



NEW SCANDINAVIA LUTHERAN CHURCH
APRIL
NEWSLETTER 2023

RESURRECTION AND NEW SCANDINAVIA

From the movement of Jesus in his journey to the cross where he died to the movement of the open tomb where he rose from dead, we capture the essence of our Christian faith. The belief that Jesus overcame death and grave and rose again pits us against a society that disbelieves. Thus, we must ask ourselves: how is resurrection real to me?

Unlike Mary Magdalene, the other Mary, and Salo'me (Mark 16:1) we have not been eyewitnesses. Jesus later tells the disciples "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." (John 20:28)

Our church cemetery has many graves of members who worshipped in our congregation. Many are from generations of long ago and still others have been buried in the 21st century. To date there is no resurrection because the graves remain intact. How is the resurrection real to me?

Yet our heart strings vibrate with the hope of a resurrection someday. The message has been preached year after year and our refrain from the Apostle's Creed is echoed every Sunday that "I believe in the resurrection of the dead and life everlasting." How is the resurrection real to me?

Perhaps in our daily life, although we have not seen the Christ, we have experienced the presence of the Christ! We pray for others and we have heard stories of those who were healed. We witness the joyful faith of little children collecting our "Noisy Offering." In hidden ways the resurrection begins to be real. We sing hymns that play our heart strings.

My observation as your pastor is that our LORD has blessed us with the resurrection of a new church building after a devastating fire. From the ashes has come new life! We are unlike many many other congregations to witness a resurrection. My observation is that as we enter our church building there is a smile that lurks behind every tear, every prayer of distress, every burden we bear, every sublime expression! This church is resurrection story in itself and reflects the message of our hope in Jesus Christ!

This has become your gift to me and our gift to so many others! Christ has risen!

He has risen indeed! Pastor Ron Gerl, Interim pastor