

Easter edition

# redeemer

a newsletter for and about the people of  
**lutheran church of our redeemer**



# record

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## pastor's message

How dull, boring and bland life must be for an atheist. Just imagine being an atheist on Easter morning. It would be like getting out of bed on April 20<sup>th</sup> and facing another day, just like any other. Someone once said that the problem with being an atheist is that you don't have any holidays to celebrate.

As Christians, we do a lot of celebrating. Our church year is filled with festivals and soon we will celebrate the highest festival of all. We have good reason to for Christ is RISEN! For sure, **no three words in human history have ever called for more celebration.** These words brought the disciples out of their hiding places and sent them out into the world with a bold new conviction as they took the message of salvation far and wide. These words provided the strong foundation upon which the Christian Church was built. These words give hope to the hopeless, comfort to the suffering and afflicted and peace to the distressed.

St. Paul has written: "When Christ died, we died, and if we have died with Christ we shall also live with Him. . . ." The purpose of Christ's death was to FREE US from sin and make it possible for us to LIVE A NEW LIFE; life to its fullest, life with meaning and purpose, life in harmony with God's love.

We will soon celebrate Easter in a world that seems all wrong. Our country is at war in Iraq. American soldiers as well as Iraqi men, women and children are dead and dying due to the violence of warfare. International tension seems to be mounting on other fronts as well. At home, the economy is not doing well and many people are not terribly optimistic about the future as the threat of more terrorist attacks disturbs us greatly.

At such a time, the temptation and inclination to pessimism and fear is strong. BUT OUR FAITH tells us that this is the TIME TO REJOICE IN THE LORD WHO BROUGHT NEW HOPE TO HIS FOLLOWERS when they thought evil had had its way.

As Christians, we need to face the problems of this world seriously. Yet, as Christians we can celebrate even in the face of destruction and death because we have been given new hope in Christ's resurrection. We are in this world but not of it; our futures are hidden in Christ Jesus forever.

The atheist is quick to remind us that there is no scientific proof of the Resurrection of Jesus. But the proof of His resurrection has always been the faith and lives of believers. If others are to know of God's love, it will be because they see that love and the celebration of new life in us.

**CHRIST IS RISEN! GOD IS WITH US!** Life is meaningful! Death and darkness are **ultimately overcome** – and that is **cause for CELEBRATION.** **Let us rejoice and be glad.**

A joyous Easter to you,  
Leigh Pezet, Pastor