



# Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

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Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, alleluia! After 40 long days (plus Sundays), our Lenten journey is over and we can celebrate the resurrection. I don't know about you, but I often find myself thinking of Easter Sunday as the end goal of Lent. In many ways, it feels like the finish line that needs to be crossed before things can return to normal. The extra services are over, the eggs have been found, and the Easter dinner consumed. With Easter Monday comes the return to normal life.

But what we see in the gospels is that Easter isn't so much the completion of Jesus' story, but rather the beginning of the story. This might seem counter-intuitive since Jesus' resurrection comes at the end of all four gospels. But we hear in John's gospel, "Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name." (John 20:30-31) Through statements like this and others, we see that the resurrection isn't an ending – it's an invitation. The story of Jesus in the gospels is not about relaying historic events, but about setting us up to live resurrection lives and continue the story of God's redemption of the world. Jesus' story is only the beginning of the good news of what God has done and is still doing for the world through Jesus the Christ.

Easter is only the beginning; this story isn't over. It's only the beginning and we all have a part to play. It's only the beginning and if you wonder why there is still so much distress and pain in the world, it's because God is not done yet. It's only the beginning and we are invited to join in the story, to share it far and wide.

As we begin this Easter season, may you continue the resurrection story!

In the Risen Christ's love,  
Pastor Christine

The words "Christ is Risen!" are written in a golden, cursive script on a light yellow background.