

Resurrection News

June 2025



*The Lord
Himself
watches over
you.*

Psalm 121:5

*God bless
you
always*

Pastor's Letter

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

This year, on the second Sunday in June, we celebrate the great feast of Pentecost—the day when the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the apostles and the expansion of the Church began. I would like to offer some brief reflections on one of the Church's great Pentecost hymns, Rabanus Maurus' ninth century hymn, "Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest."

*Come, Holy Ghost, Creator blest, And make our hearts Your place of rest;
Come with Your grace and heav'nly aid, And fill the hearts which You have made.* (stanza 1)

As the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles on the first Pentecost, we ask that He would both dwell in and fill our hearts, which is to say, that He would dwell in us eternally and never depart.

*To You, the Counselor, we cry, To You, the gift of God Most High;
The fount of life, the fire of love, The soul's anointing from above.* (stanza 2)

Eternal life and the gift of the Triune God's love come to us through the Holy Spirit alone. Though eternal life was won for us by Christ upon the cross, it is the Spirit who grants us the benefits of the cross.

*In You, with graces sevenfold, We God's almighty hand behold
While You with tongues of fire proclaim To all the world His holy name.* (stanza 3)

As on Pentecost, the Holy Spirit continues to proclaim God's holy name to all the world, so that we Gentiles come to receive the grace of God.

*Your light to ev'ry thought impart, And shed Your love in ev'ry heart;
The weakness of our mortal state With deathless might invigorate.* (stanza 4)

The sin within us gives birth to death. But as the Nicene Creed says, the Holy Spirit is "the Lord and Giver of Life." This same Spirit will give life to our mortal bodies when Christ returns at the end of time (Romans 8:11).

*Drive far away our wily foe, And Your abiding peace bestow;
With You as our protecting guide, No evil can with us abide.* (stanza 5)

Christ says in John 16 that the Holy Spirit instructs us that the ruler of this world is judged. Satan has no power over us as long as Christ's Spirit abides in us.

*Teach us to know the Father, Son, And You, from both, as Three in One
That we Your name may ever bless And in our lives the truth confess.* (stanza 6)

As Luther teaches us in his Small Catechism, it is the Holy Spirit who teaches us to know the Blessed Trinity. Apart from the Spirit's work, we are separated from the Truth and Life of God.

*Praise we the Father and the Son And Holy Spirit, with them One,
And may the Son on us bestow The gifts that from the Spirit flow!* (stanza 7)

Christ works among us through His Spirit to grant us the blessings of His victory upon the cross. For this, we praise the Blessed Trinity!

In Christ,
Pastor Akers

Notes from your Deaconess

Dear Brothers and Sisters of LCR,

As we head into the summer months, I would draw your attention to four more saints who lived during the first millennium after Jesus ascended to the Father. Additionally, this month on June 12th we remember and give thanks for the 1700th anniversary of the Ecumenical Council of Nicaea (in present-day Turkey). You can read much more about that important church council in the May issue of the Lutheran Witness.

- June 1 we recall the life and work of St. Justin, an apologist and martyr who lived in the second century. Born in Judea and brought up in a pagan family, he became a believer in Christ as an adult and wrote many defenses of the faith along with the earliest accounts we have of how Christians worship (which we continue to follow very closely today). He and a group who refused to sacrifice to Roman gods were scourged and beheaded in AD 165.
- June 5 we remember St. Boniface of Mainz who brought the gospel to the Germans, and also did mission work in Frisia, which now is part of the Netherlands and a bit of Germany. Born in the English kingdom of Wessex around AD 675, he became a monk and then at age 30, a priest. He started several monasteries in German speaking lands., and baptized many.
- June 27 we give thanks for St. Cyril of Alexandria, Pastor and Confessor. He was patriarch of the Egyptian Church in Alexandria (Egypt) from AD 412 to 444. We particularly rejoice in the defense he made of the orthodox teaching of the relations of the two natures present in Christ – both fully God and man – and that Mary his mother truly bore Emmanuel, “God-with-us.”
- June 28 we observe the life, work, and writings of St. Irenaeus of Lyons, a pastor and bishop who lived from about AD 130-200. A Greek born in Smyrna (now in Turkey), he grew up hearing the teaching of Polycarp, who in turn had been a hearer of St. John the apostle. He served in Lyons, a city now in France. One significant and oft cited work of Irenaeus, *Against Heresies*, catalogs corruptions of apostolic truth that he had encountered, many of which were gnostic in origin.

I plan to hold Saturday women’s Bible studies on June 14 and 28. (On June 7, I plan to be part of the group paddling for Pine Tree Camp from church – consider joining in for that event!) 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

Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.” Revelation 11:15

June Stewardship

	<u>June 1</u>	<u>June 8</u>	<u>June 15</u>	<u>June 22</u>	<u>June 29</u>
<u>Acolyte</u>	Hayley Farr	Matthew Akers	Evan Farr	Matthew Akers	Hayley Farr
<u>Subdeacon</u>	None	Steve Farr	Chris Batson	Charlie MacPherson	None
<u>Usher</u>	Jeff Sammons	Glenn Carlson Jr.	Rick Drageland	Brian Watson.	Mark Larsen
<u>Greeters</u>	Julie Kohl & Dorthy McAllister	Glenn Carlson Jr. & Bode Carlson	The Andersons	Avis Grant & Sharon Klipp	Gail Maestas & Christine Thomas
<u>Altar Care</u>	Amanda Goldsmith	Sharon Conover	Amy Ouellette	Sasha Fitzpatrick	Krista Carlson
<u>Flowers</u>	Sharon Klipp	Sharon Klipp	The MacPhersons	The MacPhersons	Julie Kohl
<u>Fellowship</u>	Open	Open	Open	The Batsons	Open

LWML News

On April 26 the LWML Northern Zone held a Spring Rally at Messiah Lutheran Church in Fitchburg, MA. The theme was “*Growing in God’s Grace*”. Four of our members attended – Jo Scheibel, Anna Rowe, Dorthy McAllister, and Yvonne Batson. There was worship, singing, a Bible Study, a luncheon, a speaker, and a craft. Jo Scheibel was elected Secretary of the Northern Zone while there. Thank you JO!

Future Events:

The 41st Biennial LWML Convention is being held June 26-29, 2025, in Omaha, NB. Jo Scheibel and Anna Rowe will both be attending.

The LWML-NED Retreat will be held November 17-18, 2025, in Worcester, MA.

The LWML-NED District Convention will be held in Deven, MA on April 17-18, 2026.

LWML will not meet in June or July.

Our next meeting will be held on August 28 to plan for LWML Sunday in October. We will also meet September 25. We will continue to work on crafts for the Christmas Fair. Anyone can contribute crafts to the fair.

Parish Life is hosting a 2-hr painting class on Sunday, July 6, at the church by John Cyr. Canvas and supplies included. The painting is a beach scene with a lighthouse.

Cost is \$10. Limited to 14 spaces for the first 14 people to sign up. If you have questions, please speak to a member of the Parish Life Committee.



Newsletter Deadline and Redesign

The newsletter is being revamped by Christine. If you have an article or news to include, please send to her at officemgr@lcrwaterville.org by the 3rd Monday of the month or leave her a note.



Please consider signing up for fellowship after church. You can make whatever you would like. Signup sheet is on bulletin board.

Defending the Faith

Sometimes the Best Defense is a Good Defense.

If you find yourself in a conversation with someone in opposition to your faith, I want to give you some ideas to keep in your back pocket.

You might be talking with an atheist (says that there is no God), agnostic (says that either they don't know if God exists, or that it cannot be known whether He exists), a lapsed believer who has walked away from the faith or someone of a different religion.

You'll hear all sorts of challenges, but just because someone lobbs a verbal bombshell at you doesn't mean you have to crack open an apologetics textbook to respond.

Instead, try this:

“So?”

Challenge: “Christians are hypocrites”. Response: “So?”

You've acknowledged their point but also put it to rest at the same time.

So what if Christians can be hypocrites? We're all sinners and fall short of the glory of God. But instead of making a full-throated defense, you just knock the metaphorical tennis ball back to their side of the court. “So?”

Now they have to respond. Let them explain why that has anything to do with the existence of God. (They can't, because it doesn't).

Challenge: “Some of the worst people I've ever known are Christians.” Response: “So?”

Again, they have to respond and tell you why the fact that Christians are both just and sinner has anything to do with their objection. (Again, they can't, because it doesn't.)

The next tool is a two-part response consisting of “What do you mean by that?” and “What makes you come to that conclusion?”

Challenge: “Jesus could not have risen from the dead.”

Response part 1: “What do you mean by that?” You'll probably get some version of “people don't rise from the dead. It's impossible.”

Response part 2: “How did you come to that conclusion?” Let them elaborate and learn what their thought process is. In the end, you'll probably get to a point where you agree that a person rising from the dead almost never happens – but in the case of the One who created the Universe and everything in it with just His Word, that's a pretty reasonable exception.

You can also talk about the evidence in the Bible (the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and John are eyewitness accounts) and evidence outside of Scripture, such as writings from anti-Christian Romans like Josephus, Tacitus and Pliny the Younger.

You might also ask them to explain the actions of Paul – a Roman citizen, a Pharisee and a persecutor of Christians. He walked away from everything after seeing the Risen Christ and voluntarily became despised and hunted. From the highest levels of Roman and Jewish society to the lowest. Nobody does that on a whim.

While all that is true, the point isn't so much to micromanage the conversation as it is to understand what beliefs that person is driven by.

Clarity before agreement.

I hope those couple of ideas can help when you're in a discussion with those opposed to Christianity.

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

Defending the Faith

Charlie MacPherson, SDG



Monthly Worship

June 1

Ascension Sunday

Prophecy: Ezekiel 26:23a, 23c-28

Epistle: 1 Peter 4:7b-11

Holy Gospel: John 15:26-16:4a

June 8

Pentecost

Prophecy: Genesis 11:1-9

Epistle: Acts 2:1-11

Holy Gospel: John 14:23-31a

June 15

The Holy Trinity

Prophecy: Isaiah 6:1-7

Epistle: Romans 11:33-36

Holy Gospel: John 3:1-15

June 22

The First Sunday after Trinity

Prophecy: Deuteronomy 6:4-13

Epistle: 1 John 4:8b-21

Holy Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

June 29

Apostles Saint Peter & Paul

Prophecy: Acts 12:1-11

Epistle: Galatians 2:1-10

Holy Gospel: Matthew 16:13-19

BIBLE QUIZ

- The very first father in history was Adam. How long did he live?
 - 210 years
 - 910 years
 - 930 years
 - 950 years
- What father told his barren wife, "Am I not better to you than ten sons?"
 - Abraham to Sarah
 - Jacob to Rachel
 - Elkanah to Hannah
 - Zechariah to Elizabeth
- Who called out, "My father, My father!" even though the man was not his father?
 - Esau
 - Elijah
 - Hezekiah
 - Joash
- What father was struck mute for unbelief throughout his wife's pregnancy?
 - Isaac
 - Zacharias
 - Jeroboam
 - Hosea
- What synagogue official and distraught father said, "My little daughter is at the point of death"?
 - Nicodemus
 - Jairus
 - Agrippa
 - Joseph of Arimathea



BIBLE FOR KIDS!



V J M M P W B E C A R G Q T D
 T R U S T X C R E A T O R C D
 O K R O L I V E Z W L I G H T
 K B C H U R C H T N B I B L E
 Q U S N C S J K D Z Z B P A Z
 W P I M H T R O I V A S A M I
 P Z E L O A I A M H X J R B E
 I S N O P R E P I Q K B A G V
 L I I H E F X U T T K Y D T O
 L T V R Z M U L O P C G I E L
 I U U N N I A T N U O M S M T
 K H C L W T G N I K R X E P C
 J P L K D R E H P E H S F L B
 N L B R E V I R B R L W V E F
 T P K O S W K K Y Y B B O V D

Word List

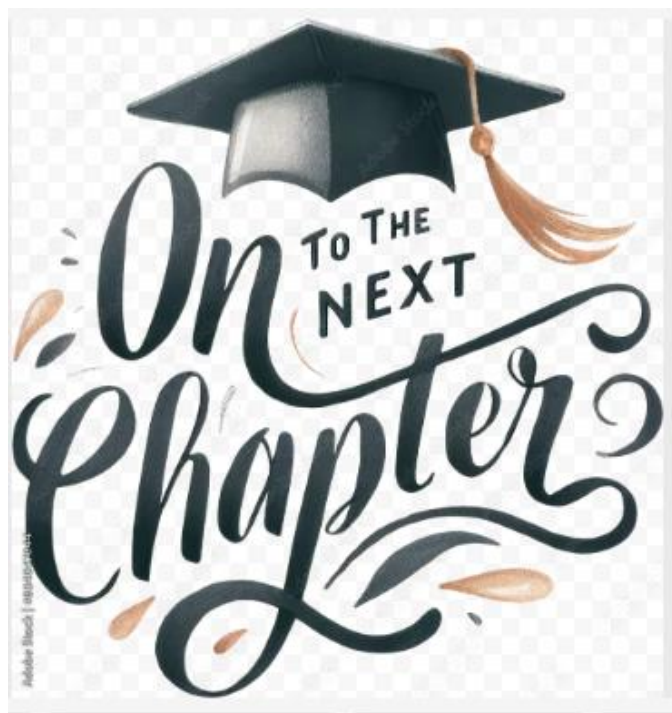
Bible
 Church
 Creator
 Grace
 Hope
 King
 Light
 Love
 Mountain
 Olive
 Paradise
 River
 Savior
 Shepherd
 Star
 Temple
 Trust
 Vine



6/2 Lydia Bendas
Angie Carlson
Sharon Klipp
6/7 Mo Cote
Krys Paules
6/9 Jake Huesers
6/11 Katie Huesers
6/14 Callum Goldsmith
6/16 Sharon Callahan
6/17 Amber Akers
6/26 Jon Boschen



6/3 Steve & Kari Farr
6/10 Rev. Ted & Dottie Evertsen
6/11 Anna & Ed Rowe
6/15 Brian & Andrea Watson
6/18 Mike & Michelle Hein
Wayne & Laverne Pelletier
6/29 Jon & Bjorg Boschen



Congratulations To Our High School Graduates!

Emily-Lynn Carlson & Mia Fitzpatrick

Emmy will be attending Endicott College this fall. She plans to major in business and minor in dance.

Mia will be attending Central Maine Community College to study education. Her goal is to teach elementary school art.

A Father Taking Care of His Newborn Baby

One day shortly after the birth of their new baby, the mother had to go out to do some errands. So, the proud papa stayed home to watch his wonderful new son.

Soon after the mother left, the baby started to cry. The father did everything he could think of to do but the baby wouldn't stop crying. Finally, the dad got so worried he decided to take the baby to the doctor.

After the doctor listened to the father all that he had done to get the baby to stop crying, the doctor began to examine the baby's ears, chest and then down to the diaper area. When he undid the diaper, he found that the diaper is indeed full.

"Here's the problem", the Dr. said, "He needs a change." The father was very perplexed, "But the diaper package says it is good for up to 10 lbs.!"

The World According to Dad

These are words that most dads have said at some time or another to their children:

- This is going to hurt me more than it hurts you.
- Quiet. I'm watching the ball game.
- Don't forget to check the oil.
- Bring back all the change.
- How should I know? Ask your mother.
- I'm not made out of money!
- When I was your age, I walked 5 miles to and from school each day and it was uphill both ways.
- You are going and you will have fun!
- Who's paying the bills around here, anyway?
- If you break your leg, don't come running to me.
- Don't put your feet on the furniture. Your mother will kill you.
- Get down before you kill yourself. On second thought, go ahead.
- Quit playing with your food.
- Be quiet! Can't you see I'm trying to think!
- Why? Because I said so!
- If you don't quit that I'm going to call your mother.
- You better get that junk picked up before your mother comes in here.
- Just wait till you have kids of your own.
- I was not asleep. I was just resting my eyes.



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THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT ALWAYS
PICK UP THE CHECK ON FATHER'S DAY



*Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day.
Teach a man to fish and you can get rid of
him for a whole weekend*

Bible Quiz Answers:

1. C. (Genesis 5:5)
2. C. (1 Samuel 1:8)
3. D. (2 Kings 13:14)
4. B. (Luke 1:13-22; 57-64)
5. B. (Mark 5:22-24; 35-43; Luke 8:40-42; 49-56)