Divine Services at noon & 7 p.m. with imposition of ashes. Throughout the remainder of the Lenten season, we will hold Divine Services on Wednesdays at noon & 7 p.m.

Thank You’s

Thank you for partnering with us in our Lord’s Great Commission. May God’s peace reign in your hearts, this Christmas and always.

God’s peace and joy,

Rev. Dr. Matthew Heise, Exec. Director

Lutheran Heritage Foundation

Thank you for your gifts to in support of Rev. Tyler and Cruz McMiller and Mission Field – Montreal. Even in financially challenging times like these, you are confessing your trust and faith in Christ alone.

Sub cruce,

Pastor Matthew C. Harrison, President

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

February Stewardship

	<u>February 4</u>	<u>February 11</u>	<u>February 18</u>	<u>February 25</u>
<u>Acolyte</u>	Callum Goldsmith	Elizabeth Akers	Hayley Farr	Matthew Akers
<u>Subdeacon</u>	Charlie MacPherson	Dan Callahan	Chris Batson	Mark Larsen
<u>Ushers</u>	Rick Drageland Chris Batson	Jeff Sammons Rick Kubeck	Glenn Carlson Jr. John Ayotte	Mo Cote Mike Hein
<u>Greeters</u>	Adolph Galonski & Gail Maestas	The Wilson Family	Kemp & Rachel Anderson	Mark & Lee Anne Larsen
<u>Altar Care</u>	Amy Ouellette	Sasha Fitzpatrick	Kitty Carlson	Lee Anne Larsen
<u>Flowers</u>	Sharon Klipp	Christine Thomas	-----	-----
<u>Fellowship</u>	Rev. Ted & Dorothy Evertsen	Sharon Klipp	Kitty Carlson & Amy Ouellette	Open

Hope Lutheran Church
PO Box 2282
Bangor ME 04402-2282

God's Work God's Way



January 7, 2024

Lutheran Church of the Resurrection
Board of Missions
36 Cool Street
Waterville ME 04901

Dear Board of Missions,

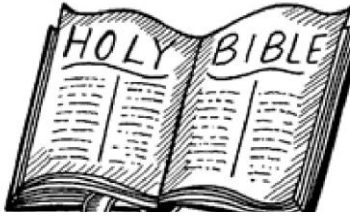
Thank you so much for your recent check of support to Hope Lutheran as we work to share the Gospel message here in the greater Bangor area. Your generosity, kindness, and continued support all these years have been a blessing to our mission congregation.

Our work in the community includes Table Talks, for which we received an LCMS Developmental Grant in 2023. Table Talks is an opportunity to share the Gospel with those who have questions about the Christian faith over dinner and fellowship. Each evening session is tailored after the Table Talks that Martin and Katie Luther hosted in their home. We have had a few visitors so far and they have joined us for Sunday worship. The discussions have been great and also provide an opportunity to strengthen our own faith by means of Christian fellowship. Everyone at the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection is more than welcome to join us for these sessions (the 2nd Tuesday of the month 5:30-7pm at the Bangor Grande Hotel).

Our deaconess, Kim Slininger, continues her work providing comfort and healing through equine therapy. It has been a busy time for Hope for Healing and Spirit Warrior. The horses have been moved to a barn closer to Bangor and area veteran groups have been notified of the change and availability of equine therapy services. Kim has branched out to growing fodder which allows hay, in short supply due to weather challenges, to last longer. The LWML grant the program received recently allowed for the purchase of a tractor which has been used to clear an old hay field (to allow for the creation of a new hay field). Work has been done to update the constitution and by-laws which allow for a classification as an RSO (Recognized Service Organization) within the LCMS. You may donate Thrivent Choice Dollars to Hope 4 Healing to support the work of this program.

Again, thank you for your donation and we look forward to our continued congregational partnership.

Your brothers & sisters in Christ,
Hope Lutheran Church



Monthly Worship

February 4
Sexagesima

Psalm: 44
Old Testament: Isaiah 55:10-13
Epistle: 2 Corinthians 11:19-12:9
Holy Gospel: Luke 8:4-15

February 11
Quinquagesima

Psalm: 31
Old Testament: 1 Samuel 16:1-13
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Holy Gospel: Luke 18:31-43

February 14
Ash Wednesday

Psalm: 57
Old Testament: Joel 2:12-19
Epistle: 2 Peter 2:1-11
Holy Gospel: Matthew 6:16-21

February 18
First Sunday in Lent

Psalm: 91
Old Testament: Genesis 3:1-21
Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:1-10
Holy Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

February 25
Second Sunday in Lent

Psalm: 25
First Reading: Genesis 32:22-32
Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-7
Holy Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28

BIBLE QUIZ

- 1. Who told wives to *obey and respect* their husbands and told husbands to *love their wives as themselves*?**
 - A. James
 - B. Paul
 - C. Peter
 - D. John
- 2. How did Abraham's servant Eliezer happen to pick Rebekah for Isaac's wife?**
 - A. Rebekah was the prettiest girl in the city.
 - B. Rebekah was from the wealthiest family in the city.
 - C. Eliezer rescued her from bullying shepherds at a well.
 - D. Rebekah voluntarily watered his camels without being asked.
- 3. Who in the Bible married an Ethiopian woman?**
 - A. Noah
 - B. Ham
 - C. Moses
 - D. David
- 4. Who told his father regarding a woman, "Get her for me, for she looks good to me"?**
 - A. Isaac
 - B. Jacob
 - C. Judah
 - D. Samson
- 5. What did David pay King Saul in order to marry his daughter Michal?**
 - A. 10 talents of gold
 - B. 100 shekels of silver
 - C. 100 suits of armor
 - D. 200 pieces of Philistine flesh
- 6. Who was commanded by God to marry a harlot and be a good husband to an unfaithful wife?**
 - A. Isaiah
 - B. Ezekiel
 - C. Hosea
 - D. Amos
- 7. How did Protestant Reformer Martin Luther meet his wife Katharina in the 1500s?**
 - A. She was a nun that he helped escape from a convent.
 - B. She was a parishioner in his church in Wittenberg.
 - C. She was a student in his theology course at the University of Wittenberg.
 - D. She was a cook and nurse he met during his stay at Wartburg Castle.



- 2/5 Darryll Zahner
- 2/9 Kemp Anderson
- 2/10 Elizabeth Reed
- 2/11 Steve Farr
Chester Gilbert
- 2/12 Rachel Anderson
- 2/20 Brad Fitzpatrick
Jenifer MacPherson
- 2/22 Kay Gideon



- 2/1 Caden Fitzpatrick
- 2/7 Jo Schiebel
- 2/13 Becky Cote
- 2/24 Andrew Farr
- 2/25 Lee Anne Larsen
- 2/29 Natalie Crowley



- 2/7 Fernando Gouvea
Mari Gouvea
- 2/20 Elizabeth Reed
Taylan Thomas

BIBLE QUIZ ANSWERS

1. B. (Ephesians 5:22-33; Colossians 3:18-19)
2. D. (Genesis 15:2-4; 24:1-4; 24:10-61)
3. C. (Numbers 12:1-15)
4. D. (Judges 14:1-3)
5. D. (1 Samuel 18:20-29)
6. C. (Hosea 1:2-3; 3:1-3)
7. A.



In his first attempt to be romantic, Adam merely states the obvious.

A kindergarten teacher was walking around observing her classroom of children while they were drawing pictures. As she got to one girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was.

The girl replied, "I'm drawing God."

The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like."

Without looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending; and to have the two as close together as possible.

-- George Burns

An engineer dies and reports to the Pearly Gates. Saint Peter checks his dossier and not seeing his name there, accidentally sends him to Hell. It doesn't take long before the engineer becomes rather dissatisfied with the level of comfort in Hell.

He soon begins to design and build improvements. Shortly thereafter, Hell has air conditioning, flush toilets and escalators. Needless to say, the engineer is a pretty popular guy.

One day, God calls Satan and says: "So, how are things in Hell?"

Satan replies: "Hey, things are going great. We've got air conditioning, flush toilets, and escalators. And there's no telling what this engineer is going to come up with next."

"What!" God exclaims: "You've got an engineer? That's a mistake - he should never have been sent to Hell. Send him to me."

"Not a chance," Satan replies: "I like having an engineer on the staff, and I'm keeping him!"

God insists: "Send him back or I'll sue."

Satan laughs uproariously and answers: "Yeah, right. And where are you going to get a lawyer?"