



GOOD NEWS

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HOODLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Ministry Statement: Called by God's grace, empowered and unified by the Holy Spirit, Hoodland Lutheran Church is a gifted and diverse family celebrating and proclaiming the Gospel by serving our congregation, community and world.

Introducing the Risen Lord

We celebrated the resurrection of our Lord and Savior on Easter Sunday with a celebration of great joy. We sang with enthusiasm about His empty tomb. We shouted out the good news that He is Risen Indeed! What a wonderful day it was.

The article in this newsletter by Thom Rainer got me to reflecting on what we talked about on that Easter morning. How did each of us come to faith in Jesus Christ? None of us were there when Jesus spoke with Mary or visited His disciples. Yet all of us know the risen Christ and readily shout out the truth of His rising from the dead. So, how did we find out about this wonderful, life-changing event?

For most of us, we heard about the risen Christ because somebody told us about Jesus. Some would say that this isn't a reliable way to gather information, but the truth is this is how most of us learn what's going on around us. We hear about it. And, in the Bible, we have the eyewitness accounts of those who actually did meet Jesus after He had risen from the dead. These folks didn't meet a Savior who should have been in intensive care after all of the brutality He had experienced just three days before.

Instead they were visited by Jesus Christ in a form that convinced each of them that He was risen indeed! His message to them was not about condemnation because they had abandoned Him to the cross. Jesus came to them wishing them peace and the presence of the Spirit when He would send them out to tell the world about what God has done.

The second reason why we believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ is that it has stood the test of time. Our science seems to flip back and forth about how God's creation works depending on what the current hypothesis or discovery reveals to us. Music and fashion and celebrity change more rapidly by the day. People are always looking for what is new and different, yet the more things change, the more we are looking for that solid rock upon which we can base the foundation of our lives.

And that rock is always the grace of God as revealed in Jesus Christ. No matter how hard people have tried, they cannot disprove the resurrection. No matter how much evil some folks do as they try and use Christianity for their personal aims the grace of God continues to be revealed in the lives of those saints who work in His name and ways. Look at the names of the local hospitals as an example. For two millennium the world has been made better by those who work in the name of Jesus Christ.

And third, people can intellectually claim that the resurrection never happened. But, for those who have experienced Him in their hearts, they are never the same. That's why the disciples were able to charge out of their upper room on Pentecost and change the world. Once they had met Jesus in person, they knew the reality of God and of Christ.

Someone once said that the difference between a grave and a rut is the dimensions. People all around us are in despair over the world today and truly need someone to start them on the road to faith in Christ by telling them about it. Are you the one to do this? And if not, why not? Share His grace today. Amen.