

RESURRECTION NEWS



May 2025

Pastor's Letter

May 2025

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

As we continue in this Easter season, I want to consider the question: How can we have confidence that Christ, indeed, is risen from the dead? Scripture offers a number of important answers to this question. Here are a few.

We would be remiss if we did not begin by considering 1 Corinthians 15, St. Paul's great Resurrection chapter.

I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time (1 Cor. 15:3-8).

Note the important detail—the number of witnesses of Christ's resurrection. The risen Lord appeared to Peter (Cephas is the Greek translation of the Aramaic "Peter"—both words mean "[small] rock"). He then appeared to the twelve. Then, before appearing to the other apostles, including St. Paul, we're told that our Lord appeared to over five hundred brothers at once. We know from the Gospels that when our Lord was put on trial, the false witnesses could not agree in their testimonies. That's because it's extremely difficult to coordinate a lie with a lot of people. But the truth needs no coordination. The five hundred-plus witnesses saw what they saw. The fact that their testimonies agree is proof of this.

Next, I would like to take you to Mark 16, the Gospel for Easter Sunday. We read:

Entering the tomb, [the women] saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples—and Peter—that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you." (Mark 16:5-7).

Note the details—the young man's robe was not only white, but it was long. Not only was he sitting, but he was on the right side. He explicitly mentions Peter by name. When a person tells a lie, they usually refrain from giving many detail—it's hard to remember who you told what. But when a person is telling the truth—something they witnessed—these kinds of details are natural to remember.

Finally, consider our Lord's appearance to the disciples in the upper room in Luke 24. First, we are told that Christ invites the disciples to touch Him: "*Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have*" (v. 39). Then, He asks for food and eats it in front of the disciples (vv. 41-42). These details, witnessed by many people, allowed the witnesses to see for sure that this man was the same Christ who was crucified and that He was, indeed, alive in the body.

Ultimately, our faith in Christ will remain a matter of faith until the Last Day when our faith becomes sight. But until then, we can have confidence in the Scriptural witness of our Lord's resurrection because of the number quality of the witnesses. And blessed are we who have not (yet) seen the resurrected Christ, and yet have believed:

Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name (John 20:29-31).

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

In Christ,
Pastor Akers

Notes from your Deaconess

Dear Brothers and Sisters of LCR,

Last month I only introduced one individual of the saints we remember from the first millennium since our Lord's ascension. This month I will note six different early Christians – three of whom lived during each other's lifetimes around the beginning of the fourth century (two of those mother and son), one in the seventh to eighth century, and two brothers in the ninth century.

- May 2 we remember and thank God for St. Athanasius of Alexandria, as Pastor and Confessor. Born around AD 295, he lived and served in northern Africa – Egypt and Libya, and battled the Arian heresy, which asserted that Jesus Christ was not God but instead was created by God. He attended the First Council of Nicaea in AD 325 where this false doctrine was condemned. He also was forced into exile due to various controversies five different times!
- May 11 we give thanks for two brothers, Cyril and Methodius, missionaries who brought the gospel to the Slavic people. Born in Thessalonica in the Byzantine Empire (now that city is in Greece) in the first half of the 800's, they ministered to Slavic people who had moved into the area. In order that this population could well understand the scriptures and participate in liturgical practices, they created an alphabet that suited the Slavonic tongue (often called Cyrillic), and translated scripture and church liturgy into the vernacular for them to use.
- May 21 the Church remembers and gives thanks for Emperor Constantine, Christian Ruler, along with Helena, Mother of Constantine. Born around AD 272, in present-day Serbia, Constantine ruled the Roman Empire from AD 306 to 337. The historian Eusebias related a story that Constantine had a vision which led him to Christianity. In AD 314 he issued the Edict of Milan which pronounced that being a Christian was no longer a crime. He also called together the Council of Nicaea mentioned in the note about St. Athanasius. His mother Helena had embraced the faith before her son did, and spent much energy in supporting construction of church buildings, including in Palestine where Christ had lived before his death, resurrection, and ascension.
- May 25 we rejoice to remember Bede the Venerable, Theologian. Of May's individuals, I knew least about this saint. Born in England around 672, he probably never traveled more than 100 miles from his birthplace. Sent by his parents to a monastery at age 7, he was one of only two monks to survive a plague that swept through the monastery seven years later. He became first a deacon, and then a priest at age 30. He preached, taught, and wrote commentaries as well as poetry and excelled in music, too. He was still working on an English translation of the gospel of John when he died in AD 735 just at the Feast of the Ascension. We sing one Ascension hymn with a text written by him, LSB #493, "A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing." Take a look!

I plan to hold Saturday women's Bible studies on May 10 and 24. 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

For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Revelation 7:17

Men's Breakfasts

The next Men's Breakfast is schedule for May 17, at 8:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will be studying Daniel chapters 11 & 12.

Thursday Morning Bible Study

Thursday morning Bible study resumes on May 1 at 10:30 a.m. We will resume our study of Revelation with chapter 4.

Ascension Day

We will observe Ascension Day on Thursday, May 29, with a Vespers service at 6:00 p.m.

Bunco Night

Bunco Game Night will be held **Saturday, May 17, from 1-4** in the Fellowship Hall. No experience needed; little ones welcome. Drinks will be provided. Bring a light snack to share if you'd like. Signup sheet is on the bulletin board in the upstairs hallway. See any Parish Life Committee member or contact Nakita Sullivan at nakitas007@gmail.com or (774) 696-5478.

Church Cleanup Day

Join us on Saturday, May 3, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. to clean up the church building and property. Come for some or all of the time. See Kemp Anderson with questions.



New Mailing Address

We are transitioning to a PO Box address. Please note zip codes are different. If you mail your offering, please see Christine as she has labels preprinted that you can use on your offering envelopes.

Mailing Address:
PO Box 2884
Waterville ME 04903-2884

Physical Address:
36 Cool St
Waterville ME 04901-5220

Thank You

Friends, thank you for being an advocate of Lutherans for Life and our mission to be voices of life. You help to get people thinking differently about God's gift of life.

Thank you,

Kevin Nessa, Lutherans for Life

Thank you for your contribution in allowing us to provide the finest theological education to those who serve LCMS and our partner churches worldwide.

Your servant in Christ,

Martin Lewis, Concordia Theological Seminary

Your support is a powerful witness to the love of our Savior, who gave Himself for the salvation of the world. We are grateful for your partnership in this ministry and pray that you are blessed in His mercy and grace.

In Christ,

Vicki Biggs, Concordia Seminary

May Stewardship

	<u>May 4</u>	<u>May 11</u>	<u>May 18</u>	<u>May 25</u>
<u>Acolyte</u>	Evan Farr	Matthew Akers	Hayley Farr	Evan Farr
<u>Subdeacon</u>	Chris Batson	Mark Larsen	Fernando Gouvêa	Charlie MacPherson
<u>Usher</u>	John Ayotte	Mo Cote	Glenn Carlson Jr.	Mike Hein
<u>Greeters</u>	Kemp & Rachel Anderson	Rick & Marie Kubeck	Glenn Carlson Jr. & Bode Carlson	Adolph Galonski & Gail Maestas
<u>Altar Care</u>	Julie Kohl	Lydia Bendas	Avis Grant	Amber Akers
<u>Flowers</u>	Mo & Becky Cote	Mo & Becky Cote	Tom & Katie Mayer	Tom & Katie Mayer
<u>Fellowship</u>	Sharon Klipp	Open	Open	Open

Defending the Faith

Sometimes the Best Defense is a Good Defense

For the last several months, I've been writing about different religions and Christian denominations. This month, I'm returning to the original assignment – Christian Apologetics.

Why Christian apologetics? In studying the evidence for the things we believe, teach and confess, I find support for my faith, especially when I am weak. I also find ways to discuss our Christian faith with non-believers, hoping that I can plant a seed where none was before.

Let's look at one discussion point today - that the mere existence of the Universe is a very strong argument for the existence of God. How can I say that?

Let's start here. The Universe is not infinitely old as some claim. If it were, all of the stars would have used up their fuel and the Universe would be cold, dark and dead.

The fact that the Universe is still here means that the Universe had a beginning. At some point, *it came into being*.

What was before that? It's hard to even talk rationally about what happened before time existed. It doesn't make any sense.

So back to the Universe. Everything that comes into being has a cause. Therefore, the Universe has a cause. But what was that cause?

As far as science can tell, the Universe came into being about 14.3 billion years ago in an event called the "big bang". At that moment, time, matter and energy came into existence.

That means that the cause of the "big bang" had to be outside of time, not material and infinitely powerful. It also has to be personal, because there had to have been a decision to create, and only a person or a being with agency can make a decision.

Sound like anybody we know?

Here's a way to discuss this with others that seems pretty powerful.

Do you agree that the Universe came into being at the big bang? (most scientists agree on this). If not, you'll have to dig deeper. But if there's agreement, then ask this:

Do you think the cause was "something" or "nothing"? If they say "nothing", ask them two follow up questions: "What do you mean by that?" and then "How did you come to that conclusion?" This will reveal a lot about their presuppositions – and you might even find out that they don't have any.

If they answer "something", ask the same two questions.

Many people form opinions based on things they've heard, without ever thinking them through. The discussion you open with them will be really interesting, but no matter where it goes, I'd leave them with one thought:

Christianity is the best explanation for the way things are.

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

SDG, Charlie MacPherson



Monthly Worship

May 4

Second Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Epistle: 1 John 5:4-10a

Holy Gospel: John 20:19-31

May 11

Third Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-16

Epistle: 1 Peter 2:21b-25

Holy Gospel: John 10:11-16

May 18

Fourth Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Isaiah 40:25-31

Epistle: 1 Peter 2:11-20

Holy Gospel: John 16:16-22

May 25

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Prophecy: Numbers 21:4-9

Epistle: James 1:22-27

Holy Gospel: John 16:23b-30

May 29

The Ascension of Our Lord

Prophecy: 2 Kings 2:8-15

Epistle: Acts 1:1-11

Holy Gospel: Mark 16:14-20

BIBLE QUIZ

1. Ruth gave birth to a son who would be the grandfather of David. Who did she give birth to?
 - A. Jesse
 - B. Obed
 - C. Daniel
 - D. Moses
2. This woman wanted a child very badly. She made a promise to God that if she could have a child, she would give the child back to God. She did have a son, named Samuel. Who was this woman?
 - A. Naomi
 - B. Hannah
 - C. Mary
 - D. Ruth
3. Who was Mary's cousin who gave birth to a baby named John?
 - A. Tabitha
 - B. Sarah
 - C. Priscilla
 - D. Elizabeth
4. Who, in her old age, gave birth to Isaac?
 - A. Delilah
 - B. Lydia
 - C. Sarah
 - D. Jezebel
5. This woman had twins Esau and Jacob. She helped Jacob steal Esau's blessing from his father. Who was she?
 - A. Rebekah
 - B. Dorcas
 - C. Rachel
 - D. Sarai
6. Jochebed was the mother of Moses. She hid him for three months; why did she do this?
 - A. Moses was an ugly baby.
 - B. Pharaoh had ordered all male Hebrew babies to be killed.
 - C. She didn't want him kidnapped.
 - D. She knew that if she didn't hide him he'd be forced to become a slave.
7. This woman gave birth to Joseph, Jacob's favorite son. Who was she?
 - A. Rebekah
 - B. Jedidah
 - C. Rachel
 - D. Azubah



5/1 Brian Watson
 5/3 Don Pryor
 5/4 Emily-Lynn Carlson
 5/12 Carl Mattson
 5/14 Kitty Carlson
 5/16 Kenneth Zahner
 5/18 Fenn Ouellette
 5/19 Joshua Schiebel
 5/20 Tyler Wilson
 5/22 Sasha Fitzpatrick
 5/23 Michelle Hein
 Anna Rowe
 5/24 Amanda Goldsmith
 5/27 Christine Thomas
 5/29 David Morris
 5/30 Rev. Ted Evertsen
 5/31 Jared Goldsmith



5/5 Mo & Becky Cote
 5/25 Chris & Yvonne Batson

BIBLE QUIZ ANSWERS

1. B (Ruth 4:22)
2. B (Samual I & II)
3. D (Luke 1:39-59)
4. C (Genesis 21)
5. A (Genesis 27)
6. B (Exodus 1:16)
7. C (Genesis 30)



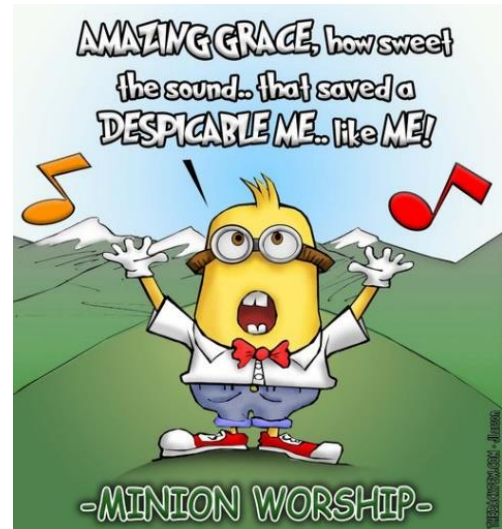
5/8 Mo Cote
 5/10 Angie Carlson
 Matthew Esculano
 Amanda Goldsmith
 Jared Goldsmith
 Krys Paules
 5/11 Avis Grant
 5/14 Steven Bendas
 5/18 Peter Doran
 5/20 Joshua Schiebel
 5/21 Rick Drageland
 5/27 Rev. Benjamin Akers
 5/31 Lee Anne Larsen
 5/?? Sharon Callahan
 Lois Doran



5/1 Ruth Milhous
 5/11 Avis Grant
 5/10 Jared Goldsmith
 5/13 Karen Mattson
 5/17 Callum Goldsmith
 5/20 Allison Smith
 5/24 Fenn Ouellette
 5/28 Miriam Schiebel
 5/30 Joshua Schiebel
 5/?? Jon Boschen Jr.
 Dawn Buck
 Mimi Gransden
 Carl Mattson

Actual Announcements from Church Bulletins

- Thursday night – potluck supper. Prayer and medication to follow.
- Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and the community.
- For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
- This afternoon there will be a meeting in the south and north ends of the church. Children will be baptized at both ends.
- Our youth basketball team is back in action Wednesday at 8 p.m. in the recreation hall. Come out and watch us kill Christ the King.
- "Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands."
- Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.
- The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 p.m. The Congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.
- Next Sunday Mrs. Vinson will be soloist for the morning service. The pastor will then speak on "It's a Terrible Experience."
- The music for today's service was all composed by George Friedrich Handel in celebration of the 300th anniversary of his birth.
- Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.
- Pastor is on vacation. Massages can be given to church secretary.
- Attend and you will hear an excellent speaker and have a healthy lunch.
- This evening at 7 p.m. there will be a hymn sing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.
- Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B.S. is done.
- The associate pastor unveiled the church's new tithing campaign slogan last Sunday "I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours."



Several children found a dead robin. Feeling that a proper burial should be performed, they secured a small box and some cotton batting, dug a hole in the back yard, and made ready to dispose of the deceased. The minister's 5-year-old son was chosen to say the prayer. And so with great dignity, he intoned, "Glory be to the Father...and unto the Son...and into the hole he goes."

A preacher was completing a temperance sermon. With great expression he said, "If I had all the beer in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river!" The congregation nodded their approval. With even greater emphasis he added, "And if I had all the wine in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river, too!" The people clapped and were saying "Amen." And then finally, he concluded, "And if I had all the whiskey in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river!"

As he sat down, the song leader then stood up quite cautiously and announced, "For our closing song, let us sing Hymn #365: "Shall We Gather at the River."

