

Chapter 1 : From the Pastor's Desk: Peanuts, Cracker Jacks, and the Resurrection – Grace Luthera

Pastor, Are YOU Ready for Resurrection? Epilogue: The Meaning of Faithfulness In each chapter, Easum shares from his experience as a successful pastor and church consultant.

My last Sunday will be October 25, You can see my letter of resignation here. The path to the decision was a long and winding one. The twisting path was also a partial reason I have not posted on this blog for six months. It was not made suddenly or without prayer and conversation. The first was an eight-day silent centering prayer retreat in June. The silence time of prayer and reflection helped solidify my longing for contemplation and deep prayer. I had a couple of profound experiences that I need to write about in future posts. I want to go back. Thirty thousand youth packed into Ford Field, praising, dancing, singing in the joyous, raucous Spirit of Christ. There were times when I felt like I was 17 years old again, swept up in the celebration. It was a powerful trip for me, the three adults, and ten youth from Resurrection. Taken together, the silent prayer retreat and the youth gathering, could be seen as two ends of a spiritual spectrum. Neither is better than the other, but they were not working together within me, especially since I am called to be the leader. Thus for months my own spirit has been restless. The third event was a private conversation with two trusted leaders of the congregation. They initiated the conversation in a caring environment. But as I drove home from the conversation, I realized in my heart-of-hearts that I no longer fit. It was a blow to my ego. I wanted to be in control, yet I was not. I wrestled with the question all through that night and several afterwards. Yet I woke up each morning realizing that the answer was the same. It is time for me to leave Resurrection. In the next couple of days, I will post on what my plans are for the future. Before you tell your life what you intend to do with it, listen for what it intends to do with you. Before you tell your life what truths and values you have decided to live up to, let your life tell you what truths you embody, what values you represent.

Chapter 2 : Lent: Are You Ready?- Pastor John " Park Avenue Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

The pastor called on him and the little boy said, "I know that if you have a resurrection that lasts more than four hours you are supposed to call the doctor." It took over ten minutes for the congregation to settle down enough for the service to continue.

And even before we can take down all the festive lights and decorations, we find ourselves about ready to enter another important season. We are about to begin the season of Lent. This is the season of the church year that leads us into Easter. Advent reminds us of the birth of Jesus. Lent brings us to his death and resurrection. Advent is a steady ascent that leads to the glorious nativity. Lent is more of a roller coaster ride of emotions. During the season of Advent, we are preparing to receive. We look forward to the gift of the baby Jesus and gifts under a decorated tree. Advent means the candles keep getting lit, until finally on Christmas Eve the sanctuary is filled with candlelight. Typically in Lent, we extinguish candles until the room is dark. The season of Advent begins with a surprise—a virgin is pregnant! The astonishing bombshell in the season of Lent comes at the end of the story—a dead Jesus comes back to life! I truly love the season of Lent. You need to emotionally buckle up when we come to the last week of Lent. The ride gets a little wild: Death on a cross. Life from the tomb. Are you prepared for this amazing season of Lent? The season filled with ashes and sackcloth and repentance and tragedy. The season filled with shouts of Hallelujah and meals of remembrance and washing of feet and rejoicing. A season of death. A season of life. Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Welcome, my brothers and sisters—to the season of Lent.

Chapter 3 : Free Grace Baptist Church | The Resurrection of Christ “ Are you ready?

Pastor, Are YOU Ready for Resurrection? Epilogue: The Meaning of Faithfulness I continue to read and re-read Second Resurrection, and want to thank you for.

Every year when the calendar ticks over to April, my heart begins to wonder, to hope, to believe that this could be the year. This could be the year when my Tigers turn it around and avoid a complete collapse into irrelevance. This could be the year that it all just works. Yet, every year, without fail, I choose to believe that hope will win out. I will look at the picture and hope, because maybe, just maybe, this year, this clean slate of games, this fresh start of the standings reading , will be the year. [Click here to read the entire newsletter as a pdf file.](#) You can also browse our Newsletter Archive for older issues. In so many ways, the Easter season brings with it this same sense of light-hearted, certain hope. Days filled with reflection and repentance and sacrifice, new habits picked up, old habits laid down, and maybe you feel a bit tired, a bit weary, but boy oh boy does the Easter season come in and offer a jolt of joy and hope and light to our Lent-weary hearts. The promise that we are given in the resurrection, in the gift of eternal life, is the promise that we can always turn it around. Every day is opening day when it comes to the resurrection, because every day lived in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection is a day to live out our faith and our call to mission, service, and love. Living with the certainty that Christ is with us, that Christ has accomplished everything for us, that Christ has died and risen again for us, is a gift. Rather, Christ died so that we might live, in the fullest, realest sense of the word. When we say that we live because Christ died for us, it is a recognition that we are free to embrace every single moment of this life. We are free to love and serve and worship and dance and sing and run and watch baseball and hug and hold and BE. Christ died so that we might live this gift of life to its absolute fullest. That one thing that holds us back from living. That one thing that weighs on our hearts and makes things feel impossible. They follow behind us like the memories of that blown ninth-inning save, that bobbled ground ball, that strike-out, that thing that lost our team the season. But like I said, Easter is an awful lot like Opening Day. Those things from before? You can start fresh. You can start with a clean slate. The tomb is empty for you. Resurrection and real life are for you. So let the things of the past stay in the past, and step into Opening Day with a renewed, refreshed, free heart, ready to live. Ready to embrace this gift that Christ has given us.

Chapter 4 : Church of the Resurrection

Adam Hamilton. Reverend Adam Hamilton is the senior pastor of Church of the Resurrection and the author of 22 books. He has been married to LaVon since , and she has been a critical partner in every dimension of Adam's work.

Are you ready to welcome Jesus Christ? So am I ready? I want to be, but the demands of living in the day to day world overcome my enjoyment of the game. Are you ready to meet Jesus? No one knows - Not the angels, not the Son. A. There are many Scriptural references to angels and Jesus being in the very presence of God. If they cannot know the day or hour, how can we? This applies not just to the coming of Jesus, but to our own inevitable death 2. Denying any truth - our death, the sovereignty of God, etc does not change the truth. Normal life activities, oblivious to the truth of the warnings they were given. Sound advice - From the Savior A. Over your life first. Over the lives of others. We are called to share the truth with the world. Be ready - Plan of Salvation 1. Sin separates us from God 2. We cannot atone for it ourselves nothing we can do is worthy 3. God sent Jesus to atone for our sins 4. We must confess Jesus as our Savior and live for Him 6. We must seek forgiveness for our sins 7. Gnashing of teeth B. This is the second death. You cannot afford to ignore this warning! Story of WTC visit - A fable is told about 3 apprentice devils who were talking with Satan about their plans to destroy all of humanity. The first apprentice suggested that they would succeed, if they told people that there was no God. Satan rejected that suggestion, because he realized that most people know that there is a God and would not be convinced otherwise. The second apprentice suggested they could succeed by telling people that there is no hell. But Satan rejected that idea because he knew that too many people know that there is a hell. Then the third apprentice devil spoke up:

Chapter 5 : 30 Easter Sermon Preaching Ideas

Pastor Kareem Jackson Resurrection Church Kareem Jackson. The Process of Promise | Pastor Bianca Olthoff - Duration Pastor Gino Jennings - Are you ready to be persecuted in behalf of.

Aboderin, of Lagos, Nigeria. I also heard about this miracle from my friend Brent Regis, son-in-law of Reinhard Bonnke. Bonnke had been preaching at the church where Ekechukwu was resurrected a short time before it occurred. Some months after that, I also watched the video documentary of that miracle produced by Christ for all Nations, which focused primarily on the miracle of the resurrection. I wanted to learn more about the incident. Onitsha was about a three-hour drive from where our final conference would be held, in the eastern Nigerian city of Umahia. So I asked the pastors at that conference if any of them knew how we could find pastor Ekechukwu. One young man raised his hand and told me that he had a friend who had a friend who personally knew pastor Ekechukwu. However, we also learned that pastor Ekechukwu was very difficult to meet, as he is in great demand. We were also given the opportunity to meet him. So in a country of million people, and in a city of 12 million, the man I wanted to meet was lodging just five minutes away from me! It was either great coincidence or wonderful providence. I was given the favor of personally meeting with Daniel Ekechukwu twice during those three days and also talking with several people on his ministry staff who were very familiar with his story. The following report has been compiled from several sources: The events described in the following report are factual to the best of my knowledge and memory. I am persuaded that due to complications from an automobile accident, Nigerian pastor Daniel Ekechukwu physically died in the late evening of Friday, November 30th, , was dead for at least 42 hours, visited heaven and hell during the time of his physical death, and was raised from the dead between 3: Although some of what happened to pastor Ekechukwu is certainly extra-biblical, none of it is unbiblical. The Account On Thursday, November 29th, , Pastor Daniel Ekechukwu and his wife, Nneka, had a misunderstanding that degenerated into an argument that ended in her slapping him. He was very offended by this incident, to the point of not even acknowledging her attempt to reconcile the next morning. Pastor Daniel admitted that throughout the day of November 30th, he angrily thought about how he would put his wife in her place when he returned home. He would not, however, make it home that Friday. As he was driving home that evening, the brakes on his year old Mercedes E failed as he was heading down a steep hill, and his car crashed into a concrete pillar that was built to prevent cars from going over a steep embankment. He was not wearing a seat belt few Nigerians did in , but that changed in , when wearing a seat-belt become a national law , and his chest hit very forcibly against the steering wheel and its knob, apparently doing damage to his internal organs, as he was soon vomiting up blood and having difficulty breathing not to mention that he soon lost all signs of life. Daniel was not able to remove himself from his car, but frantic on-lookers pulled him out. One bystander volunteered her car while another bystander offered to drive him to St. Charles Borromeo Hospital, not far away on the outskirts of Onitsha. Within minutes of their arrival at the hospital, a doctor began administering emergency treatment, but Daniel knew his body was not responding to it. He began praying the prayer of a man who knows he is going to die, asking God to forgive him of all his sins so that he would be ready to stand before the Lord. He also sent for his wife, Nneka, with whom he had refused to speak when he left his home earlier that day. Upon seeing Daniel in critical condition when she arrived at St. The Umezuruike hospital was 80 km away. It was on the way to Umezuruike Hospital that Daniel died. Daniel was lying in the back of the ambulance while his wife was in the front passenger seat. He began to feel that he was not going to survive, and so he called for his wife to come to him. He began to say goodbye, give her instructions about certain church and personal documents, and admonished her to take care of their sons and his church. She began sobbing greatly and amidst her tears strongly rebuked him for such negative statements. He was a man of God and should have faith, and not be speaking of dying! As she was speaking, Daniel saw two large angels they were so large that he later wondered how they fit inside the ambulance—”one was as big as the ambulance who were completely white even the pupils of their eyes. Daniel tried to speak to the angels, but one held his finger to his lips, motioning for his silence. The angels lifted him on either side, and Daniel realized that there were now two of

himself. The angels were holding him under each arm of his spirit man which was perfectly whole, while his broken body was lying below. Once they left the ambulance, Daniel became oblivious to the natural world. A member of the medical staff, however, examined his body and sadly told Nneka that her husband was dead and there was nothing that could be done. Nneka refused to believe the bad report. So they drove to the Federal Medical Center in Owerri, but found no doctor there either. The doctor said that there was nothing he could do. A death certificate was issued at 1: The resident mortician, Mr. Darlington Manu, received the corpse and the family members departed. As he did this, he experienced a shock that pushed him away from the corpse. This did not surprise him, as he had experienced similar forces before and attributed them to occult powers. Such things are widely practiced in Africa and highly respected by all African pastors whom I know. Africans never understand the skepticism of Americans regarding the reality of occult power. After a second attempt and a second shock that somewhat paralyzed his right arm, he concluded that Daniel must have been a member of a powerful secret society. He assumed, however, that after some occult sacrifices and incantations the powers in the corpse would subside, and he could then complete his work. Incidentally, Daniel said that people could smell the embalming chemicals coming out of his body for two weeks after his resurrection. They would hug him and hold their noses. Saturday morning, the mortician, who lived very close to the mortuary, was disturbed by songs of worship coming from inside his mortuary, which stopped as soon as he approached the mortuary doorway. This completely unnerved him. He stated that he was not dead and that she should take him to Onitsha where German evangelist Reinhard Bonnke was preaching. She determined to do so, even though her family thought she was out of her mind. Daniel had been dead for more than 28 hours. The family finally yielded, but purchased a casket and brought funeral clothing for the mortician to dress Daniel. Rigor mortis had fully set in by this time. They arrived at the church around 1: The church grounds were being protected by swarms of federal, state and local security guards for the sake of Reinhard Bonnke, who has received many death threats, and who is hated by Muslims all over Africa. Not to mention the fact that the World Trade Center had been destroyed by Muslim hijackers just weeks before. For this reason, the security guards would not allow the casket to be brought onto church grounds, thinking it might actually contain explosives. By this time, Reinhard Bonnke had left the premises entirely. The attendant believers began praying fervently, and because his body was stiff and cold, they began massaging his neck, arms and legs. When those in the sanctuary got word that a dead man below was coming back to life, the basement room was soon jammed with people. Suddenly Daniel sneezed and arose with a jump. It was somewhere between 3: Daniel had died Friday night around He slowly became fully coherent over the next few hours. Do you doubt this account? A report on the web site of Christ for all Nations declares: For two days Daniel did not breathe, his heart had stopped beating. It was in a hot climate, not suspended animation in an ice chamber. He had been injected with a harsh chemical to keep back mortification. As a corpse he was carted around for hours, pulled about, and lay in an airless narrow coffin for hours. He should have had severe brain damage, but he is alive now without any ill effects. This is no unsupported claim of bringing someone to life privately, as in a house. Here was a public event, an open demonstration of revival from death. If anyone has to be named, it is Nneka. She regarded Reinhard Bonnke as a man of God and that in the atmosphere of faith where he ministered this miracle was possible. The faith of Nneka dictated the whole event and her faith was honored. Who honored her faith? If not God, who else? I would add to this defense that if the incident was a hoax, I doubt that pastor Ekechukwu would have invented the story of what happened to him when he was escorted to hell, which I will relate next. If his story is all a hoax, the result of this hoax is real holiness. Finally, the ministry of Reinhard Bonnke certainly needs no promotional hoax, as his Nigerian crusades are already attended by millions. As amazing as the story of his death and resurrection is, what Daniel experienced after his death is even more amazing. To him, what he experienced between his death and resurrection could have taken only fifteen minutes, even though he was physically dead for almost two days. After he was lifted from his body by the two angels in the ambulance, he soon found himself momentarily alone, but was soon joined by a different angel. Daniel stated that if he was confused about something that he saw or experienced, or if he had a question in his mind, this angel immediately gave him the answer. This angel first told him that they were going to Paradise. There was no

time expended in getting anywhere the angel took him.

Chapter 6 : Bible Fellowship Church " Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario " Are You Ready for the Resurrection

You might want to get ready for this. God all their lives need reminding of the importance of the resurrection of Jesus sometimes. no longer a pastor, and.

The Psalms reveal hearts poured out in inspired song Big Idea: Why are we focusing on the death of Jesus? Yes, but there is no resurrection without a death. There is no Easter without a Good Friday. They so vividly describe the pain and suffering of Jesus—and apparently David, too. Although some churches have an Easter sunrise service, on the first Resurrection Sunday morning, there were no Easter parades, bonnets, or celebrations. After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. First, they watched their hope of a savior die mercilessly on a cross without even a hint of resistance. Then someone stole the body from the tomb? We cannot begin to imagine the despair, the sorrow, the pain. David, who penned Psalm 22 which opened our gathering, was a real, historical figure with real emotions. Likewise, the first followers of Jesus felt despair, sorrow, and pain at the beginning of the first Resurrection Sunday. It was yet another day to remember the loss of the One they hoped would overthrow the Roman Empire and save them. It was another hopeless morning of shattered dreams. It was another reminder of the horrors of watching their leader suffer and die, butchered and hung up for all to see, naked and tortured. Whether you are a member here or a first-time guest at First Alliance Church, I know one thing about you: Like King David—and Jesus—perhaps you have felt forsaken by God. You wonder if there is any reason for hope in the midst of your mess. There can be no resurrection without a death—no Easter without a Good Friday. So before our party begins, we pause to remember the death of Jesus, the mourning that occurred both on Friday and Sunday morning. King Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes: There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: If you are a follower of Jesus, we invite you to eat and drink with us in remembrance of Christ. Communion There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. From darkness to light. From despair to hope. From death to resurrection. I know in a group this size many of you are experiencing pain and suffering. Maybe this is your first Easter without a loved one. Some of you are in a financial mess with tax day around the corner. Still others are experiencing relational challenges. Jesus gets it, too. Nobody knows pain like Jesus. I believe one of the greatest obstacles to people trusting God is simply understanding how a good God could allow pain and suffering. One of his best friends denied even knowing him three times. Another friend betrayed him, selling him out for thirty pieces of silver. A crown of thorns shoved into his skull. And that was just the beginning. Crucifixion was the most horrific torture known in the Roman world. Even worse than the emotional and physical pain, Jesus bore our sins. He suffered the greatest of all spiritual anguish. This is God, choosing to die—not because you and I are good, but because we are sinners in need of a Savior. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. They may live in heaven or paradise or someplace removed from earth. Our faith teaches that God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. The writer of the book of Hebrews tells us we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. He spent 33 years on our planet experiencing every emotion we experience. And He knows pain. God is with us in the midst of pain. He has His reasons, and often we just need to wait to understand them. We can trust God in all circumstances because He is the Sovereign Lord of all, which leads to my third point: Your story is not over. One of the distinctions between Catholic Christians and Protestant Christians is Catholics often show Jesus on the cross, the crucifix. Most Protestant crosses are empty, reminding us that He is no longer dead. Our symbol should be an empty tomb, but that would be a strange thing to wear around your neck, I suppose! But today we celebrate because Jesus did not stay in the grave. The story did end on

Friday—and your story is not over, either. One of the greatest elements of the death and resurrection of Jesus is redemption. Redemption is clearing a debt. It means being saved from sin, error, or evil. Christ is our redeemer. He bought our freedom—from sin and death. Jesus died, and because Jesus died He invites you into a relationship with your Creator. Because Jesus died, He invites you to repent—turn from your sins and pride and selfish living—and following Him. Let go and let God. Because Jesus is alive, He invites you to experience life that way it was designed to be lived, a life filled with love, peace, joy, and hope. And make no mistake—Jesus is alive! If Jesus is dead, I have no hope. The Bible says And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins. In that case, all who have died believing in Christ are lost! And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world. But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died. Some people believe Jesus is still dead. If He is still dead, I have to pay for my sins. But nobody ever survived a crucifixion, and hundreds saw Jesus after He died and was resurrected. They talked with Jesus. They ate with Jesus. They wrote about Jesus. They gave their lives for Jesus, refusing to deny the resurrection. Jesus wants to be your friend. Jesus wants to be your king. Jesus wants to be your God. Jesus flipped religion upside down. He did the heavy lifting. He died so you can live. Our faith is not about works, but rather faith, taking a step of faith and trusting Jesus to be the leader of your life, to be LORD. I want you to have a great life now, and great life after you die. He will guide you, be your friend, forgive you of all you have done wrong, and give you peace—and love. I know some of you are experiencing deep pain, loss, and trials. Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ. Good Friday was agonizing for Jesus but good for us.

Chapter 7 : Resurrection | Pastor Joe McKeever

Are you ready? I assumed he meant ready for Jesus to come back, I thought yes Lord I've been washed in the blood of Jesus, and my confidence rests in the finished work of Jesus Christ and his crucifixion, death, burial and resurrection.

And recently a Christian woman arrested and jailed because she would not issue a marriage license to a gay couple. I heard the Holy Spirit say to me Are you ready? But I sensed that he was speaking of something more than just knowing I was saved. I heard it again are you ready? He was asking me are you pre-pared for immediate action or use? Are you mentally, spiritually, and emotionally, and even physically prepared for what is coming? Then a scripture came to my mind Luke 1: This scripture was speaking of John the Baptists ministry as a forerunner of Jesus. Getting people ready to receive the ministry of Jesus. In other words preparing them to be in a mental, emotional, and spiritual disposition so that when Jesus came in his ministry in the power of the Holy Spirit, the people could be benefited by it, instead of overwhelmed or destroyed by it. Change your way of thinking, of speaking, of living, put away your sinful lives. And again the Holy Spirit said to me are you ready? I said Lord could you be a little more specific with me, and he said: Ready for what Lord? But I also have to ask myself this question: The right and authority to use his name? The nine gifts of the Spirit? Jesus said it was to make us salt and light. Ready for the shaking. When it comes to my responsibility as a watchman all I can do is pray and see hear and obey.

Chapter 8 : Resurrection Church, Bakersfield, CA

A World Without the Resurrection; Are You Ready for the Resurrection? Post a comment. Speakers. Bands (1) Guest Speaker (3) Pastor Craig Buckner () Pastor.

Chapter 9 : Resurrection | Pastor Kirk

Easter is coming again soon. Are you ready? Every year pastors have the duty to come up with yet another great Easter sermon. But after years of preaching the same message, you can start to feel like a broken record. The Easter message should be the same every year. You should preach the Good News.