



**Julie Mann**  
**IOWAY Director / Disaster Response Coordinator**  
[julie@iowadistrictwest.org](mailto:julie@iowadistrictwest.org)  
**515-408-9696**

We are heading toward Easter – He IS Risen, He IS Risen indeed! The season of Lent is a wonderful time for reflection. It’s so amazing to celebrate the fact that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ did NOT stay in that tomb! And not only do we celebrate that during one Sunday in the church year, but we can celebrate it every day of our lives.

One of my favorite readings about this eternal life altering event is found in the gospel of Luke in chapter 24. The ladies, Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, along with some other ladies, were going to the tomb to take care of the customary rituals. Upon arrival, just as many of us would be, they were concerned that the stone had been moved then scared and startled to find two men, who we know were angels, telling them “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!” (vs 5-6) and then they had to remind the women that Jesus had told them this was going to happen.

Sorry to say, but once they ran home to share the fabulous news, the guys didn’t believe them, so Peter went to check it out for himself. (vs 12) “Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.” We know! He IS Risen!

My husband, Dave, and I have been very blessed to have been raised in Christian homes and LCMS congregations. Growing up, we celebrated Easter with fine fanfare, and usually some spiffy new outfits. And, of course, we have continued to teach our children the truth about salvation and how it is attained – only in the faith that Christ died for our sins, fought against Satan and the power of death, and walked out of that tomb victorious!

So, I’m celebrating this Easter season with you, and I hope you enjoy sharing the Good News with your family and friends. And, in case you need some inspiration, here are a few family pics, with permission granted.



Hubby Dave



Me in Papua New Guinea



oldest daughter, Hannah, and my niece, Sarah, in 2000