

## The Joy of the Resurrection

Dear family,

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

As we enter April, the somber silence of Lent will give way to the joyful shouts of Easter on April 5<sup>th</sup>. We will have walked through the darkness of Good Friday, and will stand in the light of an empty tomb. The resurrection of Jesus is not just a historical event we remember once a year. Rather, it's the heartbeat of our faith and the anchor of our hope.

The empty tomb is proof that death does not have the last word—Jesus does! In a world that can often feel dark, cold, and uncertain, the resurrection reminds us that God brings new life out of death, turning our “winters” into spiritual spring.

Because Jesus' resurrection brings new life, a shared life of grace as well as a promise that God's love is stronger than death, we are empowered to live differently; living as “Resurrection People.” Hence, we are enabled to embrace peace. Just as Jesus brought peace to His terrified disciples, allow the risen Lord to settle your heart in the midst of any personal, emotional or even global storms. Secondly, we can share hope—scattering like seeds by the Holy Spirit, sharing the good news that love wins over hate. And finally, to walk in newness: the same power that raised Jesus from the dead is at work in us, helping us grown in faith and love.

Therefore, family, let's carry the joy of Easter throughout this entire month, the whole Easter season for that matter—and beyond! As we gather around His Word and Sacrament ministry, let's continue to celebrate the miracle of new life and actively look for ways to be ambassadors of that resurrection hope to our neighbors, colleagues, and community.

I am so grateful to be your pastor and to walk this journey with you also. May the light of the risen Christ shine brightly in your life, illuminating your path with faith, hope and love.

With resurrection joy,  
Pastor Seehafer