## Dear Friends,

I trust you had a beautiful day celebrating the most significant event in history, the resurrection of Jesus Christ! I love going to church, but I especially love going on Easter, as so many people come with heightened expectations, recognizing that we are celebrating such an important historical event.

It is likely that you or a friend of yours has asked the question, "Is the Christian message of salvation real?" To question the story is not uncommon. We can be confident, however, that it is more than a fairy tale; the facts tell us it is the most significant true event in history. We can base the facts of Christ's story on two sources of evidence: the written manuscripts and archeology. The message of the Bible is that salvation is found in no other person but Jesus Christ. This information primarily comes from the four gospels written by key people who followed his life, death, and resurrection: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. There are nearly 6,000 manuscripts that have helped us reconstruct the original text, and they all tell the same story.

There are also thousands of archeological discoveries from both the Old and New Testament that validate the Bible's historical accuracy, veracity, and reliability. If you ever get a chance to travel to Israel, I encourage you to make the journey. Seeing the original sites of the Bible and learning about the archeological evidence of the Scriptures will open your eyes to the truth of the story that you have heard for many years.

Lord, thank you for sending your son Jesus as a sin offering to cover the mistakes that we make. Some people don't believe in you and many take your generous love for granted. I am so grateful today that you love us no matter what we believe or what we do. We can't earn your love, and we don't deserve it, but you demonstrate what real love looks like by giving it to us without conditions. We celebrate your love this Easter season. Amen.

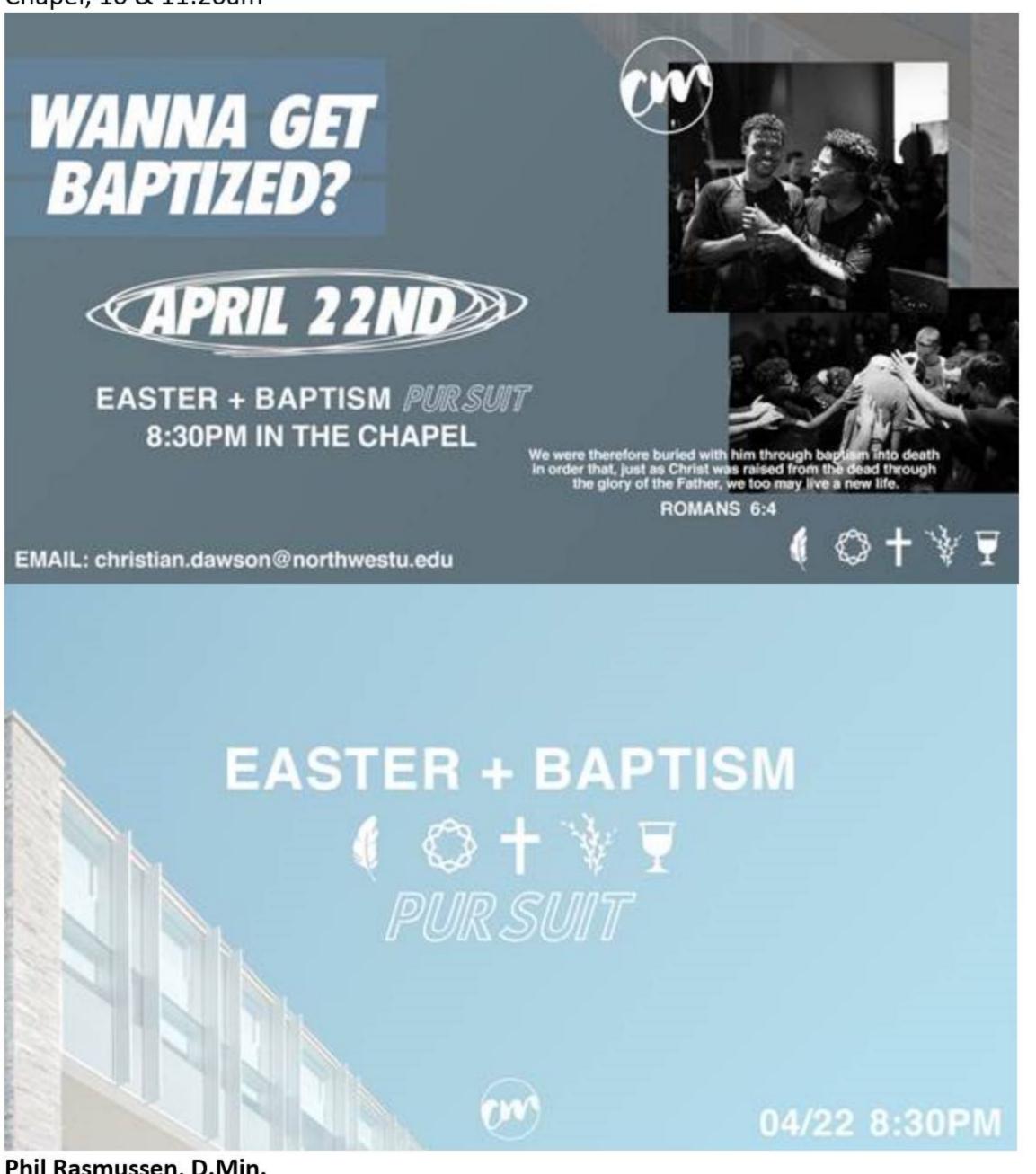
## **COMING UP THIS WEEK**

Mon, April 22 | Liturgical Rhythms: Chrystal Helmcke | Butterfield Chapel, 10am & 11:20am

Mon, April 22 | Easter & Baptism Pursuit | Butterfield Chapel, 8:30pm

Wed, April 24 | Senior Speakers: CAS - Riley Sine & COB - Joshua Hecox | Butterfield Chapel, 10 & 11:20am

Fri, April 26 | Senior Speakers: COE - Mary Friend & COM - Destiny Kennedy | Butterfield Chapel, 10 & 11:20am



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Money Magazine Top 20 Most Affordable Private Colleges

