



Philadelphia  
Lutheran  
Ministries

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# Proclaiming Liberty in Christ in the City

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NEWSLETTER | EASTER 2023

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## All the Lies

*Rev Rob Kieselowsky, Executive Director*



Do you ever get tired of the lies?

Lies permeate the business world in its drive to grow at all costs. Marketing hype constantly bombards us with the latest and greatest. And we know that very few of our purchases live up to the hype.

Lies get politicians elected, lies about who they are and all they will accomplish. And we burn out quickly each election cycle.

The city promotes its own brand of deceit. The lie that financial success will bring happiness. The lie that popular social agendas will bring meaning. The lie that political action alone will bring a just and peaceful society. And then disillusionment sets in, and people are left desperate and without hope.

I feel pressure each time I write a newsletter to hype up our work in Philadelphia. Sadly, even the church sometimes falls prey to hype in our church planting by promising more than Christ himself has promised.

Over-inflated promises, deception, and outright lies abound in our world. I have reached the conviction that the devil uses this flood of lies to distract us, to jade our ability to hear truth and to stop our faith in the good news of Jesus Christ.

God cuts through the chatter with the clear truth of Easter.

Christ Jesus, our gracious Savior, took on human flesh to die. Our Lord Jesus was indeed betrayed, crucified and rose gloriously from the dead on the third day.

It is true. It is a fact.

Christ is no liar; what he has promised, he will deliver. Just as he rose from the dead, he promises to give us and all those who have died in the faith resurrection. It seems too good to be true, but it is not. Those who we have loved who have died in the faith, we will see again. And we will see our risen Lord.

Just as the resurrection was a miracle, so faith in the resurrection is a miracle. So Christ kept his promise to send the Holy Spirit to work faith in hard hearts and keeps believers strong in their conviction.

This wonderful truth that keeps the work of Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries moving forward.

The light shines brightest in the darkness. The Lord has continued his work in the city of Philadelphia, a city of 1.6 million people for whom Christ shed his life-giving blood.

We push aside the lies upon lies and rejoice in the hope that Christ has conquered death and the grave. The devil's days are numbered.

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

## Former Member Ordained

By Rev Kieselowsky

A few years ago, a man named Adam contacted me about the Lutheran faith. He came to me with a knowledge of and reverence for God’s Word and was interested in the Lutheran Church.

Over the course of three years, I had the privilege to catechize him and his wife in the Lutheran faith. During that time, I also baptized their six children and began teaching them Luther’s Small Catechism.

Adam expressed interest in serving as a pastor and began leading a Lutheran study with a group of Christians who spoke Amharic, the main language of Ethiopia. I helped him start the process of colloquy, working toward ordination in the Lutheran Church.

Within a short time, an opportunity arose for Adam to move to Boston, where he continued the colloquy process until he was ordained this year (*below*).

I see this often in Philadelphia: work that sometimes spans years, the work of catechism and teaching, often benefits others in ways I cannot fathom. Here, a brother in Christ becomes a fellow pastor who can help minister to the Amharic-speaking Christians in Boston and perhaps around the world.

## Faith in the Resurrection

I came across this picture recently of a poignant grave marker (*below*) in an Utah cemetery. Atop its marble base, a boy springs from his wheelchair, reaching toward heaven.



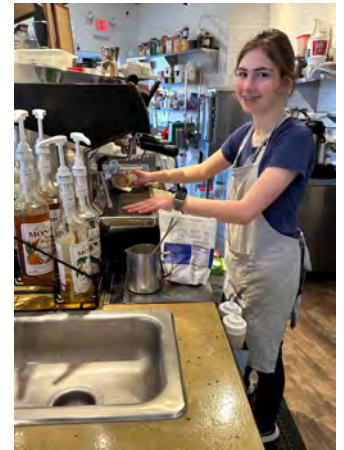
The piece, designed by the boy’s father, is intended to inspire hope in Jesus Christ.

The image of should remind us all of the very true reality that because of our baptism into Christ’s death, we live in the hope of the resurrection.

“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?’” (John 11: 25-6)

## Life in the City

After six years in our neighborhood, we have made significant connections with neighbors. One neighbor offered our eldest work at her local coffee shop. Others have hired our daughters to babysit and help around their homes.



## Super Bowl Party

This year's annual Super Bowl party was particularly exciting as the Philadelphia Eagles faced off against the Kansas City Chiefs.

Members of Logos Lutheran and friends gathered in the Kieselowsky's living room to watch the game (*below*) and to enjoy game-day food. The youngest Kieselowsky sister led the group in the Eagles' fight song (*right*) whenever the team scored a touchdown.

Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries offers regular social events throughout the year to encourage local members as they study and work in the Philadelphia area.





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*Thank you for your continued support!*

**Please Pray For . . .**

- **Incarcerated men** in the federal detention center in Philadelphia
- **Logos Lutheran** leaders and members
- **Vicar Jesse Greenhagen** and his fiancée
- **Pastor Kieselowsky** and his family