



## Pastor's Pen

Dear Friends In Christ,

There is no greater truth that we proclaim as Christians than, **JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN!!!**. One of the most popular Easter hymns is **Christ The Lord Is Risen Today!** It was written by Charles Wesley for the first service in the Wesleyan Chapel in London, England in 1739, one year after his dramatic Aldersgate conversion experience. The first chapel was a deserted iron foundry, which became known as the Foundry Meeting House. The following is the original version of this great hymn. I have also included verse five and six which are not included in most hymn books. Take a few moments to reflect on the meaning of the resurrection in your own life during the month of April.

Carry this song of triumph with you during the day as you live in the power of resurrection life in Jesus Christ:

1. Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia! Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia! Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!
2. Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia! Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia! Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia! Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!
3. Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia! Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia! Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia! Where's thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!
4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia! Following our exalted Head, Alleluia! Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia! Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!
5. Hail the Lord of earth and heaven, Alleluia! Praise to thee by both be given, Alleluia! Thee we greet triumphant now, Alleluia! Hail the Resurrection, thou, Alleluia!



6. King of glory, soul of bliss, Alleluia! Everlasting life is this, Alleluia! Thee to know, thy power to prove, Alleluia! Thus to sing, and thus to love, Alleluia!

I would also appreciate your prayers as I will be at Concordia Lutheran Church, in San Antonio, Texas from April 21<sup>st</sup> – April 26<sup>th</sup>, participating in the Pastoral Leadership Institute (PLI) program. The common purpose of PLI is to encourage congregations in “connecting people to Jesus” in response to His Great Commission to “make disciples of all nations.” PLI was created

## ***Pastor's Pen*** *(continued)*

to address a need articulated by LCMS pastors to specifically provide advanced leadership training for ministry. Let me give you a brief overview of what will be happening. If you would like more information about PLI please go to their website [www.plinstitute.org](http://www.plinstitute.org).

The elders and Board of Directors recognize the importance of personal growth for ministry. So I thank them for encouraging me to begin a four year process where I will participate in annual conferences, visit mentoring congregations, complete reading assignments, and write reflection papers (Lord have mercy!). The first three years the time commitment is 12 days spread out over spring, fall, and winter events. The final year is the same with the addition of a two week mission trip. The ultimate goal is to continue to grow in grace personally as a pastor so that we at Risen Christ may continue to effectively be the salt and light we are called to be in our community. Please keep this process in your prayers as this journey begins. I will keep you updated in the months ahead.

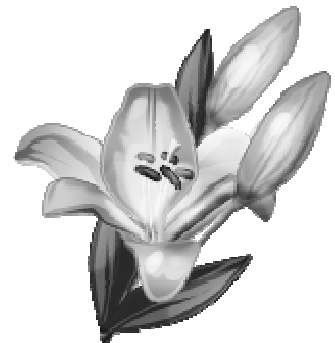


May you and your family have a blessed celebration of our Lord's resurrection. Grace to you and your family!

Pastor Chris

## ***Holy Week Services***

- April 5 - Palm Sunday: 8 & 10:30am with Communion
- April 9 - Maundy Thursday: 7 pm with Communion
- April 10 - Good Friday: 7 pm, Choir Cantata
- April 12 - Easter: 7am Sunrise Service with Choir  
8-10am Easter Breakfast (Volunteers needed)  
10:30am Celebration Service



## ***Worship Support Team!***

Thank you all for your faithful service every week! In the summer there will be one service each Sunday. In the next month there will be several chances for you to provide information about times when you may be unavailable to serve during the summer. There will also be a survey about nursery use (or desired nursery availability) and desired pattern of scheduling (i.e. I prefer several roles on a Sunday or I prefer to participate in a single role on a Sunday and participate several Sundays each month on the Worship Support Team). Thank you in advance for providing this information.

You will also note that there is a new flyer in the kitchen with recommendations for when you are making smaller pots of coffee.

Amy Larson

# **Sunday School**

We have a new project for the Sunday School offerings. The monies from this semester will go towards the Chinese Outreach ministry. On Sunday, February 1st, Jennifer Gerth from the Chinese Hospitality Center, came to Risen Christ and did a short presentation for the children. She showed pictures and told some stories of the Chinese coming to know Christ. Then Jennifer worked with the children as they made Valentine cards to be given to some Chinese friends that come to the Hospitality Center. As the weeks go by, look for the offering indicator poster to watch the amount increase for helping spread the Word to the Chinese. Donations from others will also be accepted for the fund.

We are winding down with our study on the Truth Project. Even if you haven't seen any of it, you can still come and see what's happening. It is quite an "eye opener"!

Merlene Lieder, Christian Discipleship

## **Women's Ministry Event**

Saturday, February 7th, was an exciting day for the women! We had our first women's ministry event and from comments heard afterwards, it was enjoyable and inspiring. Those that hosted a table did a beautiful job decorating their tables. It created many conversations and gave opportunities for people to share events from their personal lives. Pastor shared with us how the Chinese ministry at Risen Christ has progressed over the past two and a half years. It was encouraging to see how it has grown. Alicia Graf also spoke to us on how God works in our lives by sharing her story. She shared what she went through with children in her family and how she learned to trust God through it all. Many women confessed to being touched to tears! The delicious brunch was served by the men. They did a wonderful job and received no complaints from the women!

The money collected will go towards the Christian Friends of China ministry of Risen Christ. So far \$780. has been given which will be matched by Thrivent.

Thank you to everyone involved from the planning to the decorating to the serving! We look forward to the next year's event!

Merlene Lieder



Christian Friends of China

中美聯誼會

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**April 2009**



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To: Friends of Risen Christ Lutheran

Know Jesus...and  
make Jesus known!

## Who's Who... and How to Reach Them

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