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# Resurrection LUTHERAN CHURCH



May 2019

## CARPET CLEANER AND RESURRECTION CONFIDENCE

Looking at the title of the article you might be scratching your head or wondering, "What on earth is Pastor Matt talking about?" Keep reading and I hope to make the connect crystal clear. It all started with making dinner. I was working on an Asian Noodle dish that called for a peanut sauce to be made in a blender. Making the sauce was the first thing I did, and it seemed to turn out fine so I set it aside and continued working on the meal. Once everything else was done, the last thing I needed to do was add the sauce to the noodles. I picked up the blender glass that the sauce was in when the bottom gave way! In what seemed like slow motion, I saw this peanut sauce spray all over the kitchen. Most of it had landed on our kitchen rug! I was gutted this had happened and was left looking at a rug that now looked like a Jackson Pollock painting.



Thankfully, I was able to call Melina into the kitchen quickly and we began cleaning diligently. Two hours later, I am happy to report the kitchen rug is pretty much all the way clean, and it doesn't smell like peanuts in the kitchen anymore. A huge thank you must be given to Melina for helping me when I was shaken. So, what does this have to do with Resurrection Confidence?

Well, I must admit when that peanut sauce spilled it shook my confidence in my cooking abilities. I thought I was doing so well, then this spill made me feel helpless. This happens in our lives so often as well. We think we have it all together when suddenly, our sin causes us to make a mess of our lives that looks like it will be impossible to clean up. We sit in the mess helpless and we can wind up in despair and hopelessness in the blink of an eye.

While we can clean carpets on our own and do a decent job, we can't clean up the messes of sin in our lives. The Good News we have in the Resurrection is that Jesus has assured us that he can and will clean all the messes of sin, not just decently, but 100% of the way! As David calls out in Psalm 51, "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow." Jesus cleans our messes not just some of the way, but all the way!

This is Resurrection Promise I am holding onto today and everyday in the mess that I made! I can live in Resurrection Confidence that not only is the mess 100% clean, but that Jesus remembers the spill no more! While the story about me spilling peanut sauce will go on, the story of my sin ends at the cross! Jesus remembers it no more and proclaims victory over it through the Resurrection! So that is what I urge all of you to cling to in your messes! Jesus cleans them completely and remembers them no more! So, go live in this Resurrection Confidence!

He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor Matt

## UPCOMING EVENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND WAYS TO SERVE

### **Think 1st Wednesday**

*Resurrection Quilt Ministry* invites all women to help supply many more quilts this coming Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. in Room 200. With a shortfall of attendees at our April meeting, we hope newcomers can join us then and on Wednesday, June 5<sup>th</sup> same time. **We focus on quilts for Lighthouse Family Ministries in Des Moines and Lutheran World Relief overseas.** *Please join us for constructive camaraderie!* No sewing skills required comfortable tables for tying and sit-down tasks. See you then!

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### **Time to Fellowship**



Visitors and newcomers, please join us in the gym Sunday mornings after 8:00 and before 10:30 Worship services for coffee, tea and sharing. Pastor Matt leads a lively, informative discussion group at 9:30 a.m. in Room 118 outside the gymnasium doorway, you won't want to miss! Resurrection family, check your May-June calendar for an opening to provide Fellowship treats, especially nice to welcome visitors. Find the sign-up sheet on a table in the Narthex/Foyer with simple guidelines. **Late service attendees may bring treats marked with selected date, then put in the church freezer.** Thank you!

### **Blessings from Lutheran Braille Workers**

With 285 million vision-impaired or completely blind men, women and children world-wide and in our own community, not knowing our Savior, Catalogues can ordered to receive Free Large Bibles, Audio and Braille Christian materials by calling 800-925-6092 or visit <http://www.LBWinc.org>. Remember to pray for LBW, volunteers, staff and most importantly the recipients of its materials! Find offering envelopes in Narthex/Foyer Glass display case

### **Mighty Mites for Missions**

*Lutheran Women's Missionary League/Lutheran Women in Mission* has gathered Mite offerings since its founding in A good reminder for your spare coins and dollar bills is to notice the Large Mite box next to Room 107. As you and family members fill individual Mite boxes, help yourself extras and convert to checks c/o **Resurrection Women's Fellowship "Mites Fund"** and place in Sunday offering plates. Your random contributions help meet the **LWML WA-AK District Mission Grants for 2018-2020**

Amount to be Paid	Amount Paid as of March 19
\$98,700	\$36,185

## LCMS STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY MAY 2019 ARTICLE

Stewardship is not just about giving money to the church. It includes this, to be sure, but it is not limited to it. Stewardship involves our whole life – everything we have and everything we are.

Let us not, though, fall into the trap of thinking that because we give of ourselves in one area we can neglect giving in another. Stewardship is not stealing from Peter to pay Paul. It is not a game we play whereby we justify ourselves in not giving a tenth of our income because we have given in some other way. This is why our Lord warns:

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.” (Matthew 23:23)

We are given to do both – tithe of ourselves and what we have. And so it is that St. Paul makes his appeal to us:

“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:1-2)

We are to present our bodies as a living sacrifice to God. We are not to have the mind of the world, where we exchange equal weight of this for an equal weight of that, and then think that we have done what God has required.

Our whole life is given over for service in and for the Church of God. This is to be done in thanksgiving for what God in Christ has accomplished for us. This is our spiritual worship, the reasonable response to what He has done for us – not one for the other, but all in all.

But what does this look like? St. Paul never lays down a general principle without also giving us some practical application of what shape that principle is to take concretely. He gives the general principle that our bodies are to be living sacrifices to God, and, after admonishing those who have been given particular gifts of grace to serve the church, St. Paul then speaks generally of what is expected of all. He says:

“Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.” (Romans 12:9-13)

This is what it looks like to present your bodies as living sacrifices. This is how we live out the grace of God here in time.

Let us then heed the apostle’s teaching. Let us present our bodies – everything that we have and everything that we are – as living sacrifices to God, our reasonable response to what God in Christ Jesus accomplished for us by His death and resurrection.

Through this we have forgiveness of sins, a new life in Christ, and eternal salvation. And through this worship, the grace of God is made manifest in His saints – for the church and the world.



Stewardship  
a way of life

**I BELIEVE IN YESTERDAY** by Brandon Hanson

# YESTERDAY

This month's exposure to a new devotional blog comes from the Lutheran site [Christholdfast.org](http://Christholdfast.org) and is by Brandon Hanson. They have a lot of other good material as well, so without further ado here is the article.

For many, "Yesterday" by The Beatles is a poignant and powerful song. It is one of, if not the most, covered songs by the Beatles. It brings back memories of regret, remorse, heartache, and heartbreak. Why do we like this song so much if it seems to cause us such pain? What is so appealing in it?

Is it that we are just gluttons for punishment? Is exposing ourselves to, and suffering, the pain it brings us a type of self-imposed penance?

*"Yesterday, all my troubles seemed so far away; Now it looks as though they're here to stay"*

Perhaps we think it is a way to deal with guilt? A type of catharsis through reliving the sad estate of our less-than-perfect resumes?

*"Suddenly, I'm not half the man I used to be; There's a shadow hanging over me."*

Personally, when I hear this song it reminds me of many long nights I have spent lying awake. Unable to sleep with restless thoughts strolling through my head, I have sought the solution to the problems I brought upon myself till the first light breaks across my windowpane. Yet, relief from the waking nightmare will not come with the rising of this sun. It will take something far more remarkable than a beautiful sunrise to chase away the shadows I have invited in. Through that night, that long, seemingly endless night, I had prayed and asked God for the impossible. I knew it was a silly, even pointless prayer. But desperation drove me to it. Maybe you've prayed a similar prayer?

"God, I know this is crazy. But if I could only have one impossible thing, I would pray that I could go back to yesterday, before I did. You know what. All I'm asking is for one mulligan; one do-over. If You could just turn back time... I mean, You made the Sun stand still for a whole day once. Surely You could make it go backward, to..." I know. Pretty ridiculous, right? But can you blame me? Well, I guess you can. Yes, I am the one to blame. It is my fault and no other's.

As far as motivations for wishing time travel were real, I figure mine were about as pure and noble as any sinner could muster up. I just wanted to go back and undo all the pain I had caused others, the suffering that would ensue, and the disappointment that would linger for who knows how long.

It seems the whole world wants to believe in yesterday. The Beatles certainly did.

If you haven't ever wanted to believe in yesterday, if you regret nothing, you're either an amnesiac, or a liar.

We all want to believe in yesterday. The reason why we like this song has nothing to do with catharsis, penance, or our being gluttons for punishment. I would posit another reason for why we like this song. “Yesterday” doesn’t leave us entirely bummed out. Instead, it gives us a glimmer of hope, a glimpse of another possibility besides endless despair.

Paul McCartney sings, “Oh, I believe in yesterday.” There is the hope in the song, no matter how unlikely, improbable, and impossible. It’s not much. It’s a bit ridiculous. Okay, it’s simply crazy. Yet we find some small crack in time and dig, claw and grasp at that hope. We all believe in yesterday, or at least wish we could. If I could just go back to a time before I screwed it all up, if I could do it all again, I wouldn’t make such a mess of things. Or so we think.

God, however, has taken our prayers and wishes for a fresh start on yesterday and given us something much better. We constantly look back because we cannot really look forward. We move into the future facing backward into the past. We can only anticipate the future based on a pattern emerging from the sum of all our yesterdays. But God stands outside of time, and sees it all at once. Unlike us, He can conceive of a grander, much better solution to our problem of yesterday.

Instead of giving us yesterday to just screw it up all over again, God provides us with a yesterday unstained by yesterday’s sins. God gives us “what no eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined...” God gives us what He “has prepared for those who love Him. And “we love because He first loved us” (1 John 4:19). We love Him much because He has forgiven us our sins, which are many (Luke 7:47).

God's love and forgiveness are not partial, nor based on conditions. There are no strings attached. He doesn’t forgive us based on our merit, or some foreknowledge that we will prove ourselves worthy of His forgiveness and make it up to Him someday. He just... forgives. And He forgets. That’s right. God gives Himself selective amnesia so that it is as if we had never sinned.

This is far better than a mulligan, second chance, or do-over. In the meantime, while we’re wringing our hands and worrying about yesterday, God in Christ has stepped into all our yesterdays (and today, and tomorrow) and expunged all transgressions from them. He has mopped the filthy room of yesterday with the body of His only begotten Son, and His blood has cleansed us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

The problem isn’t just those sins of yesterday that the song “Yesterday” recalls to our memory, but all sins of all yesterdays. We could have a million and one yesterdays to do over, and we would still end up with as many yesterdays to make up for again, and again, and again. We can’t get yesterday right, so God has to step in, take yesterday out of our hands, and give it back to us in Christ.

We get to keep all our yesterdays and none of yesterday’s mistakes. Not only that, but we also get all of Christ’s righteousness. Beautiful, isn’t it? In the Gospel, God has rewritten all your yesterdays, and they look like Jesus. All your sins are erased and a lifetime of perfect righteousness is counted to you as if it were your own (Romans 3:19, 4:5).

God doesn't turn back the sun so we can fix yesterday. Neither does He simply raise the sun and wave a magic wand over our problems to make them disappear. He takes a far more drastic, radical approach to our seemingly hopeless and impossible predicament. He dies for our sins. He is buried. He rises again, the Firstborn of a new creation. He takes our impossible situation and does the impossible.

Yes, dear friends, I believe in yesterday—a beautiful, wonderful and mysterious yesterday. It is a yesterday that is plunged into the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. It is a yesterday that is drenched in Jesus’ blood and bursting forth with His life. It is a yesterday of self to which you have died and of God to which you now live. It is a past that is propelled into the future and ricochets back into your present where you are raised to new life in Christ to enjoy all its benefits now.

Every word of this is true. It’s a check you can take to the bank and cash. Keep believing in yesterday, my friends.

An illustration showing three hands of different skin tones (brown, tan, and light skin) holding a large red heart. The hands are positioned around the heart, with the brown hand at the top, the tan hand at the bottom, and the light skin hand on the left. The background is a light gray circle on a white background.

## STEWARDSHIP DEVOTIONAL EMPHASIZES 'SIMPLE GIFTS'

by Cheryl Magness

We use many of the resources from the LCMS Stewardship Website. Here is some information on a new devotion they have put out on Stewardship. If you are reading this electronically you can click on the link to go to the page with a download of the devotion. If you are reading a paper copy of the newsletter and would like a paper copy of this devotion, please contact the office.

“Simple Gifts,” a new devotional resource from LCMS Stewardship Ministry, is now available for free download at [www.lcms.org/stewardship](http://www.lcms.org/stewardship)

The Rev. Dr. Nathan Meador, senior pastor at St. John Lutheran Church, Plymouth, Wis., and assistant coordinator for LCMS Stewardship Ministry, said he wrote the devotional to emphasize that stewardship is “not simply a function of doing business in the local congregation” but “an act of worship ... that flows from God’s Word. “Seeing stewardship from this perspective,” he noted, “makes it a source not of dread, but of joy!”

“Simple Gifts” contains 22 one-page devotions around the theme of “gift,” with titles such as “The Gift of the Gospel,” “God’s Gift of Creation,” and “God’s Gift of Life.” Each devotion includes a Bible passage, a meditation and a prayer. Meador encourages congregations to download the devotional, personalize it to the local setting and provide it to members to use in connection with a congregational stewardship emphasis. He says it is intended to teach stewardship in a “less programmatic, more Gospel-centered” way — one that focuses on what God has done for His people in Jesus.

“As individual stewards pray through this devotional,” Meador added, “I hope they will see the real ‘why’ of their stewardship. They were created for this task by God. “When our stewardship fails, God’s Word leads us back to Jesus, who is the One who restores us in the forgiveness of sins. As a result, we are ultimately stewards of the Gospel, using the First Article gifts God bestows on us.” To read or download “Simple Gifts,” visit [lcms.org/stewardship](http://lcms.org/stewardship)

RESURRECTION LUTHERAN CHURCH TREASURER'S REPORT    MARCH    2019  
**General Fund Opening Balance**    **42,067.41**

**Income Sources**

Source	Income
Envelope Offering <sup>(t)</sup>	21,286.00
Loose Offering <sup>(t)</sup>	709.00
Facilities Offset	400.00
Misc Receipts	55.30
Copies	-
Stock Sale	-
Interest <sup>(t)</sup>	84.15
FCEMR - Congregation Emergency Fund	-
FMEM - Memorial Fund	-
FSOCA - Social Action Fund (Thrivent)	-
FPUB - Publications	-
FTMP - Special Funds	-
FYOUTH - Youth Funds	-
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>22,534.45</b>

**64,601.86**

**From Sinking/Special Funds**

From Funds	513.95
<b>Total Unrealized Expenses</b>	<b>513.95</b>

**65,115.81**

**Expenses, Realized**

Category	Expense
District_Pledge	(1,103.96)
Salaries_and_Payroll	(8,764.82)
Administration2	(449.10)
Elders_and_worship	(2,309.85)
Congregational_Education	-
InHouse_Ministries	(63.64)
General_Maintenance	(244.07)
Utilities_Church	(1,652.69)
Utilities_Parsonage	(535.71)
Uncategorized	-
From_Special_Funds	(5.32)
From_Sinking_Funds	(508.63)
<b>Total Realized Expenses</b>	<b>(15,637.79)</b>

**49,478.02**

**Expenses, Unrealized**

To Special Funds	-
To Sinking Funds	(3,138.96)
<b>Total Unrealized Expenses</b>	<b>(3,138.96)</b>

**General Fund Ending Balance**    **46,339.06**



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## **VOTERS' MEETING**

May Voter's Meeting—May 19th after a 9:30 am Combined Service

We want every member to join us for our May Voter's Meeting where we will be electing new officers for the church and having an Advisory Vote to help us give direction to our worship for the summer! Please pray and give great thought to these issues!