

RESURRECTION NEWS



September 2024

Pastor's Letter

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Brothers and sisters in Christ,

The word religion (and its related cognates) has developed a negative connotation in the present day. This is a shame because it is a word the Scriptures use for our instruction. We would do well to not allow this biblical word to be coopted and turned into something that it is not.

We have probably all heard the phrase: "I'm spiritual but not religious." This phrase encapsulates the negative connotation behind the word "religion." To be "spiritual" is socially acceptable because that means I believe in some higher power and acknowledge the existence of a realm which I cannot see. Although spirituality does not conform to the scientific worldview espoused by much of our world, there is an increasing acknowledgment that a higher power must exist. Yet such "spiritual" people will often claim to be "not religious." By this phrase, they mean to indicate that their spiritual beliefs are private—they are not part of an organized religious group.

Whether we are speaking of the religious "nones" or those who hold membership in a Christian denomination but attend their church seldom to never, there are many people around us who have been hurt by or have a distrust of organized religion. Such people speak of religion negatively, believing that spirituality should remain personal and private. Thus "religion" is an enemy.

We should honor the hurt that such people have experienced. The fact that so many eternal souls have been hurt by the church is devastating. And yet, it is not an excuse to run away from the place where God offers His grace through Word and Sacrament. Nor should such hurt cause us to dismiss the Bible's teaching about true religion.

*"Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this:
to visit orphans and widows in their trouble,
and to keep oneself unspotted from the world."
(James 1:27)*

Religion ought not be thought of as an inherently negative thing. According to Scripture, faith constitutes what we believe (Hebrews 11:1), and religion constitutes an action based on such faith (see James 1:27 above). Put differently, religion is the way in which God is worshipped—not only in the pew on Sundays, but especially in our everyday lives. True and right religion means living in accord with the nature and will of God.

This, of course, does not necessitate perfection—as if one sinful slip-up turns our religion into a hypocritical falsehood. For the nature of God is to be forgiving and merciful. Therefore, to live in accord with God's nature and will—to practice true religion—is to live a life of repentance.

*"If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.
But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another,
and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."
(1 John 1:6-7)*

May the Lord grant us such a religion that our lives, centered on the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ, are marked by forgiveness, compassion, and love so that the hurting souls around us might see in us the very love which Christ has for them.

*Lord of all power and might, Author and Giver of all good things, graft in our hearts the love of Your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of Your great mercy keep us in the same;
through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen. (Collect for Trinity 6)*

In Christ,
Pastor Akers

Notes from your Deaconess

Dear Brothers and Sisters of LCR,

Resuming our consideration of books of the Apocrypha, we come to Esther. This book tells the same story as our usual Biblical book of Esther—*mostly*. Unlike the canonical book, the Apocryphal Esther includes different details about the villain Haman's background and motives for destroying the Jews, a dream of Mordecai, prayers of both Mordecai and Esther, as well as portions directly attributing the course of events to God. Johann Gerhard cited several reasons for not considering the Apocryphal version of Esther to be authoritative, with its many differences from the original Hebrew story. Martin Luther placed the Apocryphal Esther after the rest of the Old Testament books as it had not been in Hebrew originally, and had various issues mentioned above, but still thought it worth reading.

I always sense a connection to the circumstances surrounding Esther, no matter which version I read. (I don't mean the part about being a queen.) She and the Jewish people found themselves in exile, surrounded by people whose values vastly differed from theirs and contrary to what the scriptures taught. Similarly, we are aware of people and groups who consider followers of Christ to be evil (in the upside-down way of our age) and dangerous. We should have, like Mordecai, the confidence that our God controls all the messy horrifying situations which we encounter and observe around us. He continues to work through his people whether in positions of great or small influence by the Holy Spirit.

I plan to hold Saturday women's Bible studies on September 14 and 28. I think we'll return to our journey through Paul's epistle to the Romans. As we resume our regular meetings together, Jo Schiebel has volunteered to host the reunion gathering on her deck and enjoy some continental breakfast together. I send an email during the week prior to each Bible study meeting. I also can provide a Zoom link if you'd like to join that way instead of in person. We begin around 8:30 a.m. with our time of fellowship, Bible study, and sharing of prayer concerns.

Saturday, September 21, the district will be holding a Ministry Conference in Bedford, MA, at Lutheran Church of the Savior from about 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The main speaker, Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola, District President of the Mid-South District, will talk about "The Twenty-first Century Exodus" in American churches. There will be three one-hour breakout sessions with workshops addressing various missions and ministry topics of the church. I'll be traveling there (and leading one of the breakouts) and hope to carpool with a few others who would like to attend.

Under his mercy,
Sharon M. Conover

O LORD, be gracious to us; we wait for you. Be our arm every morning, our salvation in the time of trouble.
Isaiah 33:2

Sunday Morning Bible Class

On Sunday mornings at 8:45 a.m., we continue our study of the Small Catechism. Please consider joining us in the Fellowship Hall for a refresher (or introduction!) to the doctrine of the Lutheran church. Please see Pastor Akers with any questions.

Mid-Week Bible Class

Mid-Week Bible class resumes on September 12. We will meet Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor will be leading a study of the "Catholic (General) Epistles", beginning with Jude.

Men's Breakfasts

The next Men's Breakfast is scheduled for September 21 at 8 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will be studying Daniel chapter 2.

Fall Cookout

On September 8, in place of the fellowship hour, our congregation will come together to share in an afternoon of fun and fellowship in the form of a church picnic. The church will provide burgers and hotdogs. Congregation members are asked to bring a side, dessert, or drink to share. Please keep an eye out for an announcement about a RSVP/sign-up sheet. See Amber Akers if you have any questions. Thank you!

LWML

On Saturday, September 21, Redeemer Lutheran Church at 410 Main St. in Gorham, Maine, will be hosting a FALL GATHERING.

Its theme: Is your cup half empty or half full or does it overflow
Presented by: Livingstones Home School Co-op
Time: 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Questions: Send email to Betsy Gorneau at ragbag@roadrunner.com

September Stewardship

	<u>September 1</u>	<u>September 8</u>	<u>September 15</u>	<u>September 22</u>	<u>September 29</u>
<u>Acolyte</u>	Evan Farr	Matthew Akers	Elizabeth Akers	Hayley Farr	Matthew Akers
<u>Subdeacon</u>	Chris Batson	Charlie MacPerson	Dan Callanhan	Fernando Gouvêa	Brian Watson
<u>Usher</u>	Steve Applebee	John Ayotte	Glenn Carlson Jr.	Rick Drageland	Mo Cote
<u>Greeters</u>	James Breslin & Sharon Klipp	Dorothy McAllister & Avis Grant	The Kubecks	The Andersons	The Heins
<u>Altar Care</u>	Andrea Watson	Lee Anne Larsen	Julie Kohl	Lydia Bendas	Avis Grant
<u>Flowers</u>	Akers Family	Akers Family	The Kubecks	The Kubecks	Julie Kohl
<u>Fellowship</u>	The Farris	Church Picnic	The Goulds	Open	Open

Defending the Faith.

Sometimes the Best Defense is a Good Defense.

Over the last several months, we've explored what other Christian denominations believe along with some decidedly non-Christian religions. If those all seemed like a warm-up to jumping in the deep end of the pool, you were right. Up next is the Roman Catholic Church.

This analysis will be 3 consecutive months long. I'll break it into these parts:

1. Introduction (This article).
2. What we have in common with the Roman Church.
3. Where we differ with the Roman Church.

I'll start by acknowledging that many of our members at LCR were at one time or other members of the Roman Catholic Church – myself and my wife included. In fact, one of our beloved LCR members is a former Roman Catholic nun.

Many of us recognize the myriad faults and excesses of the Roman Church, but still hold a fondness for them. In fact, my personal view is that the confessional Lutheran Church is simply the Roman Catholic Church "repaired". (Of course, saying this horrifies my Roman Catholic friends!)

That is the reason that some LCMS pastors I've met claim that we are not "Protestant". Their view is that we are the original church, springing from Roman Catholicism. Where the Roman Church went off course, Luther and his fellow reformers simply put the church back on track.

While other reformed traditions went on a theological rampage of sorts, purging their churches of anything that had even a whiff of the Roman church, we (confessional Lutherans) simply got rid of the man-made error and carried on worshipping the Lord our God, holding fast to Sacred Scripture as our supreme source of authority and acknowledging that we are saved by God's Grace (undeserved favor) through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ. (Sola Scriptura, Sola Gratia and Sola Fide)

Luther never wanted to start a new church. He, as an Augustinian (Roman Catholic) monk, just wanted to discuss and correct error. That is what drove him to affix (not necessarily nail)¹ his 95 theses (discussion points) to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg.

This is not as dramatic and belligerent an act as you might think. The church door served as sort of a community bulletin board and that is where people of that day posted items that they wanted to discuss.

He was initially appalled at his movement being called "Lutheran". It was an insult hurled at him by his theological opponents!²

Just like we see in today's world, power does not like being challenged – especially when their source of money is threatened. The Roman church perceived Luther as a threat to their authority.

In Luther's first official sermon against indulgences, he said ³ *"And if some persons cry out that I am a heretic (for the truth I preach is very injurious to their cash-box), I am not much disturbed by their yellings. They are men of diseased and clouded brains - men who have never felt the Bible, never read the Christian doctrine, never understood their own doctors, and who rot beneath the rags of their idle opinions . . . God grant them and us a true sense! Amen."*

Luther was eventually excommunicated. A fine way to start a reformation!

Next month, what we share in common with the Roman Church.

As always, I'm open for comments, suggestions and especially criticisms at charles.j.macpherson@gmail.com.

Defending the Faith

Charlie MacPherson, SDG

¹ <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/nailed-luther-ninety-five-theses/>

² <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/9-things-know-lutheranism/>

³ [https://thirdmill.org/magazine/article.asp/link/jac_arnold%5ECH.Arnold.RMT.4.html/at/Martin%20Luther:%20From%20Struggle%20with%20Rome%20until%20Death%20\(1517-1546\)](https://thirdmill.org/magazine/article.asp/link/jac_arnold%5ECH.Arnold.RMT.4.html/at/Martin%20Luther:%20From%20Struggle%20with%20Rome%20until%20Death%20(1517-1546))



Monthly Worship

September 1

Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

Psalm: 84

Prophecy: Proverbs 4:10-23

Epistle: Galatians 5:16-24

Holy Gospel: Luke 17:11-19

September 8

Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

Psalm: 86

Prophecy: 1 Kings 17:8-16

Epistle: Galatians 5:25-6:10

Holy Gospel: Matthew 6:24-34

September 15

Sixteen Sunday after Trinity

Psalm: 86

Prophecy: 1 Kings 17:17-24

Epistle: Ephesians 3:13-21

Holy Gospel: Luke 7:11-16

September 22

Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

Psalm: 119

Prophecy: Proverbs 25:6-14

Epistle: Ephesians 4:1-6

Holy Gospel: Luke 14:1-11

September 29

St. Michael the Archangel

Psalm: 103

Prophecy: Daniel 12:1-3

Epistle: Revelation 12:7-12a

Holy Gospel: Matthew 18:1-11

BIBLE QUIZ

1. Through what do we have redemption according to the book of Ephesians?
 - A. His name
 - B. His blood
 - C. His power
 - D. His word
2. The helmet of (Fill in the blank)
 - A. Salvation
 - B. Peace
 - C. Righteousness
 - D. God's Word
3. The sword of the Spirit which is (Fill in the blank)
 - A. Salvation
 - B. God's Word
 - C. Peace
 - D. Righteousness
4. The shield of (Fill in the blank)
 - A. Salvation
 - B. Peace
 - C. God's Word
 - D. Faith
5. According to the book of Ephesians, when did God chose us in Jesus Christ?
 - A. After Jesus died
 - B. Before the foundation of the world
 - C. Since Adam
 - D. Before the law
6. What has God blessed us with in Jesus Christ according to the book Ephesians?
 - A. Every fruit of the Spirit
 - B. Hope of eternal life
 - C. Every spiritual blessing
 - D. None of the above
7. In the book of Ephesians, what did Christ Jesus break down in his flesh?
 - A. Dividing wall of hostility
 - B. Cares of this world
 - C. The wall of Jericho
 - D. The power of the air
8. Which spirit works in the sons of disobedience according to the book of Ephesians?
 - A. Prince of the power of the air
 - B. Gambling spirit
 - C. Spirit of lust
 - D. All of the above



- 9/2 Chris Batson
- 9/4 Adolph Galonski
- 9/12 Becky Cote
Andrew Farr
- 9/18 Frankie Ouellette
- 9/19 Olive Grierson
- 9/26 Richard Kubeck
- 9/27 Adam Stelmack



- 9/1 Charlie & Jenifer MacPherson
- 9/8 Pastor Ben & Amber Akers
- 9/19 Fred & Amy Ouellette
- 9/22 Rick & Marie Kubeck
- 9/27 Jared & Amanda Goldsmith



- 9/3 Nathanael Batson
- 9/15 Marie Kubeck
- 9/20 Lois Doran
- 9/21 Chris Batson
- 9/30 Frankie Ouellette
- 9/?? Sharon Klipp

BIBLE QUIZ ANSWERS

1. B. (Ephesians 1:7)
2. A. (Ephesians 6:17)
3. B. (Ephesians 6:17)
4. D. (Ephesians 6:16)
5. B. (Ephesians 1:4)
6. C. (Ephesians 1:3)
7. A. (Ephesians 2:14)
8. A. (Ephesians 2:2)



04-28-2014

TOM YOU WON'T BELIEVE IT I GOT FRONT ROW SEATING AGAIN OH MY GOODNESS RUN UP HERE NOW I'LL SAVE IT WHILE I CAN

Fishing

There was a new family that had just moved into town. Their son came to Sunday School but seemed upset. His teacher asked him if anything was wrong.

The boy replied no that he was going to go fishing but his dad told him that he needed to go to church instead. The teacher was very impressed with the boy's parents and asked the boy if his father had explained to him why it was more important to go to church than to go fishing.

The boy replied, "Yes he did. My dad said that he didn't have enough bait for both of us."

Cowboy Joe

Cowboy Joe was telling his fellow cowboys back on the ranch about his first visit to a big-city church. "When I got there, they had me park my old truck in the corral," Joe began.

"You mean the parking lot," interrupted Charlie, a more worldly fellow.

"I walked up the trail to the door," Joe continued.

"The sidewalk to the door," Charlie corrected him.

"Inside the door, I was met by this dude," Joe went on.

"That would be the usher," Charlie explained.

"Well, the usher led me down the chute," Joe said.

"You mean the aisle," Charlie said.

"Then, he led me to a stall and told me to sit there," Joe continued.

"Pew," Charlie retorted.

"Yeah," recalled Joe. "That's what that pretty lady said when I sat down beside her."

Favorite Hymns of Different Professions

The Dentist's Hymn ... Crown Him With Many Crowns	The Electrician's Hymn ... Send The Light
The Weatherman's Hymn ... There Shall Be Showers Of Blessing	The Shopper's Hymn ... In The Sweet By and By
The Contractor's Hymn ... The Church's One Foundation	The Realtor's Hymn ... I've Got A Mansion Just Over The Hilltop
The Tailor's Hymn ... Holy, Holy, Holy	The Pilot's Hymn ... I'll Fly Away
The Golfer's Hymn ... There Is A Green Hill Far Away	The Paramedic's Hymn ... Revive Us Again
The Politician's Hymn ... Standing On The Promises	The Judge's Hymn ... Almost Persuaded
The Optometrist's Hymn ... Open My Eyes That I May See	The Psychiatrist's Hymn ... Just A Little Talk With Jesus
The IRS Agent's Hymn ... I Surrender All	
The Gossip's Hymn ... Pass It On	

Kids Say the Funniest Things

1. A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible -- Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the verse. Little Bobby was excited about the task, but he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line. On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Bobby was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, "The Lord is my shepherd . . . and that's all I need to know!"
2. When a mother saw a thunderstorm forming in mid-afternoon, she worried about her seven-year-old daughter who would be walking the three blocks from school to home. Deciding to meet her, the mother saw her daughter walking nonchalantly along, stopping to smile whenever lightning flashed. Seeing her mother, the little girl ran to her, explaining happily, "All the way home, God's been taking my picture!"
3. A mother took her three-year-old daughter to church for the first time. The church lights were lowered, and then the choir came down the aisle, carrying lighted candles. All was quiet until the little one started to sing in a loud voice, "Happy Birthday to you, happy birthday to you...."
4. A little boy walked down the beach, and as he did, he spied a matronly woman sitting under a beach umbrella on the sand. He walked up to her and asked, "Are you a Christian?" "Yes." "Do you read your Bible every day?" She nodded her head, "Yes." "Do you pray often?" the boy asked next, and again she answered, "Yes." With that he asked his final question. "Will you hold my quarter while I go swimming?"
5. One day a space shuttle crashed to the ground in the yard of a preschool. When he finally struggled out of the wreckage, the astronaut shouted, "I'm free! I'm free!!!" At this point, one of the little children standing there shouted back, "Big deal, I'm four!"
6. A Sunday School teacher asked her class, "Does anyone here know what we mean by sins of omission?" A small girl replied, "Aren't those the sins we should have committed but didn't?"
7. A bright 8-year-old child was being tested by the Speech Teacher and was given analogies and asked to describe the following differences: Speech Teacher: "What's the difference between an oak tree and a Christmas tree?" Child: "One has leaves and the other has needles." Teacher: "Very good! What's the difference between a saucer and a plate?" Child: "One flies, and the other doesn't."
8. Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, "Why is the bride dressed in white?" "Because white is the color of happiness and today is the happiest day of her life," her mother tried to explain, keeping it simple. The child thought about this for a moment, then said, "So, why's the groom wearing black?"
9. On the first day of school, the kindergarten teacher said, "If anyone has to go to the bathroom hold up two fingers." A little voice from the back of the room asked, "How will that help?"
10. A three-year-old put his shoes on by himself. His mother noticed the left was on the right foot. She said, "Son, your shoes are on the wrong feet." He looked up at her with a raised brow and said, "Don't kid me, Mom. I KNOW they're my feet."
11. A three-year-old boy went with his dad to see a litter of kittens. On returning home, he breathlessly informed his mother, "There were two boy kittens and two girl kittens." "How did you know?" his mother asked. "Daddy picked them up and looked underneath," he replied. "I think it's printed on the bottom."