

Dear People of First Lutheran:

One of our parishioners, Helen Brandt gave me a monoprint made by my great teacher of *The Spiritual Exercises*, Sister Marian Cowan. I remember Marian telling about it. When she lifted the stamp or mold, whatever it would be called, there it was: she saw the Risen Christ. Well, Holy Mother Brandt tells me she sees it, too. The absolutely troubling thing to me is I don't see it. She's even shown me and I still don't see it. It's maddening. It's now my art. By my teacher. In my study. And I don't see it. But these two women do (if we had a third, we'd be like the biblical story with three women seeing the Risen Christ at the empty tomb). I trust that some day it will come, that the veils over my eyes will be lifted and I'll see. Until then, it's a mystery.

I think that's the way Easter is for a lot of people. It's a mystery. There are doctrinal teachings of the resurrection of the body that we can't see. There are parallels with dates on the pagan calendars of spring festivals...and we can kinda sorta get those connections. We hear stories of the women at the empty tomb, and on Easter morning in our celebration, feel their excitement as they made their discovery and ran to tell the disciples. It's only sometimes that we directly 'get it,' if we even can. The limits are real, our experience and understanding is finite, but the possibilities are endless.

I hope our Holy Week and the Easter season this year, for you, will be a chance to newly discover something about Easter in your life of faith, however it gets translated. The stories of the Passion of Our Lord and his triumph over the forces of death and evil are beautiful, dramatic, and exciting; as is the worship of God connected with them.

Here is our schedule for the Three Days:

**Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm**  
**Maundy Thursday service of Holy Communion**

**Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm**  
**Good Friday Tenebrae**  
**A Choral Service of Darkness**

**Easter Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 am**  
**Festival Celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord**  
**With Choir, Organ, Timpani, and the Quad City Brass Quintet.**

I hope to see you!

Pastor Dan