

# **RESURRECTION NEWS**



**November 2024**

# Pastor's Letter

November 2024

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

With the election upon us, I would like to offer a theological reflection on voting priorities. No political candidate is perfect. All but the most extreme would agree with this. So, the question is, when I go into the voting booth, what should I prioritize? What deficiencies am I willing to put up with? The Apostle tells us: *"Rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil"* (Romans 13:3a). Therefore a political leader's primary responsibility is to foster an environment in which good works and godly lives can flourish.

This is the purpose of the Ten Commandments—to guide us to a life of flourishing. This, of course, is not all that the Commandments do. The most important function of the law is its second (spiritual) use—as a mirror which shows our sin. However, the third use (the guiding function) of the law must not be discounted for the Christian. The law is God's unchangeable will for creation (Formula of Concord Epitome, Article VI, paragraph 7), therefore the law, with the Ten Commandments as its summary, is a guide to the Christian life.

When I teach the Catechism, I regularly remind those whom I teach that the order of the Catechism is important. This is true in the Catechism's organization, which leads us from Law to Gospel to the Christian life, but it is particularly true in the Scriptural details included in the Catechism. In other words, the First Commandment is first because it's more important than, say, the Eighth Commandment. Likewise, it is more important that we honor preaching and God's Word (Third Commandment) than that we honor parents and other authorities (Fourth Commandment). This is in no way intended to diminish the importance of the later commandments; it simply recognizes the hierarchy and priority within the divine commands.

The following is a list of questions, following the Ten Commandments, that I have put together for evaluating a political candidate. It is certainly not complete but is a place to start in your thinking (note the priority of order):

1. Does the candidate support freedom of religion—where I can freely worship the one, true God?
2. Does the candidate support freedom of religious speech—where I am not persecuted for speaking about the faith?
3. Does the candidate promote freedom of religious gathering—where I will not be prohibited from attending the assembly of believers?
4. Does the candidate support the authority of parents to raise their children—where I do not have to worry about outside forces imposing pagan morality and belief on my children?
5. Does the candidate support life—especially of those who cannot defend themselves (the unborn, orphans, widows, sojourners, etc.)?
6. Does the candidate support biblical marriage—that it is a life-long union of one man and one woman?
7. Does the candidate seek to foster an environment where possessions are protected—particularly in fostering a thriving economy?
8. Does the candidate speak well of his or her neighbor—seeking to uphold his/her reputation?
9. What is the candidate's heart & character—does he/she serve as a model of good and godly living?

We would like to vote for a candidate who meets all these criteria. But such does not exist in this fallen world. As you seek to cast your vote for the candidate who you think would be the best choice for a given office, I pray that you will use God's Word, especially the Ten Commandments, as a guide to prioritize decision making.

And remember—whatever happens on November 5<sup>th</sup> at the local, state, and national level, our God is in control. For no political candidate has authority unless it has been given from above (John 19:11).

*"Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior" (1 Timothy 2:1-3).*

In Christ,  
Pastor Akers

### **All Saints' Day**

We will observe All Saints' Day on Friday, November 1, with Divine Services at Noon and 7 p.m.

### **Mid-Week Bible Class**

Mid-Week Bible class meets Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. When our current study on the Epistle of Jude concludes, we will begin studying the Revelation.

### **Men's Breakfasts**

The next Men's Breakfast is scheduled for November 16 at 8 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will be studying Daniel chapters 4 & 5.

### **Church Directory**

If you have updated information for the directory, please send email to Christine at [officemgr@lcrwaterville.org](mailto:officemgr@lcrwaterville.org) by November 30.

### **Thanksgiving Collection**

This year we are collecting for the Waterville Food Bank. We need at least 200 of each of the following items:

### **Thank You's**

We are reminded of the seasons of growth and renewal that your generosity makes possible here at Concordia Seminary. Your gift is a powerful affirmation of our mission to equip future pastors, deaconesses and other church leaders.

In Christ,

Vicki Biggs, Sr VP Seminary Advancement

Concordia Seminary

Thank you for your support of Issues, Etc., dedicated as it is to spreading the joy of that enduring Word and the endless life it promises! We couldn't do it without you!

Wir sind alle Better,

Todd Wilken, Host

Thank you for your ministry partnership as we boldly reach thousands of individuals and churches with our presentations, conversations, Frontline ministries, professional resources and printed materials. May Gold bless you and your Gospel-motivated voice FOR LIFE!

In truth and love,

David Probst, Development Director

Lutherans for Life



**Daylight Savings begins Sunday, November 3**

## November Stewardship

	<b><u>November 3</u></b>	<b><u>November 10</u></b>	<b><u>November 17</u></b>	<b><u>November 24</u></b>
<u>Acolyte</u>	Matthew Akers	Open	Hayley Farr	Elizabeth Akers
<u>Subdeacon</u>	Charlie MacPherson	Brian Watson	Steve Farr	Chris Batson
<u>Usher</u>	Jeff Sammons	Glenn Carlson Jr.	Rick Drageland	Mo Cote
<u>Greeters</u>	Rick & Marie Kubeck	Kemp & Rachel Anderson	Avis Grant & Dorthy McAllister	Steve Applebee & Julie Kohl
<u>Altar Care</u>	Krista Carlson	Kitty Carlson	Andrea Watson	LeeAnne Larsen
<u>Flowers</u>	Dorthy McAllister	Avis Grant	Avis Grant	Christine Thomas
<u>Fellowship</u>	The MacPhersons	Open	Sharon Klipp	Open

Altar Care for All Saints Day, Nov. 1: Sasha Fitzpatrick

## Defending the Faith.

### Sometimes the best defense is a good defense.

Did you ever bite off more than you can chew? I did.

I intended this article to discuss the areas where we are in agreement with the Roman Catholic Church. As I started researching and writing, I realized that to do a thorough job, I needed to write an encyclopedia, not an article. So after a chat with Pastor Akers, I decided to leave that gargantuan task aside and get to the places where we disagree with Rome – and I'll do my best to "...do this with gentleness and respect". (1 Peter 3:16). I think this is where the Lutheran rubber meets the road.

Let's start with what I think is the source of many of Rome's problems – sources of authority. I'll stipulate that I'm talking about authority that is held by Rome to be equal to that of Sacred Scripture.

We Confessional Lutherans have only one. That's Sacred Scripture. Not, as some would assert, Luther.

We follow Luther only insofar as he is in concord with Scripture. (Sola Scriptura!)

For example, I hope all of us would vehemently disagree with Luther's detestable writing "On the Jews and their Lies".<sup>1</sup> Notably, this document is not included in the LCMS website, where other reformation documents are found, so it seems that the LCMS also rejects it.<sup>2</sup> I tried reading it and couldn't make it all the way through. It was just awful.

The Roman Church has three sources of authority:

1. Sacred Scripture. We agree wholeheartedly. And we stop right there.
2. Sacred tradition. While we agree that tradition is useful, we don't hold it as being as authoritative as Scripture.
3. The Pope, when speaking Ex cathedra (from the chair). In fact, believing that he is infallible when speaking Ex cathedra is a Roman Catholic requirement for salvation. This we reject completely as heresy.

Next, the saints. Our view is that all believers are saints – and we're also sinners at the same time. The Roman Church has a radically different view.

They believe that a saint is "...a member of the Church [who] has been assumed into eternal bliss and may be the object of general veneration." And "a saint is also a person of remarkable holiness who lived a life of heroic virtue, assisted by the Church, during their pilgrimage on earth."<sup>3</sup> The current 3-step system, described below, was formalized in 2007.

1. Venerable. Recognized as having lived a "heroically virtuous life" or having offered their life. At least 5 years must pass after this person's death, unless a martyr or when the Pope decides otherwise. The title "Venerable" is added before their name.
2. Beatification. After a rigorous investigation into a person's life and writings by the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. A miracle attributed to this person's intervention must be proven. This bestows limited public veneration. The title of "Blessed" is added before this person's name.
3. Canonization. A second miracle is required after beatification. This saint is now worthy of universal veneration. The title "Saint" is added before this person's name.

This system necessarily believes that the deceased are playing an active part in our daily lives. Some are declared to be "patron saints", for example, St. Anthony is said to be the patron saint of lost things. Roman Catholics pray to him for help in finding lost keys.

Many of these beliefs are rank heresy. From 1 Timothy 2:5, we have one intercessor with God – that is Jesus Christ.

There's so much more to say that I'll continue next month. As always, I'm open for comments, suggestions and especially criticism at [charles.j.macpherson@gmail.com](mailto:charles.j.macpherson@gmail.com).

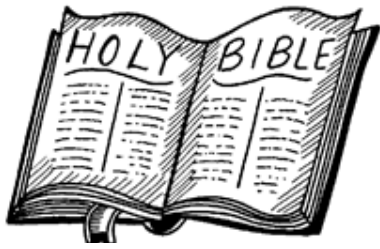
SDG - Charlie MacPherson, Defending the Faith.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/On\\_the\\_Jews\\_and\\_Their\\_Lies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/On_the_Jews_and_Their_Lies)

<sup>2</sup> <https://files.lcms.org/dashboard>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/>



### Monthly Worship

November 1  
All Saints' Day

Psalm: 33  
Prophecy: Revelation 7:2-17  
Epistle: 1 John 3:1-3  
Holy Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

November 3  
Twenty-Third Sunday after Trinity

Psalm: 85  
Prophecy: Proverbs 8:11-22  
Epistle: Philippians 3:17-21  
Holy Gospel: Matthew 22:15-21

November 10  
Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Trinity

Psalm: 95  
Prophecy: Isaiah 51:9-16  
Epistle: Colossians 1:9b-14  
Holy Gospel: Matthew 9:18-26

November 17  
Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Trinity

Psalm: 31  
Prophecy: Job 14:1-6  
Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18  
Holy Gospel: Matthew 24:15-28

November 24  
Last Sunday of the Church Year

Psalm: 85  
Prophecy: Isaiah 65:17-25  
Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11  
Holy Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

### PARABLES BIBLE QUIZ

1. In the parable of the good Samaritan, what was Christ trying to teach?
  - A. That everyone is our neighbor
  - B. That the Samaritans were not all evil
  - C. That the priests and the Levites had become corrupted
  - D. That each of us is responsible for our actions
2. In the parable of the good Samaritan, what was the significance of the one who helped being a Samaritan?
  - A. The Samaritans were a class above even the priests
  - B. The Jews hated the Samaritans, and would have no business with them
  - C. The Samaritans were well known as a group of thieves and robbers
  - D. The Romans had carried away the Samaritans, and no one believed they would ever return
3. In the parable of the sower, what did the seeds that fell on the wayside represent?
  - A. Those that did not have the chance to hear the word
  - B. Those that do not understand the word of God
  - C. Those who heard the word and followed it, but shortly afterward fell away
  - D. Those that heard the word, and followed it
4. In the parable of the sower, what did the seeds that fell in thorny places represent?
  - A. Those who did not want to hear the word
  - B. Those whose lives were too busy to hear the word
  - C. Those that heard the word, but were caught up by the riches of the world
  - D. Those who would be trampled down by the difficulties in life
5. In the parable of the ten virgins, what was Jesus trying to teach?
  - A. That sharing is not correct
  - B. That God does not know us
  - C. That all must be ready for when He comes
  - D. That no one can be ready for when He comes
6. In the parable of the ten virgins, what did the unprepared virgins not bring?
  - A. Oil for the lamps
  - B. Lamps
  - C. Identification
  - D. A present for the bridegroom



- 11/1 Mia Fitzpatrick
- 11/6 Avis Grant  
Gail Maestas
- 11/13 Fernando Gouvêa
- 11/16 Hayley Farr
- 11/23 Peter Doran  
David Leigh
- 11/29 Rick Drageland



- 11/18 Adolph Galonski
- 11/27 Corina Wilson
- 11/?? Krista Carlson  
Sarah Kohl

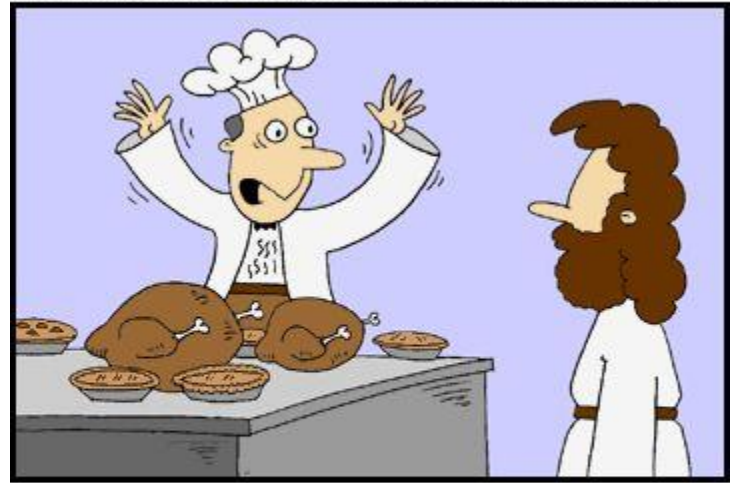


**Anniversaries**

- 11/14 Sharon Conover  
Mike Hein
- 11/26 Tyler Wilson

**BIBLE QUIZ ANSWERS**

1. A. (Luke 10:30-37)
2. B. (John 4:9)
3. B. (Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23)
4. C. (Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23)
5. C. (Matthew 25:1-13)
6. A. (Matthew 25:1-13)



(See Matthew 14:14-21)

11-24-1999

HONESTLY JESUS, YOU GIVE ME 5 PIES AND 2 TURKEYS AND EXPECT ME TO COOK FOR THE 5,000 GUESTS YOU'VE INVITED?!?

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An inexperienced preacher was to hold a graveside burial service at a pauper's cemetery for an indigent man with no family or friends. Not knowing where the cemetery was, he made several wrong turns and got lost. When he eventually arrived an hour late, the hearse was nowhere in sight, the backhoe was next to the open hole, and the workmen were sitting under a tree eating lunch.

The diligent young pastor went to the open grave and found the vault lid already in place. Feeling guilty because of his tardiness, he preached an impassioned and lengthy service, sending the deceased to the great beyond in style.

As he returned to his car, he overheard one of the workman say to the other, "I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years and I ain't never seen anything like that."

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The strongman at a circus squeezed the juice from a lemon between his hands. He then said to the audience, "I will offer \$200 to anyone in the audience who can squeeze another drop from this lemon."

A thin scholarly looking woman came forward, picked up the lemon, strained hard and managed to get a drop. The strongman was amazed. He paid the woman and asked, "What is the secret of your strength?" "Practice," the woman answered. "I was the treasurer of a Lutheran church for 32 years!"