

Easter has come,now what? Pastor Gus Barnes

Growing up in the former LCA-Lutheran Church of America, I learned in my confirmation class that every Sunday after Easter, is the continuous holy celebration each week. We gather to ask God to forgive us, we hear God's Word, we partake of the meal, and we are sent out each week to share the "good news" to all who will hear. Easter continues, its not a graduation from God nor your faith.

I have been among the Belmont community for now some fifteen months, and I am so very grateful for the new relationships from people of Peace Lutheran and the greater Belmont community. The word community has the letter (u) in it, and the question I have is how are we as community carry on the mission of Christ?

This mission ahead of us involves Love, Joy, Service.

Jesus loved us so much that he died on the cross for our sins. From death came freedom out of Jesus' love. God gives his love to us freely as God expects the same from us. We are accessible to all we need, God accepts us as we are. We are broken and blessed because of God's love, in Lent we sang "return to the Lord your God" out of God's love for us return to church on a regular basis- we worship each Saturday and Sunday. If you cannot join us in person, there is a recording each week.

Joy comes in the morning, simply by waking up each day. My day begins with a daily devotional and prayer. I face the mirror each day asking God who will I meet in the course of my day. The resurrection of Jesus has the power to liberate each of us, to bring about justice. Jesus tells us in Luke "rejoice in that day, leap for joy, for behold your reward is great in heaven". Joy is the fruit of the Spirit, a comforting content full of peace. By following Jesus, with your whole heart and spirit, mind and body.

Service to your faith, service to your community go hand in hand. As the weather begins to warm up there will be many activities one can volunteer in the Belmont community. Look forward to serve in various ways at the Church, call the city clerk for upcoming activities in Belmont. When our Confirmation classes come to a close for the summer, we are in need of readers each Saturday and Sunday for our services. If you have musical abilities, consider sharing them at our worship services. This is the day the Lord has made let us rejoice and be glad!

Easter is not over, it has just begun!