



The

Sanctuary

You are God's Temple

...God's Spirit Lives in You. 1 Cor. 3:15

BLESSED SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH + 1205 NORTH LINCOLN AVE. + O'FALLON, IL 62269 + 618=632-0126 + WWW.MYBSLC.ORG

Upcoming Events April 2021

Thur. Apr. 1
Maundy Thursday
Worship 7 pm
Fri. Apr. 2
Good Friday
Worship 7 pm
Sat. Apr 3
Easter Egg Hunt 10
Sun. Apr 4
Easter Worship 930
Mon. Apr 5
Church Office Closed
Support Group 7 pm
Tues. Apr 6
Quilting 10-3pm
Election Day
Polling Place 6am-7pm
Wed. Apr 7, 14, 21, 28
Ladies Bible Study 10
Sun. April 11, 18
Worship 930 am
Adult Bible Study
via Zoom 11
Mon. Apr 12
Support Group 7
Elders Mtg 7
Tues. Apr 13
Church Council 7pm
Mon. Apr 19 & 26
Support Group 7 pm
Tues. Apr 20
Christian Ed Mtg 7 ??
Sun. Apr 25
Worship 930
No Bible Study
Voters Mtg
Via Zoom 11:15 am
Tues. Apr 27
Evangelism Mtg
7 pm??

**Happy
Easter
He is Risen,
He is Risen indeed!**

Lenten & Easter Worship Schedule

Palm Sunday, March 28, 2021

Worship 9:30

Maundy Thursday, April 1

Worship—7 p.m.

Good Friday, April 2

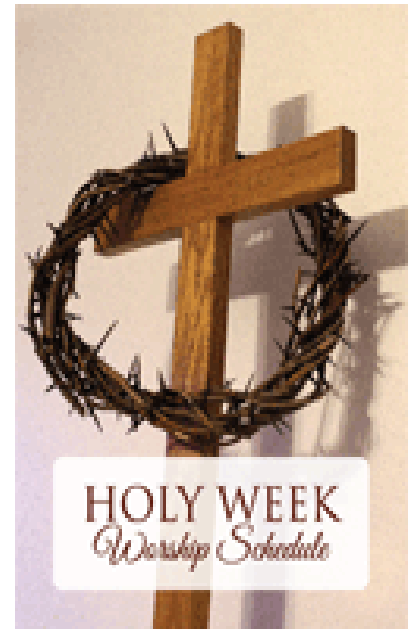
Worship - 7 p.m.

Easter Egg Hunt—Saturday, April 3

Easter Egg Hunt—10 am

Easter Sunday, April 4

Easter Communion Celebration 9:30 am



Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 3

10:00 a.m.

All outside and Covid-19 friendly!

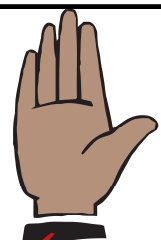
Read more inside!

Semi Annual Voters Meeting

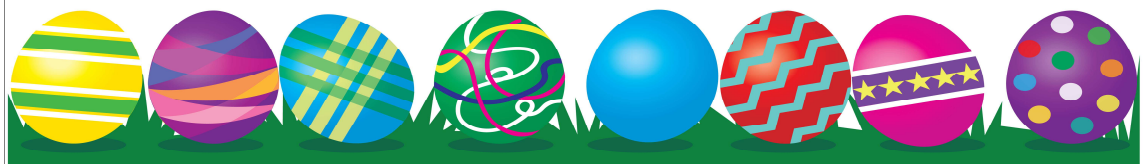
Sunday, April 25

11:15 via Zoom

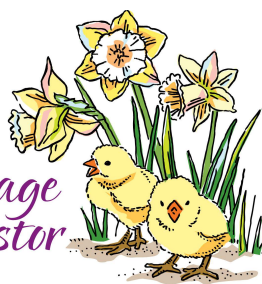
Election of officers will be held.



**VOTERS
MEETING**



Easter Message From the Pastor



I was first confronted by death when I was 5 years old. My Mom and Dad, Uncle Arnold and I left our home in San Diego for a long drive to South Dakota for the funeral of my Dad's father. The one thing I remember about Grampa's funeral was the reaction of one of my cousins who grew up near the farm. There was obviously a strong bond between them. My cousin was probably 10 or 11 years old and he was devastated. I was surprised because Norwegians tend to be rather stoic and unemotional when it comes to most things in life and in death. My cousin was the only person I could remember grieving openly and painfully.

From that time through my adolescent years, death continued to make a few appearances. I experienced the death of a few cats and dogs, but I had little emotional attachment to them. But then there was this baby squirrel which I picked up from the side of the road after nearly running over it. When I approached it on my bike and it didn't move, I knew something was wrong. So I did what any compassionate kid would do; I brought him home to see if I could bring him back to health.

My dad made a make-shift cage that wasn't very secure. My little buddy stayed in the cage in my bedroom during his short stay. I remember waking up one morning only to find the baby squirrel cuddled up in a tiny ball underneath my chin. My affection for this little guy grew stronger day by day.

But how do you care for and feed a possibly sick baby squirrel? Unfortunately, we didn't have Google then, so we guessed how to best take care of him. My Dad, a chemist by vocation and practicing pharmacologist in our home, came up with a formula of milk and honey. While the little critter seemed to be improving, sadly, after about a week I found my bushy tailed friend lying dead in the cage. For the first time in my young life I remember feeling like my cousin did when Grampa died. "Little Buddy" was gone and there wasn't a thing I could do about it.

As death continued its relentless attacks on people closer and closer to me, the more I realized that death is an enemy bent on destroying every living thing God had created. In my experience death never lost a war. I guess that's why Easter has had an ever-growing significance and influence in my life. The Good News of Easter is that Christ came into our world and fought death to the end and arose victorious.

In 1 Corinthians, Paul affirms that Christ will reign until He has put all enemies under His feet, and the last of those enemies will be death (15:25–26). Only God could do something about death and He did!

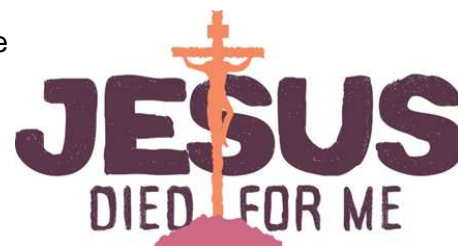
Death did its worst to Jesus on the day of His crucifixion crushing the spirits of all who knew and loved him. But on the third day God did the miraculous. He didn't merely revive Jesus. He resurrected Him from the dead! And there's a difference between the two. Reviving Jesus would be simply cheating death for a short period; resurrecting Jesus would be defeating death, once and for all time. Jesus emerged as the power of eternal life itself. And more, He holds open the door into abundant life for all of us. A life that even death cannot extinguish! A life that is available to all of us!

His resurrected life was transforming for all who put their trust in Him. It changed a fisherman into a preacher of Good News. "Mourning was turned into dancing" for all the people of God. And their message was, that beyond the cold, hard facts of death that threaten to bind our hearts in everlasting grief-work is the risen Jesus waiting to love, forgive and transform us as he did for Peter and the other disciples.

This has been an extraordinary year for us all. Death has reared its ugly head in a demonstrable way which has so many people living in fear and dread. Many are understandably mourning the loss of loved ones to the Coronavirus. Grief is not wrong, but we are a people who grieve differently. Jesus showed us that "death has been swallowed up in victory." If this is true, and we believe it is... we will not be overcome by grief. Christ can turn our mourning into dancing... and our grief into pure joy.

This is the season of Easter! Let us allow the power of Christ's resurrection to bring us comfort in our grief. And may Christ's victory over death cause us to cuddle up close to our compassionate Redeemer whose glorious cross and resurrection has picked us up from the road that leads to death and provided us with a holy cure and an eternal home with God, our Father, who "shall wipe away all tears from [our] eyes, and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away" (Rev. 4:12).

This is the gospel now and forever. Christ is risen. Alleluia. Pastor Vern





Chairman Chat

What is that saying “April showers brings May flowers”?? Well, with all the rain and start of the Spring weather we have had lately, the flowers will come early and the grass will be growing like crazy, along with the weeds.

It definitely has been some really unusual and trying times during the last year, and I and the Church Council and Pastors want to THANK all the members for their continued support of the church during this pandemic time.

The Strategic Committee (composed of church members representing all different age groups) has been meeting on a regular basis in order to help determine the long term goals (1, 3, 5, and 10 years) of the church. All recommendations, ideas, and goals will be presented to the Church Council and then integrated into the Church's annual goals.

Speaking of church's goal for 2021, these goals are being re-fined by the church council and are expected to be presented to the congregation during the April Voter's Meeting to be held on Sunday, April 25th via zoom at 11:15 a.m. The church needs every church member to stand behind the goals and help out in reaching them.

Also at the Voter's Meeting, we will also be presenting the Council officers who are up for re-election in 2021 as well as formally electing the officers that were up for re-election in 2020.

Remember to continue checking the BSLC website (www.mybslc.org) and Facebook page for church events, especially worship services. We will continue to livestream on Facebook the Sunday church service at 9:30 am every Sunday morning and other services occurring during the week. Of course, the Sunday worship services and other services are available for replay at any time.

If you have any questions/concerns about the church, please contact your Elder, Vice-Chairman Dave Zeigler or myself. Do NOT bring these questions/concerns to the Pastors or Nancy, unless they are concerning the worship services or staff duties.

Hopefully, everyone is taking advantage of getting the COVID-19 vaccine when they are available and able. It is better to be safe. A little pain for a few days is better than spending time in the hospital recovering from the COVID-19 virus.

I am looking forward to start seeing everyone on Sunday and at other church events once ALL the pandemic restrictions have been lifted.

Please enjoy the warmer spring weather and a great April!!!

In God's Name,

Curtis Kuppler, BSLC Congregational Chairman



Easter Egg Hunt 2021

Yes, there will be an Easter Egg Hunt!! Because of Covid-19 it will be a little different than in the past. The kids (walking through grade 6) will gather in front of the church. Pastor Matthew will do an Easter story and possibly a game while the eggs are being hid. After the hunt the kids will receive a take home craft to do. Bring your kids, and baskets for this fun annual event. Kids 6 and under and parents should wear a mask.

Because of Covid, everything will be outdoors. The Christian Education committee is providing the candy. Donations are due by Sunday, March 28. The Committee will stuff the eggs on the evening of Wednesday, March 31. For the safety of all, those hiding the eggs will wear gloves.

Associate Pastors

Easter Message



Eyes on the Horizon

A year has passed. As I sit here writing this I think back about last Easter, and I realize that much has changed and little has changed. Last year there was confusion over what to do moving forward in a COVID world. How to do church, how to

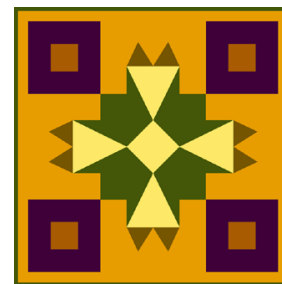
handle summer events, and so many other things. Today we are still in that COVID world praying that each day brings us closer to a post-COVID world, but we are here asking the same questions: how to do church, how to handle summer events, and questions on the future of Blessed Savior Lutheran Church.

It can be so easy for our minds and eyes to wander around and see how things are progressing in the world, and so judge and base our own decisions on them. Looking at COVID numbers, the rise and fall, looking at the numbers of people in pews, numbers of money in the bank account, our eyes can wander on them. They linger on them, and soon our hearts and minds are consumed by them. And with them comes the all-consuming anxiety, the all-consuming doubt, and even the dread question and reality of moving forward. Can we go back to the way it was before, we think. What do we do to move forward, and what can we do in the face of these declining, growing, shrinking, and expanding numbers?

I look now at the Holy Week of Jesus. I remember last year that it gave me hope, that no matter how dark the day, no matter what happened during that week, though the trials and pain were real and felt, joy and life comes on Easter Sunday. This still brings me great hope and confidence. Today though I look at Jesus at the beginning of Holy Week, seeing Him in my mind's eye looking at the great city of Jerusalem. I see the crowds looking at Him riding on a donkey. I hear the crowds shout, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!" I even join in on their cries, but I remember where Jesus eyes are. They are looking forward, looking toward a cross, to the promises about to be fulfilled. The promises of suffering, death, life, and salvation promised by God from the beginning of time itself. I see Jesus looking forward, eyes never wavering. He has come to set the world free from sin, to die upon a cross, and to bring about the kingdom of God, which is new life in Him.

I pray that my heart and eyes are set upon Jesus. That my eyes do not wander to the things of this world, the troubles and anxieties that would distract from God. I pray that my eyes are always and at all times firmly set upon the cross of Christ, where hope and life flow down mingled in His most precious blood and sacrifice. I pray that my eyes are firmly fixed upon Christ, to the work that He has given me to do in this world, despite my own fears and anxieties. I pray that your eyes remain fixed solely on Him as well, so that at all times and all places we can look upon our Savior and find calm for our anxious hearts and minds; to find the peace that passes all understanding through His death and resurrection.

Amen. Pastor Matthew



Join the Lutheran World Relief QUILTERS on **Tuesday, April 6, Tuesday, May 4, and Tuesday June 1** from 10:00 - 3:00 to tie quilts. (We don't actually quilt by hand. Instead we secure the layers by hand tying them.) Bring your lunch and join us for a time of good ole fellowship. Stay the entire time or as long as your schedule permits. Hope to see you there! Mark your calendar for the 1st Tuesday of each month. If you have any fabric pieces, thin blankets, curtains, drapes, sheets, etc you no longer need, the quilters would love to recycle them into quilts.





EVANGELISM

Just as we have been burdened with the difficulties of this current pandemic, we also have been reflecting on the burdens that our Savior has endured throughout the Lenten season. Life is not easy! The time has arrived when we can now celebrate the hope of eternal life for all who believe in Christ. He has carried the burden for us.

Are there people you know who are quite concerned about their future, who have given up, or don't know where to turn? This is a special opportunity for you to share our Lord's message of hope, truth, and love. Are you seeking a helpful resource to refer to for assistance? The Lutheran Hour Ministry provides a Christ-centered booklet ministry

program called "Project Connect". They are written by Christian professionals to provide excellent guidance. There are currently 85 different titles available. These "handy tools" include such topics as -

- Where is God in the midst of suffering?
- Has God abandoned me?
- How can people deal with illness, death, divorce...?
- How can I build a better relationship with my family?
- What are some key ways to manage my life?

Check the Project Connect tract display board on the wall outside Pastor Vern's office door or on the revolving display rack in the basement. Feel free to **help yourself**. Our goal is to make these resources available to anyone who you know that is struggling or would benefit from these.

Thoughtfulness, kindness, and a caring attitude
can go a long way in your personal witness.



Cultivating Kindness

Kind hearts are the gardens.

Kind thoughts are the roots.

Kind words are the flowers.

Kind deeds are the fruits.

Take care of your garden
and keep out the weeds.
Fill it with sunshine,
kind words and kind
deeds.

Special Thank YOU! To those who have assisted our Lenten Series "By My Hands - For His Sake" with their Dramatic Readings.

Christie Poteet - Eve - Ash Wednesday

Pastor Matt - Nicodemus - Lent Midweek 1

Nathan Nelson - Judas - Lent Midweek 2

Pastor Vern - Barabbas - Lent Midweek 3

Dave Reynolds - Pilate - Lent Midweek 4

Gus Williams - The Thief's Father - Lent Midweek 5

R.J. Kinsella - Peter - Maundy Thursday (Apr 1)

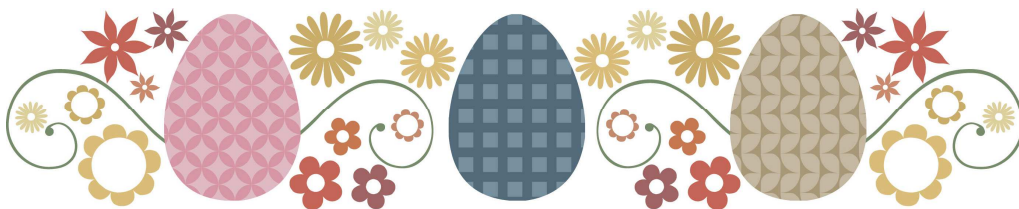
Brian Lloyd - The Centurion - Good Friday (Apr 2)

Marty Lintvedt - Mary Magdalene - Easter Sunday (Apr 4)

Anticipating Life's Waves

Joni Eareckson Tada, who was paralyzed after a diving accident, described swimming in the ocean as a child. Because the waves looked so high, her first inclination was to swim away from them. That, however, just left her tossed about and sometimes held underwater. "The best thing," she discovered, "was to swim fast *toward* [the waves] and dive *under* them before they had a chance to break on top of you."

That's true with life's "waves of crisis or difficulty" too, says Tada. "The best way to beat those waves of trials and tough challenges is to *face* them. Head-on. Almost anticipating them. Sometimes I find myself literally diving into the middle of a problem before it has a chance to crash on top of me." When problems are about to break on top of you, what helps you face them and stand your ground? —adapted from *The Wired Word*



7— Samantha Poteet
 8 – Kevin Schmidt
 9 – Jordan Colvin, Diane Chalberg
 11—Ann Lundeby, Savannah Boggs
 13- Brianna Berens, Leah Geis,
 14 Callie Gorney
 16 – Matthew Vohlken
 17 – Pat Dalton, Lyndsay Sherman
 18—Bailey Grant
 19 – Michael Sullivan, Austin Graf
 21 – Ashley Vosholler
 23 – Kristen Lintvedt
 25—Zachary Kinsella, Harlan Feary
 26 – Diana Brandmeyer
 26 - Carie Boulanger
 Belated Birthday wishes to
 Harry Russell March 13th



We are sorry if your birthday or anniversary has been overlooked. Please call the church office, 632-0126 or email Nancy at nancy@mybslc.org so we may add your name to our list. Thanks for your help.



2- Dale & Carol Schutte
 7 – Ralph & Karen Olson
 17—Emily & Gogo Sanchez
 19 – Rich & Linda Williams
 21– Emily & Luis Garcia
 27—Dennis & Donna Brockmeyer

Congratulations to our
 2021 Confirmands!

Zora Boggs
 and Cora Hill

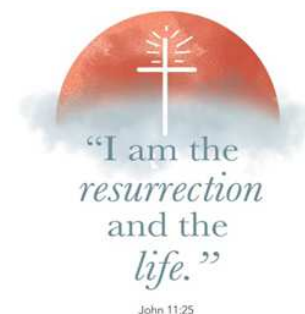


Easter Around the World

Easter traditions are important, but they vary widely. While Americans dye hard-boiled eggs, Kenyans carve soapstone eggs and present them as gifts in banana-fiber boxes. In Bermuda, locals fly homemade kites on Good Friday — a tradition that began when a teacher illustrated Christ's ascension to heaven using a cross-shaped kite.

Ethiopian Christians observe a 56-day fast from meat and all animal products. On Easter, they dress in white to worship in churches decorated with hand-made fabric. Then they feast with non-Christians on roast chicken, goat and rice.

In France, church bells are silent between Holy Thursday and Easter to observe Jesus' Passion. According to legend, the bells grow wings and fly to Rome to be blessed, returning on Easter with chocolate and presents. In one town's main square, chefs make a giant omelet with 4,500 eggs to feed 1,000 people!



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry



Our Father in heaven sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. His atoning sacrifice is the first fruits of all the dead, a pleasing aroma to His Father, so that His perfect life and death count for all who believe in Him. He claimed us as His own children in Holy Baptism. He sustains and strengthens our faith with His Holy Word and His Body and Blood.

As new creatures, who have put on Christ, we bear good fruit. We do the good works prepared for us, which He makes known to us in His Word. By faith then, trusting in the Word of God, we do what he says because He does not lie and always keeps His promises. For “without faith it is impossible to please God, because any-

one who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him” (Heb. 11:6).

And so the Lord promises: “Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine” (Prov. 3:9-10). How do we honor the Lord with the wealth that God has given us in His generosity? By giving generously to those whom the Lord has called us to love and support your family, your society, and your church. And His promise is that, in so doing, you will never lack.

A common counterpoint is: “But that’s from the Old Testament!” Our Lord Jesus Himself gives us similar promises in the New Testament. He says, at the conclusion of the parable of the talents: “For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance” (Matt. 25:29).

And then at the end of the parable of the dishonest manager, he says: “One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another’s, who will give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money” (Luke 16:10–13).

And in His sermon on the mount, he says: “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matt. 6:19–21).

We have become conditioned against these promises because of their misuse by the peddlers of the prosperity gospel – the guys on TV who say you get rich by putting God in your debt. And thus, we miss out on the fact that God does reward temporal faithfulness in temporal matters with temporal blessings. It’s no quid pro quo. It’s all from God’s grace and His fatherly divine goodness and mercy. But those Bible passages do in fact say what they say! It’s not the Old Testament’s problem. It’s ours. It is almost as if we have become so jaded against this that we think it a virtue to be stingy with our offerings.

But our Father in heaven still loves to bless those who bless others. He loves to give to those who give freely and generously. In fact, he challenges us to challenge Him: “Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need” (Mal. 3:10).

And so, while we don’t give so that we would get, we do receive from the Lord in order to give, and He will bless your giving with more receiving. As St. Paul wrote in Rom. 8:32: “He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?”

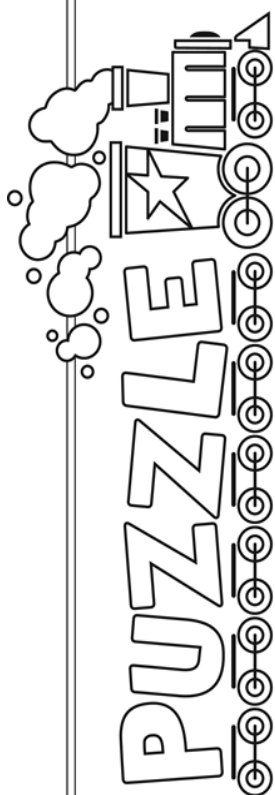
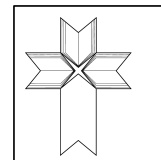
*For to all those
who have, more
will be given,
and they will
have an
abundance.*

Matthew 25:29, NRSV





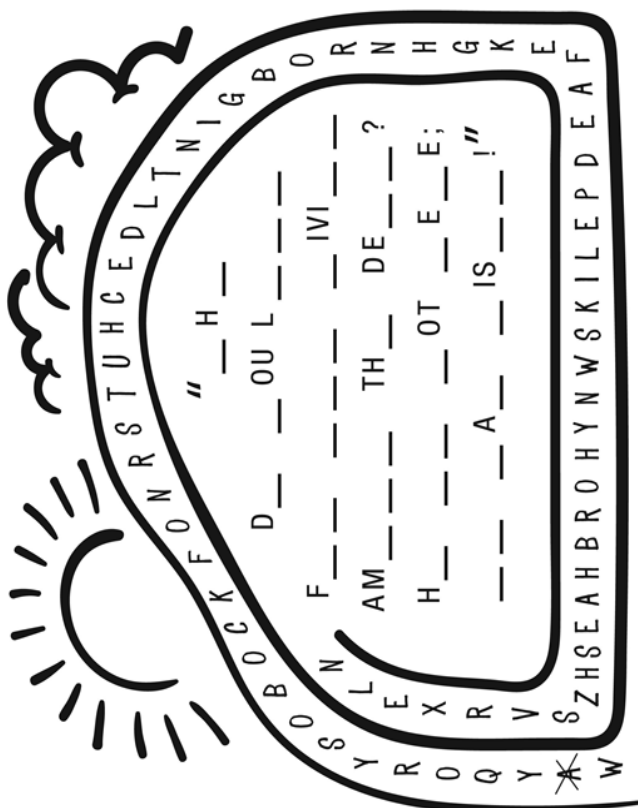
The Sanctuary
Blessed Savior Lutheran Church
1205 North Lincoln Ave.
O'Fallon, IL 62269



EASTER MORNING message

Early Sunday morning, some women who followed Jesus encountered a great surprise. Solve the puzzle to see what the angels told them.

Directions: Cross out every other letter in the maze. Write the remaining letters in order to complete Luke 24:5-6, NIV.



LUKE 24:5-6, NIV

Answer: "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!" Luke 24:5-6, NIV