

RESURRECTION NEWS



March 2025

Pastor's Letter March 2025

*O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our maker.
For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.*

Venite from Matins, citing Psalm 95:6-7

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we enter the season of Lent, I would like to consider how our Lutheran hymnody teaches us to think about the physical posture of Christian worship, specifically bowing and kneeling. The text of our Divine Service offers little direction in this regard beyond confessing the fact that we worship the Lord in our service:

We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee (*Gloria in Excelsis*, LSB 187).

[Of the Holy Spirit:] *Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified* (Nicene Creed, Third Article, LSB 191).

However, our hymnody teaches us to think Scripturally about the posture of our worship. One would not dream of meeting the President of the United States while seated. If we have any strength within us, we will rise to meet him, for our physical posture matters. Similarly, our Lutheran hymnody teaches us to be aware of our posture when meeting the Lord.

On Ash Wednesday, we will sing:

Savior, when in dust to Thee Low we bow the adoring knee; When repentant, to the skies Scarce we lift our weeping eyes; O, by all Thy pains and woe Suffered once for us below, Bending from Thy throne on high, Hear our penitential cry! (LSB 419:1).

This hymn presents the posture of Christian worship as a repentant kneeling. We sinners are unworthy to stand before the holy and righteous Lord. Like Isaiah before us, we are men of unclean lips (Isaiah 6:5). Like St. John who saw the glorified Christ and “*fell at His feet as dead*” (Revelation 1:17), we are right to bow or kneel in reverence before the all-holy God, for we are sinners.

Thus, we sing in the final stanza of the great paraphrase of the *Te Deum Laudamus*:

Holy Father, holy Son, Holy Spirit, three we name Thee; Though in essence only one, undivided God we claim Thee and adoring, bend the knee while we own the mystery (LSB 940:5).

For we Christians bow or bend the knee before the Lord not only because of our sin, but also in confession of the blessed Trinity, as we embrace the glorious mystery of the eternal Godhead. In days of old, one would not enter the presence of a king without bowing or kneeling to indicate honor and submission. How much more for the God of the universe? Therefore, the beloved Christmas carol invites us:

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing; Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King (LSB 368:3).

For Christ is God in the flesh. He has joined Himself to human flesh and blood for all eternity so that He might accomplish our salvation upon Calvary's cross. It is right that we bend the knee to worship our eternal King, who has done this for us!

The fact of the matter is, we don't kneel much anymore. In the United States we don't have a king, and our churches aren't equipped with kneelers, so we don't kneel much anymore. But one place where Lutherans still do traditionally kneel is during the reception of the Lord's Supper. And it is fitting to kneel at such a time because our Lord comes to us in His Body and Blood for our forgiveness, life, and salvation. And so, we come to the altar in repentance, in unity of confession, and in expectation of our Lord's coming to us physically. Therefore, Luther's great Lord's Supper hymn invites us to sing:

O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and adore Thee, in thanksgiving bow before Thee. Thou with Thy body and Thy blood didst nourish Our weak souls that they may flourish: O Lord, have mercy! (LSB 617:1).

But what if we are not able to kneel before the Lord in such a manner? Physical ailments, especially knee problems, plague many of our members which makes kneeling difficult, if not impossible. Likewise, for the faithful that gather each Sunday afternoon at Hope Lutheran in Hampden, we do not have a Communion rail at which to kneel while receiving the Sacrament. Such is the case for other congregations as well. In such cases, we should remember that kneeling is nowhere required in Scripture. When Moses was in the presence of God at the Burning Bush, we are not told that he knelt (Exodus 3:1-5). Similarly, Isaiah's call lacks any mention of the prophet's physical posture when in the Lord's presence (Isaiah 6:1-7). Kneeling in the presence of the Lord is not required. What is expected in the Lord's presence is reverence (Exodus 3:5; Isaiah 6:5) and humility (Luke 1:46-55). The physical act of bowing or kneeling can be a helpful physical enactment of this necessary mental/emotional attitude, but it is not required. Therefore, those who are unable to kneel in the Lord's presence (for whatever reason) should not be troubled. Remember also that a bow, even if it is only a bow of the head, is always possible in such cases and allows a person to physically enact their reverence and humility.

Still, bowing and kneeling are nowhere required for Christians. We are not saved by works, and the act of bowing or kneeling is no exception to this. Salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone. He bore your sins in His Body to the cross so that you might be dead to sin and alive to God in Christ. Therefore, a Christian is saved not by works but by receiving the gifts of Christ.

God Himself is present: Let us now adore Him And with awe appear before Him. God is in His temple; All within keep silence; Humbly kneel in deepest reverence. He alone On His throne Is our God and Savior; Praise His name forever! (LSB 907:1).

We do not place our hope in anything that we do. For even our faith which receives the gifts of Christ is itself a gift of God (Ephesians 2:8-9). Christ is our Savior who bore our sins and went to the cross to grant us forgiveness and eternal life. It is in Him alone that we place our trust.

In alluding to Philippians 2:10, the Advent hymn "Creator of the Stars of Night" invites us to sing to Christ in response to His gift of salvation:

Thou camest the Bridegroom of the bride, As drew the world to eventide, The spotless Victim all divine Proceeding from a virgin shrine. At whose dread name, majestic now, All knees must bend, all hearts must bow; All things celestial Thee shall own, And things terrestrial, Lord alone (LSB 351:3-4).

This is why you will see me bow or kneel at various points in the Divine Service. Those who have opportunity are encouraged to make use of the ability to do the same before the Lord. For bowing and kneeling help us to holistically confess our worship of Christ, who has saved us by His precious Blood. Those who are unable to do so are invited to join those who are in trusting in the gifts of Christ alone for our salvation.

In Christ,
Pastor Akers

Notes from your Deaconess

Dear Brothers and Sisters of LCR,

The month of March holds commemorations for three martyrs of early centuries AD.

- March 7 we remember two women—Perpetua, a young noblewoman, and her servant Felicitas who lived and died early in the third century (around AD 203). Both were catechumens and had received baptism into the name of Christ. Both were arrested and imprisoned in Carthage (of northern Africa, now in the country of Tunisia) under the rule of Emperor Septimus Severus. Perpetua's father begged her to recant this faith for the sake of her family, but she declared that she was a Christian, and that she now had a new family. Both women had young children, but both made sure that others of their biological or Christian families would bring them up and provide for them. According to an ancient account, they endured scourging by gladiators, followed by attacks by wild beasts, but ended up being slain by soldiers' swords. Shortly before they died together, they shared the kiss of peace.
- March 17 has long been regarded and observed as the day of St. Patrick's death. This commemoration clearly entered popular culture, with the bishop's faith and as *missionary* to Ireland forgotten by most. Patrick was born around AD 389 in Roman Britain within a Christian family. Raiders from Ireland captured him and took him back to be a slave. Six years later he escaped from slavery, eventually making his way to France where he first became a monk and priest, but later a bishop. He decided to return to Ireland to preach the gospel and form communities of believers. He staunchly confessed and defended the doctrine of the Holy Trinity. One hymn we sing has a text based on St. Patrick's Breastplate, long attributed to St. Patrick.

I plan to hold Saturday women's Bible studies on March 1, 15, and 29. We will continue our journey through the Revelation of Jesus Christ. We meet in room 103 downstairs (entering in the back door). I send an email during the week prior to each Bible study meeting including a Zoom link if you'd prefer to join us that way. We begin around 8:30 a.m. with our time of fellowship, Bible study, and sharing of prayer concerns, trying to wrap up around 10. We'd love to have you join us!

Under his mercy,
Sharon M. Conover

I bind unto myself the name, the strong name of the Trinity by invocation of the same, the Three in One and One in Three, his bursting from the spiced tomb, his riding up the heav'nly way, his coming at the day of doom, I bind unto myself today.

LSB 604:1

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

Revelation 1:8

Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast is scheduled for March 15 at 8 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will be studying Daniel chapters 10 & 11.

Ice Fishing Activity Day

The Board of Parish Life will be hosting an Ice Fishing activity day Saturday, March 1, from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. on East Pond in Oakland. All congregation members and their families are welcome. Enjoy ice fishing, cross-country skiing, snow shoeing, or just sitting around the fire on East Pond in Oakland. Lunch will be provided. Come for an hour or stay all day.

Location: Community dock below Gail Maestas' house (15 Wedgewood Dr. in Oakland).

Activities: Ice fishing, bonfire gazing, snow shoeing, cross country skiing, and ice skating.

Equipment: Bait and some fishing equipment provided. Camp chair, ice cleats, sunglasses, warm layered clothing, and gloves needed. A fishing license is required if you are over 16 years old. Bring your own snowshoes, skis, and skates.

Food: Hot chocolate, chili, hot dogs, and cookies provided. Bring your own coffee and beer.

Cost: FREE. Fishing licenses, if over 16 years old, available for \$11 at Maine.gov

Ash Wednesday & Midweek Lenten Services

Ash Wednesday is **March 5th**. An afternoon Divine Service will be held at 2:30 p.m. at Hope Lutheran Church (41 Canoe Club Road in Hampden). An evening Divine Service will be held at 7 p.m. at LCR.

Wednesday evening Divine Services in Lent will be held at LCR weekly at 7 p.m. on 3/12, 3/19, 3/26, 4/2, & 4/9.

Thank You

Thank you for joining with us to fight for, to protect, and to hand our nation's great history of freedom on to the next generation through your giving.

For Faith and Freedom,

Kristen Waggoner

Alliance Defending Freedom

Your support makes the difference between life and death. Thank you for helping us help them choose life.

For life,

Wendy Merrill

RESOLVE life center

Your gracious contribution will be used to help bring the grace, mercy, and compassion (Garuna) of Jesus Christ to the multitudes in Thailand, Cambodia and surrounding countries who have not yet had an opportunity to hear of His precious love and forgiveness.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Jeffery J. Ehlers

Garuna Ministries

Special Thank you

To the Congregation of the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection,

The family of Richard Dostie sends their heartfelt gratitude to you for your love and support of Rick over the years.

He always spoke with kindness about the people he met here at this church.

In Christian love,

Rick's Family



March Stewardship

	<u>March 2</u>	<u>March 9</u>	<u>March 16</u>	<u>March 23</u>	<u>March 30</u>
<u>Acolyte</u>	Elizabeth Akers	Evan Farr	Matthew Akers	Hayley Farr	Elizabeth Akers
<u>Subdeacon</u>	Mark Larsen	Charlie MacPherson	Fernando Gouvêa	Steve Applebee	Chris Batson
<u>Usher</u>	Mo Cote	Rick Drageland	Brian Watson	Glenn Carlson Jr.	Mike Hein
<u>Greeters</u>	Sasha & Mia Fitzpatrick	The Andersons	The Goldsmiths	Glenn Jr. & Bode Carlson	The Kubecks
<u>Altar Care</u>	Amy Ouellette	Krista Carlson	Andrea Watson	Julie Kohl	Avis Grant
<u>Fellowship</u>	Open	Open	The Callahans	Open	Open

Ash Wednesday, March 5

Acolyte: Hayley Farr
 Subdeacon: Steve Farr
 Usher: Jeff Sammons
 Altar Care: Sasha Fitzpatrick



Monthly Worship

March 2

Quinquagesima

Prophecy: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Holy Gospel: Luke 18:31-43

March 5

Ash Wednesday

Prophecy: Joel 2:12-19

Holy Gospel: Matthew 6:16-21

March 9

First Sunday in Lent

Prophecy: Genesis 3:1-21

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:1-10

Holy Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

March 16

Second Sunday in Lent

Prophecy: Genesis 32:22-32

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-7

Holy Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28

March 23

Third Sunday in Lent

Prophecy: Exodus 8:16-24

Epistle: Ephesians 5:1-9

Holy Gospel: Luke 11:14-28

March 30

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Prophecy: Exodus 16:2-21

Epistle: Galatians 4:22-5:1a

Holy Gospel: John 6:1-15

Fun Bible Questions w/Answers

Who was the greatest financier in the Bible?

Noah -- he was floating his stock while everyone else was in liquidation.

What did God say after He created Adam?

"I can do better than that." And so, He created woman.

Where is the first baseball game in the Bible?

In the big inning. Eve stole first, Adam stole second. Someone has noted that it is reported that the Giants and Angels were later rained out. And, of course, even later, the Prodigal Son went home.

What is one of the things that Adam and Eve did after they were kicked out?

They raised Cain.

How do we know Peter was a rich fisherman?

By his net income.

What animal did Noah find it difficult to trust?

The cheetah

What is the best way to get to Paradise?

Turn right and go straight.

Who was the first person to download something from a cloud to two tablets?

Moses

How do we know that Job went to a chiropractor?

Because Job 16:12 says: *"All was well with me, but . . . he seized me by the neck"*

Where is the first tennis match mentioned in the Bible?

When Joseph served in Pharaoh's court.

Why didn't Noah go fishing?

He only had two worms.

How do we know the people on the ark with Noah did not play card games?

Because Noah sat on the deck

Who was the first person to throw down a tablet and break it because he was angry?

Moses

How long did Cain hate his brother?

As long as he was able! (Abel)



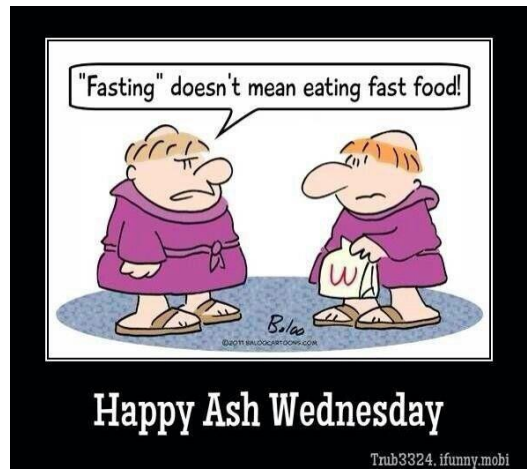
- 3/4 Esther Gould
Karen Mattson
- 3/5 Evan Farr
- 3/6 Beth Morris
- 3/11 Bjorg Boschen
- 3/12 Wayne Pelletier
- 3/14 Charlie MacPherson
- 3/17 Miriam Schiebel
- 3/21 Glenn Carlson Sr.
- 3/25 Kari Farr
Mike Hein
- 3/30 John Gould



- 3/4 Tyler Wilson
- 3/13 Fernando Gouvea
- 3/20 Fred Ouellette
Fred Ouellette Jr.
- 3/22 Wayne Pelletier
- 3/?? Kemp Anderson
Kari Farr
Steven Farr
Evelyn Gilbert



- 3/16 Becky Cote
- 3/27 Mark Larsen
Benjamin Schiebel



Old Bible

A collector of rare books ran into an old friend who told him he had just thrown away an old Bible that he found in a dusty, old box. He happened to mention that Gutenberg-somebody-or-other had printed it.

"Not Gutenberg?" gasped the collector.

"Yes, that was it!"

"Do you know what you have done? You've thrown away one of the first books ever printed. A copy recently sold at auction for half a million dollars!"

"Oh, I don't think this book would have been worth anywhere close to that," replied his friend. "It was scribbled all over in the margins by some guy named Martin Luther."

Adam and the Frog

Adam was spending the day naming all the creatures in the garden when he realized he was alone as a human being. Then came the very last creature and he named it "frog". He spoke to the frog in his loneliness and asked it if it had any ideas as to how he could not be so lonely. To Adam's surprise, the frog opened it's mouth and replied, "Rib-It!", then the rest was history...

A New Roof

A church is holding a donation drive for a new roof. The pastor is giving a speech about the importance of donating and explains that "Donating is not about the money. It's about the principle. I know times are tough right now; there are other ways you can contribute."

A man in the audience looks thoughtful throughout the entire sermon and approaches the pastor after the service and asks, "What other ways can I contribute? Times really are tough lately."

The pastor smiles and says, "Well, that's easy. I know you like to go fishing on the weekends, and during football season, you like to watch the games on Sundays. Maybe during your weekends, you could skip fishing and work on the roof here instead, and during football season, you could skip a few games."

The man looks thoughtful for a moment and then says, "A new roof, huh? Are you accepting checks?"