

**IMA Video Connect every 3rd  
Thursday of each month  
at 10AM Central Time.  
Contact IMA Home Office  
for more info.**

**Upcoming Spring Conference  
North Central Dist.  
Thurs—Fri, April 21-22, 2022  
World Harvest Church  
Rice Lake, WI  
Speaker: Mickey Robinson  
Register online at  
www.worldharvestusa.com/  
IMA**

**To post events in the  
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## Where Is He Now?

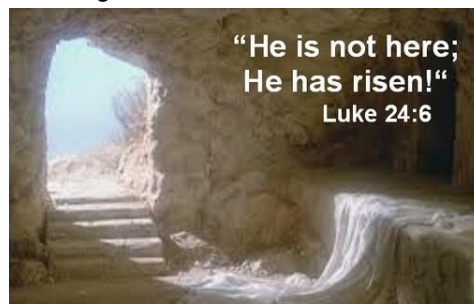
*The answer will surprise you!*

By Julie Gaskill; IMA Member

Where is Jesus now? This is the very same question the women and disciples asked when the body of their Lord was missing from the tomb. "Where is He?"

He is not in the tomb. If you take a tour today of the tomb where Jesus Christ was buried, you would find it empty. He is not in the grave. Death could not hold Him!

Where is Jesus now? He is not in the religious institutions who misuse



His Word and water down the truth in order to be accepted by the antichrist culture. He is not in the councils of those who plot against freedom and obstruct justice. He is not with the politicians who lie, cheat, deceive, manipulate, and accept bribery. He is not in the medical system that has sold their trademark of helping and healing people to destroying life in the most sacred place of their mother's womb. He is not in the "woke" crowd who have exchanged the truth of God for Satan's lies and are intent on bowing the knee of the righteous to their tyrannical ideals. He is not in the media who promote feminism, fornication, violence, vulgarity and degeneration of the family unit.

Perhaps you are like me and ask, "So, where is Jesus now?" Can we see Him in our world? Can we hear His voice? Is He working and moving on the earth today? Where can we find Him? If Jesus is alive today, certainly we can find Him, can't we?

The truth is that Jesus is alive and can be found today; but where is He now? He is in the hands of those who bless the little children. He is in the

heart of those who worship in spirit and in truth. He is in the mouth of preachers who boldly proclaim the word of the Lord from the pulpit. He is in the eyes of those who look with compassion. He is in the mind of journalists who write without twist. He is in the knees of those who are praying for revival. He is in the feet of the ones who bring the gospel to the nations.

"If you search for Me, you will find Me," says the Lord. Look for Jesus with all of your heart. You can find Him in our world today. You will hear His voice. You will witness His mighty acts! Where is Jesus? He is in His body; His body is the church!

**Comments, suggestions,  
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## Relational Actional Missional

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# PROCLAIM

APRIL 2022



## New Creation Came to Town

By Rev. Steven White; Life Church

It would seem to me that the vast majority of evangelicals make much of the death of our Lord and rightly so. Preached from pulpits throughout the year, we remind the world that Christ died so they may be saved. We are eloquent in proclaiming what we have been saved from – sin, death, and hell. We sing the great hymns, declaring the wonderous and rugged cross as the pinnacle of our redemption.

Yet the cross is incomplete, void of meaning, and wholly lacking in power to save if there were no empty tomb. The resurrection of our Lord is far more than a day to be memorialized once a year. No, the resurrection was and is the start of a new creation invading the land of death and decay. The resurrection is the power of the cross; it is justification of all who place their faith in Jesus. It is the resounding amen of Heaven declaring the Kingdom of God has come.

The resurrection of Jesus is the source of the foundation which the IMA stands firmly upon. We proclaim life, lay hands on the sick, and declare victory over those in chains to addiction. Our very theology is rooted in the words of Jesus, "All authority in Heaven and earth has been given to Me; go therefore, and make disciples..." All of us have experienced and live to share this experience of new creation invading this world. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old things passed away; behold new things have come." Each new breath in our lungs is a declaration of the Glory of God found in the resurrection of Jesus.

Our ministry flows from the power of new creation as we live in this world and at the same time the world to come. As Jesus ascended to the right hand of the Father, He was given all power in this age and the age to come. He rules over the kingdoms of the world and over all spiritual principalities. He has won! Oh, death where is your sting? He has poured out His Spirit, the very Spirit of new creation (Rom. 6:10-11). Through the Holy Spirit, He has empowered us (Acts 1:8) to declare the Gospel—Jesus is King in power and authority. When we lay hands on the sick and they recover, we experience new creation. When a marriage is restored, we see new creation. When we see our sons and daughters return to the Lord, we experience new creation. When the chains of addiction are broken, we are witnesses to the new creation.

The resurrection is not simply a day we remember once a year; it is the very source of our message: Jesus is Alive. He is King of kings and Lord over lords! I encourage us all; preach the cross and boldly preach the resurrection. We have a hope of glory; for Jesus is the first born of the dead. All those in Christ, and Creation itself, will follow our Lord. Today we live from the resurrection, but a more glorious day is coming! It will be a day when every tear is wiped away. We will praise the Lamb who was slain and rose again in the fully realized New Heaven and Earth. You, my sisters and brothers, are children of the resurrection. Go in power and declare Jesus as King! Live every day as Resurrection Sunday!





# Make the Most Out of Easter

By Rev. Daniel Hernandez; Water of Life Ministries; Rockford, IL

Research confirms what pastors already know: Easter is the most highly attended service of the year. Blame it on tradition, conviction, suspicion; to me it doesn't matter. I just absolutely love Easter. To look out and see the chairs filled with souls, for me, is nothing less than exhilarating. I really don't even care if they attend for the wrong reasons. The God we serve has the power to pierce their hearts of stone, knock them off their high horse with His Spirit, and have them rise as radically different people. For "faith comes by hearing," and I am convinced, whatever they might claim their reason to attend, it is God's sovereign plan. It also gives me a chance to lavish God's love on them, as it has been poured upon me. Wow, what a glorious opportunity!

With this knowledge, I really do believe God means for us to do what we can to make our time highly profitable. What would it look like, what would it feel like, what would the experience be, if we began to put together a prayer team with just Easter morning in mind? What would happen, if we called out by name, those family members, friends and neighbors, even the ones who have wondered and drifted away from the Lord? Could it be that when it comes to souls we "have not because we ask not?" There is nothing more powerful than to pray according to the will of God. What is more in line with His desire than having hearts repent? God wants a successful, power-filled Easter service even more than we do!

Forgive me, I'm just as tired of the pandemic as you are, but the reality is, God, for whatever reason, has set things in motion. His divine plan has positioned His church in a very unique place. The church

can minister, touch and reach deeper and further than she ever has before. We are not victims, but rather the victors!

Please hear my heart; what would it generate if every member would write a personal invitation to at least ten families? Then make a personal call to do the same. I think the chance for East-

er attendance would be significantly greater; it could rise exponentially.

I know I'm preaching to the choir, but sometimes even the choir needs good preaching, right? So, let me preach. I read the well known Scripture in Romans 9:3; "For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh." How shocking! What passion! Essentially, Paul is saying he would be willing to take their place in hell, if it meant they would be saved. Combine that thought with the urgency of the hour, need for revival, and the imminent return of our Lord. Can you sense my desire and excitement? Let us make the most of this 2022 Easter morning.



Last Easter, a woman walked into our church. She sat in the last row and had a disinterested expression. My wife and I greeted her; not much more than a grunt came out. She walked out several times during the service, only to return with the same bored expression. I can't say when or what, but something reached past her rigid, lifeless self and she was awakened to the wonder of the Lord Jesus Christ. In the Sundays that followed, she couldn't stop telling people, with tears in her eyes, how the Scripture came alive to her. Then, standing there at the altar a month or so later, she said the words that absolutely shocked me. "Pastor, I was raised a Jehovah's Witness all my life and never saw this Jesus. We have got to tell people. We have to tell everybody; they should all know!" Amen! They all should know!

I hope I have encouraged you to do whatever it takes to make the most of this Easter. Ask God to give you passion for every person and a profound love and boldness for His Word. Then let's have church. Let us celebrate our Risen Lord!

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# The Resurrection Is Our Only Hope

By Rev. Chad Hayes; National Chairman



"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, **he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead**, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. **Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls**" (1 Peter 1:3-9 ESV).

We all understand that death holds tightly to all who enter it; yet, Jesus passed through death and

was not held by it. Death could not hold Christ in its grip. His body bears the marks of death; yet He is alive and has been resurrected forevermore. Therefore, His life is a life that has power over death.

Since Jesus died and overcame death, He is able to deliver eternal life to all who trust in Him! What does this mean to us as believers?

## JESUS CHRIST CRUCIFIED

This means that God has pronounced the final judgment over fallen creation. The cross of Jesus Christ is the death sentence over the entire world. For those of us, who by faith have been crucified with Christ, we are no longer subject to the power of death.



## JESUS CHRIST RESURRECTED

This means that God has brought death to an end, has called a new creation to life and now bestows new life. For those of us,

who by faith have been resurrected with Christ, we experience newness of life.

Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined Him in his death? For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives (Romans 6:3-4 NLT).

## THE TRIUMPH OF JESUS

Jesus Christ has triumphed over death, hell and the grave. Because death could not hold Him, death cannot and will not defeat us. Jesus is the final Victor.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is our only hope of salvation. Without the resurrection, we are utterly lost and have no means by which to be saved.

But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:57 NLT).



## Quotable Quotes

"The greatest message ever heard, and the sweetest song ever sung, echoes God's love from an empty tomb!"

"The stone was rolled away from the door, not to permit Christ to come out, but to enable the disciples to go in."  
~ Peter Marshall

"Not all superheroes wear capes; one wore a cross and left behind him an empty tomb!"

"Spring greeting from people of faith: To Christians, happy Easter; to Jews, happy Passover; to atheists, the very best of luck!"

"We celebrate the resurrection of Christ not only on Easter Sunday morning, but on each Lord's Day over the next 51 weeks to follow."

"It's not about the groundhog, baby chicks, nor the Easter bunny; it's about the Lamb who was slain to take away the sins of the world."

Church sign over First English Lutheran Church:  
Welcome semi-annual worshippers!

No pain, no palm; no thorn, no throne; no gall, no glory; no cross, no crown. ~ William Penn

Jesus' resurrection is the beginning of God's new project not to snatch people away from earth to heaven, but to colonize earth with the life of heaven. ~ N. T. Wright

Fear not, for His resurrection shall be your consolation... by faith in His word... Let our heart rise... Tell others what God has done! ~ Mathew Henry