



# CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES OF SOUTHERN NEBRASKA

## Hope in the Good Life

April 2020

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ/Wendy Merlin

### The courage to live in Him

*“Do not be afraid. Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”*

These words from Matthew Chapter 28 are the very first words we hear from Jesus in the Gospel on Easter Monday. The very first words!!! Jesus just rose from the dead. He just defeated sin, darkness, anxiety, and death. The very first words He chooses to speak give us great hope and joy...

...*“Do not be afraid!!!!”* The Resurrection of Jesus calls us to live in the hope and joy of the Resurrection. No longer do we have to be afraid. He lives in us and we are called to live in

Him in the Sacraments of the Catholic Church. What a beautiful gift.....may we all pray for the grace to allow Him to fully live in us this Easter season!!!

A dynamic woman who shares the love of Christ with those around her is Wendy Merlin. Wendy is a parishioner of the Cathedral of the Risen Christ in Lincoln. She teaches English as a second language classes for those CSS helps. Wendy is a woman of courage, conviction and charity. She does not

live in fear. She shares the blessings God has given her with those around her. She thinks of others and obtains great joy by volunteering with CSS. We are grateful for her.

Wendy gets the opportunity to be Christ to those who are abandoned. She helps them. She forms beautiful relationships with the students she helps. Christ came into this world abandoned and forsaken. He died on the Cross abandoned and forsaken. Wendy takes the time God has given her on this earth to reach out to those who at times are abandoned and forsaken. She reaches out to Christ in His poor and she helps spread Hope in the Good Life. She follows those words spoken by Jesus as a commandment.....*“Do not be afraid!”* We thank Wendy for being an apostle of goodness and courage as she shares Christ’s life with others.

As we continue on our faith journeys may we know we are all called to be Christ to His people. May we live greatly, boldly, and lovingly. As Pope

*(Continued on back page)*



The ESL classroom at our St. Joseph Center



**In one year,  
36  
vehicles  
were  
given away  
statewide to  
people who  
had no  
form of  
transportation**

#HopeintheGoodLife



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## #HopeintheGoodLife

### *The courage to live in Him (Continued)*

Benedict XVI prayed at Easter Vigil in 2017:

*Lord, show us that love is stronger than hatred, that love is stronger than death. Descend into the darkness and the abyss of our modern age, and take by the hand those who await you. Bring them to the light! In my own dark nights, be with me to bring me forth! Help me, help all of us, to descend with you into the darkness of all those people who are still waiting for you, who out of the depths cry unto you! Help us to bring them your light! Help us to say the "yes" of love, the love that makes us descend with you and, in so doing, also to rise with you. Amen!*

Thank you for your prayers and support of Catholic Social Services of Southern Nebraska. Thank you for your faith in Jesus Christ. May God bless us always!

### Two days, two great ways to bring Hope!

We will again be taking part in Give Hastings Day on May 7th, and Give To Lincoln Day on May 28th. Keep watching our Facebook page and website at [www.cssisus.org](http://www.cssisus.org) for details on both events.



### COVID-19 Relief Efforts

## Striving to meet the need

Due to the affect of COVID-19, so much has changed in how we live our lives each day. At Catholic Social Services of Southern Nebraska, we've modified how we provide services. From drive-up food distribution sites, to pre-packing groceries for pick-up or delivery to the homebound elderly, to offering telehealth counseling services, we strive to meet the needs of those impacted by COVID-19. And that need grows more each day. We see requests daily at our Auburn, Hastings, Imperial and Lincoln offices for help with rent and utilities from people who have lost their jobs. We offer telehealth services for those dealing with anxiety and loneliness. Also, we continue to protect women and children from domestic abuse at St. Gianna Women's Homes. The need is great. **Please help us with your prayers and support.** You may send your donation to us in the enclosed envelope, or donate online at [www.cssisus.org](http://www.cssisus.org) as we strive to bring Hope in the Good Life during this pandemic. God bless you!