

April 2022 – Pastoral Message

***“So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation” everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new.*** – 2 Corinthians 5:17

Beloved Neighbors in Christ Parish family and friends.

Grace and peace to you and Happy Easter! Welcome to the lovely month of April. We welcome warmer temperatures, showers that nourish the land, and maybe even shorts and sandals. We also welcome the Easter season and leave Lent behind us, focusing on the empty tomb and knowing that CHRIST HAS RISEN!

This month’s message is about the new creation, or new creature, that we have in a renewed and resurrected Christ. Every day we are called as Christians to remember our baptisms and the promises that our loving God has bestowed upon us at the font. These include delivering us from the forces of evil that bombard us, putting away our sinful selves, turning to the Lord, being adopted as children of God into the Body of Christ, and giving us new birth in the healing and refreshing waters of baptism. Though we often forget about it, we are also called to remember these promises each and every day knowing that the past is behind us and only the future remains ahead. Our baptism unifies us as a siblings in Christ, and we are encouraged to share these gifts presented to us with one another.

As we remember these gifts, we are also called to recall that each day we are made anew, and that in and through Christ, that everything behind us has also passed away. That is, as members of the Body of Christ, we belong to Jesus as new person; the past is forgotten, and everything is new. In plain speak, each day we have a clean slate and can begin again, attempting to be better people – to one another, to ourselves, and to our living and creating God. This is the good news, and this good news is what Easter reminds of.

As Christians, we can make better choices, continue on the path we have returned to from our Lenten disciplines that we determined, and retell ourselves that the cross of Christ gives us freeing love, forgiveness, salvation, and ultimately hope in this future because we have been made new again. Just because Lent is behind us does not mean that we give up on what we have taken on personally and spiritually during those forty days. I encourage you to continue with whatever you set your mind to and continue doing it while pleasing God, and hopefully even yourselves.

We are made new, and we are reborn again with our resurrected Christ...on Sunday mornings, but also during the week and often whenever you least expect it. Keep Christ in your hearts and I hope to see you soon again. God bless you all and remember...CHRIST IS RISEN!!!

In Christ,

Rev. Erik Karlson  
Pastor, Neighbors in Christ Parish