

*Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" -Matthew 28:9*

Jesus' resurrection is about God loving us so much that God is willing to go to every length to find us in all the wrong places. We go looking for God in the familiar, in the places we expect to find God. But in Jesus' resurrection God finds us when we are down and out, when we are at the end of our rope, when all hope seems lost. God rolls back the stones that bind and confine us. With a strangely familiar voice, God calls us to new life.

Resurrection wasn't a moment in time millennia ago, resurrection is something that happens daily as we turn away from ourselves, and open our hearts to God. God who knows us, who knows our needs and to our weaknesses is no stranger. God who suffers with those of us who long for renewal and new life. God who weeps with those who know something of what it means to be crucified today. God, who recognizes us in our grief and calls us by name into a different future than what we can imagine and who is present to us as we peer into the empty tombs of this world and faithfully speak a word of grace and hope - even with fear and trembling in our hearts.

From the cross, Jesus ignited a movement and emboldened a people who changed – and continue to change – our hurting world for the better. In the resurrection, Jesus gives us power to put it all on the line again, to care about something larger than ourselves, to sacrifice something of ourselves out of love for God and neighbor.

When the joy of our Easter celebrations inevitably fade into the Monday mornings of our lives, when you ever find yourself lost, afraid or feeling nameless in the world; thing about those glorious words of Thine is the Glory: *Lo, Jesus meets thee, risen from the tomb; lovingly he meets thee, scatters fear and gloom.*

"Greetings," Jesus says, lovingly meeting us and sending us into mission, together, and with Christ!

The Rev. William (Bill) Gohl, Jr., Bishop

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Gohl". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Delaware-Maryland Synod, ELCA