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Easter Message from Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson—April 2022

2 Corinthians 5:17 So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

Dear Northwest Synod of Wisconsin,

Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! This is the good news of Easter. By God's power death is reversed and Christ is raised from the dead. Jesus' resurrection from the dead changes everything! Everything is made new.

Change is good news after two years of a pandemic, right? We are ready for a change. But are we really? Do we want everything to become new like we read in 2 Corinthians 5 or do we want the change to be a return to the old and familiar?

If Jesus' resurrection from the dead changes everything, then what has changed in your life? What difference does Jesus make in your life? What has Jesus made new?

What difference does Jesus make to my 35 year old nephew whose brain tumor came back, faces radiation treatments and is struggling with his ex for visitation of their three year old son?

What difference does Jesus mean to our siblings in Malawi who are often threatened by drought, flood and famine or to Ukrainians whose homes were destroyed by a Russian bomb?

What difference does Jesus make to a stable congregation deciding what their next most faithful step might be or to a declining congregation wondering if their next most faithful step is

to close?

Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers

Christ has risen and forever lives, to challenge and to change. All whose lives are messed or mangled, all who find religion strange. Christ is risen, Christ is present, making us what he has been: evidence of transformation in which God is known and seen.

As Lutherans we believe that we are baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, we go under the water as a sinner and we are resurrected with Christ, lifted out of the water, a saint. We are changed for sure and we are reborn children of God! Theologically that's beautiful, but in real life, what difference does Jesus make in your life?

As human beings, Christ's resurrection from the dead challenges us to live into that change. As broken sinful humans, whose lives are "messed or

mangled" we live into Easter reality that Christ is present and daily working in our lives. Jesus challenges and changes us. Those of us who doubt our faith and question its relevance are challenged by Easter's promise to see and know God in the transformed lives around us.

Friends we know that Jesus changes our weeping into laughing, our mourning into dancing, our despair into hope, our winter into spring and our death into life. Jesus changes things and makes all things new. We are challenged to see the transformations around us and in us. We are challenged to be the change, evidence of the transformation, for the world to see and know God through us.

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, a not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Kaleidoscope Change Happens at the Speed of Trust

Challenge: In 24 words or less, answer this question, "What difference does Jesus make in your life?" Inspired by the Hymn, *Christ has Risen While Earth Slumbers*, vs 4. <u>All Creation Sings</u> #938, ELW Supplement, Augsburg Fortress, 2020.



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May Bible Readings

May 1st—3rd Sunday of Easter

First Lessons Acts 9:1-6

Psalm 30

Second Lesson Revelation 5:11-14

Gospel Lesson John 21:1-19

May 8th—4th Sunday of Easter

First Lesson Acts 9:36-43

Psalm 23

Second Lesson Revelation 7:9-17 Gospel Lesson John 10:22-30

May 15th - 5th Sunday of Easter

First Lesson Acts 11:1-18

Psalm 148

Second Lesson Revelation 21:1-6

Gospel Lesson John 13:31-35

May 22nd—6th Sunday of Easter

First Lessons Acts 16:9-15

Psalm 47

Second Lesson Revelation 21:10, 22 – 22:5

Gospel Lesson John 14:23-29

May 29th—7th Sunday of Easter

First Lessons Acts 16:16-34

Psalm 97

Second Lesson Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

Gospel Lesson John 17:20-26



Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed...

James 5:16.

Please remember these people and requests in your prayers.

Health/Concerns: Sheila, Cyndi, Bob, Chip, Bernice, Tim, Jessica, Harold, Allen, Harold B., Scott and Bev.

Military: Anton, Allesa Marrie, and Natalie.

CTS Church Council, Men's Group, WELCA, Quilting Ministry, Adult Bible Studies, CTS Youth, AIDS orphans in Malawi, Hunger and poverty in the world, Ukrainian people and those struggling with the Coronavirus.





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Pastor's Office Hours

May 2nd	1:00-4:00 pm	
May 4th	2:00-5:00 pm	
May 9th	1:00-4:00 pm	
May 11th	2:00-5:00 pm	
May 16th	No Office Hours	
May 18th	No Office Hours	
May 23rd	1:00-4:00 pm	
May 25th	2:00-5:00 pm	
May 30th	No Office Hours	

${\bf Confirmation-Wednesday}$

May 4th	4:00 pm-5:00 pm
May 11th	4:00 pm-5:00 pm
May 18th	4:00 pm-5:00 pm
May 25th	4:00 pm-5:00 pm

Sunday Monday School

May 9th	4:15 pm –5:15 pm
May 23rd	4:15 pm –5:15 pm

Women's Group—Tuesday

May 3rd	10:00 am-2:00 pm
May 10th	10:00 am-2:00 pm
May 17th	10:00 am-2:00 pm
May 24th	10:00 am-2:00 pm
May 31st	10:00 am-2:00 pm

Men's Group - Thursday

May 5th	5:00 pm –6:00 pm
May 12th	5:00 pm –6:00 pm
May 19th	5:00 pm –6:00 pm
May 26th	5:00 pm -6:00 pm





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Bible study—Bible study continues on Sunday morning at 11:00 am. Please come and join us. Our study on the book of Romans continues but it is never too late to join in the learning. See Pastor Gwen for details.

Men's Group—The men's group meets on Thursday evenings from 5-6:00PM. Terry Tarras will lead Men's group. All men are welcome to join. Come enjoy the fellowship of Christian men in a learning environment.

Volunteer Opportunities—Please sign up on the Opportunities sheet hung near the office. We need assisting ministers, ushers, coffee hour people and altar guild each week. If you have not been and would like to be trained for any or all of these service opportunities, please see Pastor Gwen. We need your help to make our worship experience on Sunday mornings meaningful.

Farmer's Market—Farmer's Market will be returning to the church parking lot. Start date is Wednesday May 25th from 2-5:30PM.

OUR MEMORIES

BY LENORE HETRICK

IF WE REMEMBER THOSE WHO ARE GONE
THEN THEY LIVE AGAIN.
THEY ARE HERE ONCE MORE, THEY SMILE AND SPEAK
JUST AS DO LIVING MEN.

SO LET US GIVE OUR THOUGHTS TO THE BRAVE, UPON THIS MEMORIAL DAY. IN SPIRITUAL FELLOWSHIP LET US SPEAK, AND LISTEN TO WHAT THEY SAY.

FOR A SOLDIER WHO DIED FOR HIS COUNTRY MUST KNOW MUCH THAT HE COULD TELL, AND IF WE CAUGHT THE MESSAGE IT MIGHT SERVE US OFT AND WELL.

SO IN OUR MEMORIES LET THE DEAD LINGER OFTEN AND LONG.
RECOLLECTIONS OF THAT KIND LIVE, AND ARE LIKE A SPRINGTIME SONG.





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They do great things for us every day, they whisper in our ears, they even hold us in their hearts, when we are filled with all our fears.

They are always there to give a hug and try to make us smile.
They treat us with respect and love, they treat us like their child.

God blessed me with an Angel, I'm proud to call my own. She's been with me throughout my life, been with me as I've grown.

She's guided me the best she can, she's taught me like no other, and I'm thankful I'm the lucky one who get's to call her...

By: Kathleen J Shields



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Volunteer Schedule May-July 2022

Date	Assisting Minister	Altar Guild	Coffee Hour	Ushers
May 1st	Jann Clark		Paul and Nancy Miller	
May 8th		Jann Clark	Kathy Martin	Kathy Martin
May 15th				
May 22nd				
May 29th				
June 5th				
June 12th				
June 19th				
June 26th				
July 3rd				
July 10th				
July 17th				
July 24th				
July 31st				