



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 2022

Sat. Apr 2

Ellen Schutte Wm Boswell

Wedding 4 pm

Sun Apr 3, 10

Worship 930

Sun School 1045

Mon. Apr 4

Elders Mtg 7

Support Group 7

Tues. Apr 5

Quilting 930-12

Wed. Apr 6

Ladies Bible Study 10

Lenten Dinner 6

Lenten Worship 7

Adult Choir 745

Mon. Apr 11, 18, 25

Support Group 7

Tues. Apr 12

Church Council 7 pm

Wed Apr 13

Adult Choir 7

Thur Apr 14

Maundy Thursday

Worship 7 pm

Fri. Apr 15

Good Friday

Worship 7 pm

Sat. Apr 16

Puppet Show

& Easter Egg Hunt 10

Sun. Apr 17

Easter Sunday

Sunrise Worship 630

Easter Breakfast 745

Communion Worship 930

Wed. Apr 20, 27

Ladies Bible Study 10

Thurs. Apr 21

Fellowship Committee 430

Bunco 6 pm

Sun Apr 24

Annual Voters Mtg 1045

He is Risen

He is risen indeed!

Alleluia

Lenten & Easter Worship Schedule

Wed. April 6

Lenten Dinner 6

Worship 7

Palm Sunday, April 10

Worship 9:30

Maundy Thursday, April 14

Worship—7 p.m.

Good Friday, April 15

Worship - 7 p.m.

Easter Egg Hunt—Saturday, April 16

Easter Egg Hunt—10 am

Easter Sunday, April 17

Sunrise Easter Worship 630 am

Easter Pancake Breakfast 745 am

Easter Communion Celebration 9:30 am



Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 16

10:00 a.m.

Puppet Show – meet in sanctuary

Egg Hunt – outside, weather permitting

(bring your basket)

Toddlers thru 6th Graders

Invite your friends!

Semi Annual Voters Meeting

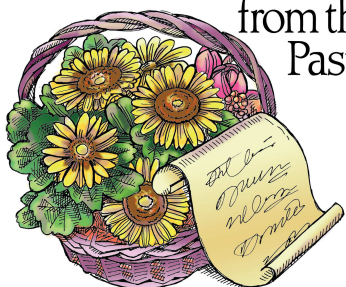
Sunday, April 24

11:00 a.m.

Election of officers will be held.



Easter Message from the Pastor



What makes you groan? For starters, puns make me groan. My dad was a pun master, hence, I groaned my way through childhood. I ran across a few puns that would have made him smile.

Why did the can crusher quit its job? It's soda pressing!
How many tickles does it take to make an octopus laugh? Ten tickles.
What did the fisherman say to the magician? Pick a cod, any cod.
Have you ever tried to eat a clock? It's very time consuming.

But there are groans that are more serious. Dealing with an illness, a migraine headache, or a painful injury can certainly make one groan. I remember getting food poisoning when I was in my early twenties. I honestly thought I was gonna die! I was so sick I could hardly move. Until I was able to get to the doctor, all I remember was hours of moaning and groaning.

The violence in our world brings a collective groan to peace-loving people. The death of a young soldier serving his or her country, a police officer ambushed during a routine stop, a child caught in the crossfire of gangs on the street; these are all situations we encounter that create a deep groaning in our spirits.

Recognizing this human condition in its various forms St Paul tells us that "the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved" (Romans 8:22-24).



As long as we're in this world, we're going to be groaning! But thanks be to God, the Resurrection of Jesus brings us hope and eager anticipation for the day of our redemption. On the day of our resurrection all the moaning and groaning will cease as we receive our new bodies which will be clothed in immortality. Just like a mother giving birth to a child, the groaning of childbirth gives way to the joy of the new life that has come forth. As Jesus rose from the dead and appeared in His glorified body, those of us who are in Christ will see the beginning of the new creation, where our groans will be turned to eternal joy!

Happy Easter!
Pastor Vern

*Worship With Us
This Easter*





Fellowship Committee

The Fellowship Committee provides Fellowship among our congregation and through our community interactions. We also provide Sunday Morning Treats for the Bible Study Class. Anyone else in the congregation interested in providing treats for the Bible Class, please let the Fellowship Committee know.

We are always looking for Fresh new faces to add to our spectacular committee. If you would like to part of our committee, please let one of us know.

The last Lenten Dinner will be April 6 at 6pm. You do not want to miss it. Lenten dinners have had 25 people attend.

April 6 - YOUTH COMMITTEE- SPAGHETTI & SALADS

And back again, we will be having BUNCO on 21 April at 6pm. Bring a Friend, Bring an appetizer and have some FUN!

Fellowship Committee



Easter Breakfast

The Elder's will be flipping pancakes again this year! There will be a sunrise worship service at 630 a.m. Following the service a pancake breakfast will be served. (approx. 745– 9 am).

The Fellowship Committee will provide the pancake mix, syrup and ham. A sign-up sheet will be posted for additional items that you can help with. Please sign up to bring a breakfast casserole, milk, juice or fresh fruit.

The Committee could also use your help with set up and clean up!

Happy Easter The Fellowship Committee



Easter Breakfast

Basket Weaving Class!

Want to learn how to weave your own basket?

Join the fun! Sunday, April 24 – 1 p.m.

Christie Carron will be teaching you how to weave.

The next project will be a utensil basket with solid base for \$15.

Advance registration with Christie is needed so enough kits will be available.

618-978-7745 or hawkranch62@yahoo.com The price will vary depending on the basket being made. Please bring clothes pins and a rag. Men are welcome too!



gg82070917 GoGraph.com



His Little Lambs Travel to Winnebago, Nebraska

"His Little Lambs" Puppet Ministry led by Puppeteer Karen Anders is headed for Nebraska to perform at Jesus Our Savior Lutheran Preschool which is located in the Winnebago Tribal Reservation in the northeastern corner of Nebraska. Karen and her favorite puppets have been sharing the Gospel of Jesus to children in schools, churches, and state fairs in various parts of the Midwest for more than 20 years. She will be leaving on April 9 for the approx. 533 mile trip. The Evangelism Committee is underwriting part of her expenses but if you would like to contribute to her mission trip make your check payable to BSLC and write "His Little Lambs" in the memo. Karen will also be presenting her puppet friends at BSLC on Saturday, April 16 at 10 am for the Children's Easter Egg Hunt. Invite your friends!



Chairman's Chat

Spring is in the air, the grass is getting greener (and growing – UGH), and the trees and flowers are starting to bud and poking through the ground. A nice scene to see after several months of cold weather!!!

Of course, the important part of April is the celebration of Easter, which signifies the resurrection of God's son, Jesus Christ!!

Once again, BSLC is ending a month with a positive Operating Fund. THANKS again to all for continuing the positive trend!!

The Council is still working on 4G (Gather, Give, Glorify and Go) plan as well as looking into social ministry, which means increasing our footprint on Facebook and maybe Instagram as well as do more with the BSLC website. I want to THANK the Elders for doing a lot of research and groundwork in both of these areas. Also, THANKS to Eric Stake for doing a great job with keeping up the BSLC website.

The church council will work on a presentation of 4G and social ministry to present to the congregation at the Spring Voter's meeting in late April.

The Spring Voter's Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, April 24th (first Sunday after Easter) after the worship service. Besides presentations around 4G and Social Ministry, we will be electing people to various council offices as well as committees and Elders.

The council officers up for re-election this year are:

Chairman

Treasurer

Secretary (to fulfill the rest of Cheryl Krantz's term which is up May, 2023)

Cheryl retired in DEC 2021, and I want to THANK Cheryl for her work as secretary during the last few years!!!

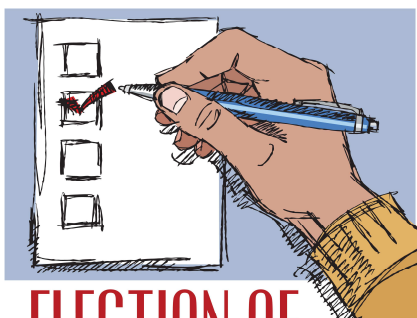
Also, we will be electing people to the 7 committees and the Elders. You can find the 7 committees listed on the back page of the latest church directory (dated 7/29/2021).

All of us have talents that can be used in the church, so PLEASE think about joining one of the 7 committees or become a council officer. If elected, your term is just 2 years!!!

Hope to see you at the Spring Voter's Meeting in late April as well as seeing some new names on the ballot!!!

In God's Name,

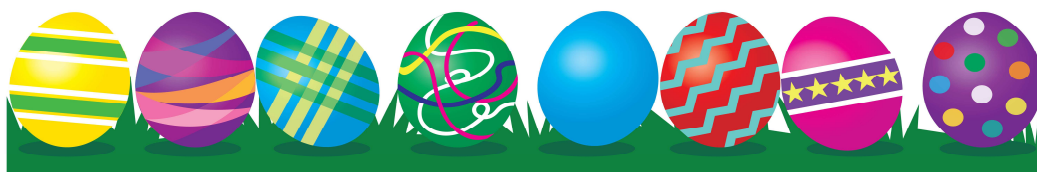
Curtis Kuppler, BSLC Congregational Chairman



ELECTION OF OFFICERS



Join the Lutheran World Relief QUILTERS on **Tuesday, April 5, Tuesday, May 3 and Tuesday June 7** 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.





Easter Activities

Egg stuffing – Thursday, April 14, at 10 am

The Christian Ed committee would appreciate donations of peanut-free candy, stickers or other items that can fit into a plastic egg and not be a choking hazard. There will be a container in the narthex to collect items through April 3.

The youth and anyone else who wants to help are meeting at church on Thursday, April 14, at 10:00 am to stuff eggs for the hunt on Saturday. It's always a fun, noisy time and many hands make for quick work.

Easter Egg Hunt – Saturday, April 16, at 9:30 am (rain or shine)

All children in the church and the community are invited to an Easter program beginning at 9:30 am on Saturday, April 16. The program will include a puppet show, video, egg hunt, craft and cookie decorating.



College Care Packages

Addresses needed for all college students – Please send the mailing address for any college student to brockmeyerfamily@gmail.com.

Care Packages

FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS



Don't assume we know who is in college or where they are. We don't want to miss anyone.

Help us encourage students during the last few hectic weeks of the semester. Popular items in the past have been granola bars, fruit snacks, gum, microwave popcorn, post-it notes and highlighters. Care packages will be assembled on

Sunday, April 3 during Sunday School.

New Committee Members Needed

To continue the education work of this church, new committee members are needed. The time commitment includes a monthly meeting (usually about an hour) and as many events as you can manage. Please consider sharing your talents with the youngest members of our congregation. Contact Lyndsey Sherman (lsherman9298@gmail.com) or Donna Brockmeyer (brockmeyerfamily@gmail.com) or call/text 618-977-6888).



See(k) First On Facebook, I can “follow” as many people as I want, viewing their messages, photos and activities. But I can choose only 30 to “see first” — that is, to prioritize in my news feed. As of this writing (Facebook changes often), if my “see first” list is full and I want to add someone new, I must “unprioritize” someone else.

That leads me to ponder bigger matters: I often claim to follow Jesus, but what might I need to “unprioritize” to make him not just a priority but *the* priority in my life? To what do I devote time and attention but ought to let go to follow Christ more closely? What activities, behaviors and values do I need to not just bump from my “see first” list but “unfollow” or “block” entirely? Perhaps they are antithetical to discipleship or simply take too much time away from prayer, Scripture and service.

This dilemma isn't unique to the digital age. Facebook parlance is about what we “see first,” but in Matthew 6:33 Jesus says, “*Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness*” (ESV, italics added). —Heidi Mann

God Amid the Pandemic

Two years ago, life changed as we became familiar with terms such as social distancing, flattening the curve and self-quarantining. We could hardly believe the closed schools, businesses and especially churches — just as Holy Week and Easter drew near! The coronavirus ran rampant in the world. Where was God?

But as the spread continued, many civic leaders stepped up, calmly informing us of the facts, of actions being taken to mitigate the crisis and of how we could help. Healthcare professionals risked their lives and endured separation from families; teachers drew on astounding stores of creativity to teach online; pastors delivered sermons and lessons to empty sanctuaries as members listened and prayed while living in lockdown. Surely God was present — through them!

Then I remembered how God assures us through Isaiah, “Fear not! When you pass through the waters, the fires, yes, even the pandemics of this world, I will be with you” (43:1-2, paraphrased). And Jesus echoes, “I am with you always” (Matthew 28:20). —Sandy Hyland



APRIL

Birthdays

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 7- Samantha Poteet | 16 - Matthew Vohlken |
| 8 - Kevin Schmidt | 17 - Pat Dalton, Lyndsay Sherman |
| 9 - Jordan Colvin | 21 - Ashley Vosholler |
| 11—Ann Lundeby, Savannah Boggs | 23 - Kristen Lintvedt |
| 13- Brianna Berens, Leah Geis, | 25—Zachary Kinsella, Harlan Feary |
| 14 Callie Gorney | 26 - Diana Brandmeyer |
| | 26 - Carie Boulanger |

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.



APRIL

Anniversaries

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

EVANGELISM

God can do tremendous things when we share our gifts with others. He works through common, ordinary people to deliver an extraordinary message of life and salvation. Opportunities abound when we work together.

Satan is alive and well on this earth. He cleverly instills ideas that create doubt, fear, complacency, and negativism. As believers in the One True God, we know how to drive the devil away, but how about those who have fallen into his trap? How do you personally witness to them?

There are numerous opportunities here at Blessed Savior that need YOUR support. Each member is included in God's plan according to the gifts He has given you. A thriving and vibrant church is one that unites God's people in growing HIS kingdom. With EVERYONE'S participation we WILL make a difference. HOW are you willing to assist?

The Evangelism Board



Held in God's Love

We would like to think that once we turn our lives over to Christ, everything will run smoothly. When such is not the case, we might question whether our faith is strong enough or what we are doing wrong. The fact is, we live in a broken world, and sufferings come upon all people.

In the words of 14th-century mystic Julian of Norwich: "If there is anywhere on earth a lover of God who is always kept safe, I know nothing of it, for it was not shown to me. But this was shown: that in falling and rising again we are always kept in that same precious love."

We might take comfort in the fact that our struggles are not so different from those experienced seven centuries ago. We are "normal," after all! But the greatest assurance is that no matter what we face in life, Jesus walks with us, the Holy Spirit strengthens us, and "we are always kept in [God's] precious love."

Stewardship CORNER

Blessed Shall You Be

"Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field. Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Blessed shall you be when you come in,

and blessed shall you be when you go out." (Deuteronomy 28:3-6)

This is God's promise to the Israelites as they stood beyond the Jordan outside of the Promised Land. He promises blessing to His people. He will make them prosper, whether they are in the city or the field. He will make their fruit of their work to prosper, whether from the ground, their wombs, their flocks, or their herds. He will make them to prosper in all things, whether upon their coming in or their going out.

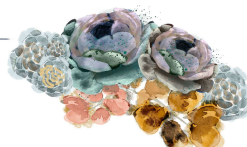
But there's a catch. He would do this for Israel only "if you obey the voice of the LORD your God." (Deut. 28:2b) If they did that, He would cause that "all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you." (Deut. 28:2a). If they didn't obey the voice of the Lord, if they didn't keep the commandments of the Lord and "walk in his ways" (Deut. 28:9), they would be met with curse and woe. The blessings would be replaced with curses. Everything that the Lord promised to prosper and bless would be cursed and fail.

Thanks be to God that our Lord Jesus Christ has come into our flesh and fulfilled the law for us – in our place and for our benefit. Our Lord Jesus Christ died for us – in our place and for our benefit. Our Lord Jesus Christ is risen from the dead for us – in our place and for our benefit. By this we have justification before God. We are forgiven, clean, holy, and righteous. The blessing of God is promised to us in Christ Jesus. It depends upon his work, not ours.

All this is ours in Holy Baptism. For in Holy Baptism, God claims us as His own, makes us His children, His heirs, and His holy people. And so it is that the work of our hands and its fruit is holy because we are holy in Christ. It is pressed into His service, and it thereby becomes a blessing to us and to our neighbor.

For this great gift, our reception of the blessings of God because of Christ Jesus our Lord, it is our duty to thank and praise, serve, and obey Him. This is not in order to receive the blessings but because in Christ we already have. With this in mind, we sit down on the first day of the week and set aside as He has prospered us to give to His church for His work of blessing in our midst (1 Cor. 16:2).

LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship



Blessed
shall you be when
you come in,
and Blessed
shall you be when
you go out.

Deuteronomy 28:6



Adult choir will meet:
Wed Apr 6 after wor-
ship
Wed Apr 13 at 7pm
Fri Apr 15 sing for
Good Friday worship
Sun Apr 16 sing for
2nd Easter service

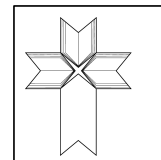
Easter Lifts the Fog

A friend stood one day where he could view the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco. At first it was completely shrouded in early morning fog. But as the sun rose, the fog lifted between the upright piers of the bridge, leaving the land anchors still unseen.

Is it not so with life? We see only what is between the great piers called birth and death. But Easter lifts the fog from both. Easter is the time when we see more completely the anchorages that sustain life. — George Mecklenberg



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



PUZZLE

Resurrection refresher

All four gospels confirm Jesus' resurrection, and each one offers important details.

Directions: Complete the crossword. Then insert the circled letters (in order of the clue numbers) to complete John 20:17 below.

ACROSS

2. The women did this when they heard the angels talk about Jesus' death. (Luke 24:8)

4. The women at the tomb did this when they saw Jesus. (Matthew 28:9)

5. The main Jesus' empty tomb wore this color robe. (Mark 16:6)

7. Jesus instructed his brothers to go here. (Matthew 28:10)

8. Peter saw strips of this in the tomb. (Luke 24:12)

DOWN

1. At first, Mary thought Jesus was this person. (John 20:15)

3. As an angel came from heaven, this happened. (Matthew 28:2)

6. She went with Mary to anoint Jesus' body. (Mark 16:1)

What did Jesus want Mary to tell his brothers?

"I _m ascen_ing _o my Fa_er and your Fa_er, to _y _od and your God." Joh _ 20:17, NIV

Answer: ACROSS 2. remembered, 4. worshipped, 5. white, 7. Galilee, 8. linen;
DOWN 1. garden, 3. earthquake, 6. Salome; "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." John 20:17, NIV

Egg-stra facts

• Although Easter eggs were once part of pagan spring festivals, they've become Christian symbols of new life. A cracked-open shell also represents Jesus' empty tomb on Easter morning.

• The early Christians of Mesopotamia began staining eggs red in honor of Jesus' blood shed on the cross. Red eggs remain part of Greek Orthodox celebrations today.

• For Lent, some families used to give up eggs and dairy, so they prepared a pancake feast on Shrove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday. They solved the egg surplus by hard-boiling them in various broths, which led to colored eggs.

• In medieval times, churches held "egg-throwing" festivals. The priest threw a hard-boiled egg toward the choir boys, who tossed it back and forth. When the clock struck 12, whoever was holding the egg got to keep it.

• In some European countries, children go from house to house to collect Easter eggs.

• Each year, the PAAS Dye Co. sells more than 10 million egg-coloring kits, which consumers use to decorate 180 million eggs.

• The tallest chocolate Easter egg ever produced weighed 16,000 pounds — more than an elephant!



Now let the heavens be joyful!
Let earth her song begin!
Let the round world keep triumph,
And all that is therein;
Invisible and visible,
Their notes let all things blend,
For Christ the Lord has risen,
Our joy that hath no end.

—St. John of Damascus



Easter Joy

Joy is prayer. Joy is strength. Joy is love. Joy is a net of love by which you can catch souls. God loves a cheerful giver. One gives most who gives with joy. The best way to show our gratitude to God and people is to accept everything with joy.

A joyful heart is the inevitable result of a heart burning with love. Never let anything so fill you with sorrow as to make you forget the joy of the Christ risen.

—Mother Teresa

Easter Possibilities

The message of Easter is not only that Christ is risen, not only that suffering is not the last word, not only that God gives new life, but this: Nothing is impossible with God.



Butterfly

The butterfly symbolizes resurrection, Easter and the new life we have in Christ Jesus. As a caterpillar disappears into a chrysalis, so Jesus' dead body was hidden in a tomb. The emergence of the butterfly, rising into the sky in its beautiful new body, reminds us of Christ's resurrection — and ours.



In *The Story of the Easter Robin* (Zonderkidz), Dandi Daley Mackall retells an old Pennsylvania Dutch tale of the robin's compassion as he witnessed Jesus' death.

On Good Friday, a plain brown robin flying over Jerusalem was curious about the "nest" atop Jesus' head. When the bird realized it was a crown of thorns, he tried to dislodge it. As the robin pulled out a long thorn from Jesus' forehead, a drop of blood landed on the bird's breast, staining it red. Now the robin's red breast is a symbol of Jesus' loving sacrifice, and the robin's early-spring song is a reminder of Jesus' joyful resurrection.



Why Christ Calls us to Worship

Easter services are usually well attended, but what about other weeks? What draws you to worship on an “average” Sunday, and what might Jesus have in store for people in the pews?

Consider this from Pastor Charles Aaron: “Did we come to church this morning thinking it was a safe thing to do? Did we come with some expectation of receiving a blessing, a bit of comfort, but no real challenge? Did we think about the possibility that encountering Jesus would rearrange our lives, explode our priorities, cause us to give more than we ever expected? Did we think we could get a little something from Jesus, a dose of grace to help us through the week? Did we come for the fellowship, the music, the spiritual boost? No one can argue with those reasons.”

He continues: “The risen Christ, however, may have had other plans for this worship service. Christ may want to come under our skins and transform us. Christ may see through us so that something we have well hidden comes to the surface. Christ may kick out from under us the things we use to prop ourselves up but that we don’t really need. Are we ready for that? Did we bargain on that when we walked through the door today?”—from *The Wired Word*

Encourage Wonder

For a new perspective on Bible accounts you’ve heard over and over, play “I Wonder” with children and adults alike. Similar to “I Spy,” it encourages a deeper dive into familiar passages. Simply explore ideas that aren’t detailed in the Bible, starting with the phrase “I wonder.” For example:

- I wonder if any Roman soldier was standing in the back *not* mocking Jesus (Matthew 27:27-31). If so, what was he thinking as others threw about insults?
- I wonder how long it took Joseph of Arimathea to cut his own tomb out of the rock (Matthew 27:57-60). What did he think about as he worked?

The day after Jesus’ ascension, I wonder which disciple spoke first at breakfast — and what he said.

Scholars may have chimed in on some of these ponderings, but there’s likely no right answer. Playing “I Wonder” can help you slow down to really pay attention and experience more of a Bible passage — especially one you seem to know by rote.

Add meaning to this year’s Easter celebration by letting your wonder wander during Holy Week. Then continue the practice whenever you’re eager to gain new insights on the “old, old story ... of Jesus and his love.”—Janna Firestone



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 handmade 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!



Holy Hilarity!

More churches lately have been resurrecting (pardon the pun!) the early-church tradition of celebrating the second Sunday of Easter as Holy Humor Sunday, affirming the season's joy. Need some jokes for April 11? Try these:

Easter is the only time when it's perfectly safe to put all your eggs in one basket.

Knock knock. *Who's there?* Hatch. *Hatch who?* God bless you!

What should you do after eating so many Easter treats? *Eggs-ercise!*

Why shouldn't you tell an Easter egg a joke? *It might crack up!*

An irate subscriber called the newspaper, demanding to know where her Sunday edition was. "Ma'am," said the employee, "today is Saturday. The Sunday paper isn't delivered until Sunday." After a brief pause, the caller spoke with a ray of recognition: "So *that's* why no one was in church today."

Let Laughter 'Spring' Forth!

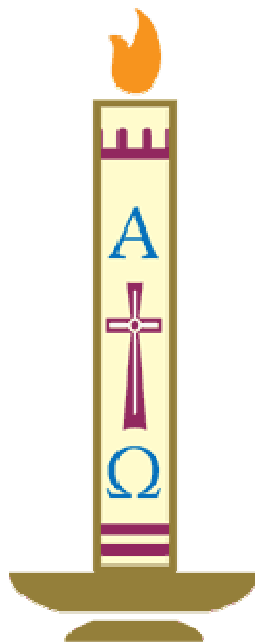
"Spring is when you feel like whistling, even with a shoe full of slush." (Doug Larson)

"Easter is the only time when it's perfectly safe to put all of your eggs in one basket." (Evan Esar)

"Spring is the time of year when it is summer in the sun and winter in the shade." (Charles Dickens)

"The world is mud-luscious and puddle wonderful." (e.e. cummings)

"In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt." (Margaret Atwood)



PASCHAL CANDLE—This large, white candle is an ancient symbol for Christ, the light of the world. The candle contains a cross and/or an Alpha and Omega to symbolize that Jesus is eternal and always present with his people. Also called the Easter candle, it plays a prominent role during Easter vigils and celebrations. Some churches also use the candle during baptisms and funerals.

Easter is Eternal

If Easter means anything to modern man, it means that eternal truth is eternal. You may nail it to the tree, wrap it up in grave clothes and seal it in a tomb. But truth crushed to earth shall rise again.



Truth does not perish. It cannot be destroyed. It may be distorted. It has been silenced temporarily. It has been compelled to carry its cross to Calvary's brow ... but with an inevitable certainty, after every Black Friday dawns truth's Easter morn. —Donald H. Tippet



Light and Life

Easter is the assurance that no matter how hopeless and dark things appear, God is alive and actively working. Our heavenly Father births life out of death, transforms brokenness into wholeness and shines light into darkness.

In the words of the poet Christian Wiman (from *Every Riven Thing*):

When the time's toxins
have seeped into every cell ...
somehow a seed of belief sprouts ...
tugged upward by light ...

HOLY WEEK
i-spy

Create this craft to share the events of Holy Week with a younger sibling or friend.



What you need:

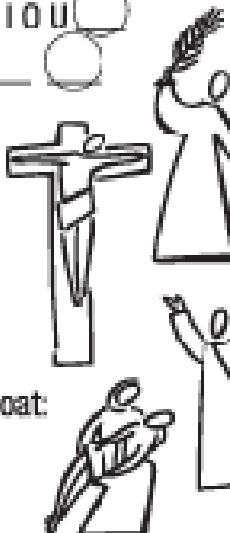
- Clear bottle or jar with lid
- White rice
- Small items that symbolize Holy Week events

What you do:

1. Pour rice into bottle or jar so it's about two-thirds full.
2. Add the small items. Ideas: leaf, donkey, cup, towel square, praying hands, coin, bird, nails, thorn, cross, dice, stick, lamb, stone, white fabric.
3. Fasten the lid. Then shake and turn the bottle to "spy" each item.

Puzzle!

Use the clues to complete words with various vowel arrangements. Then place the circled letters in the correct blanks below to complete an Easter phrase.

1. Brave: _ _ _ _ _ E O U _ _ _
 2. A dark profile: _ _ _ _ _ O U E _ _ _ _
 3. Circular: _ O U _ _ _
 4. Running away: _ _ _ _ _ E E _ _ _
 5. Savage, fierce: _ _ _ _ _ I O U _
 6. Odd or nostalgic: _ _ _ U A I _ _ _
 7. A person from the 50th state:
 _ _ _ _ _ A _ I A _ _ _
 8. Compress, push together:
 _ _ _ U E E _ _ _
 9. A large tree in California:
 _ _ _ _ _ U _ _ _ I A _ _ _
 10. Paddling in a small, narrow boat:
 _ _ _ _ _ O E I _ _ _
 11. Upright, moral and righteous:
 _ _ _ _ _ U O U _ _ _
 12. Lining up in a row: _ _ _ U E U _ _ _
 13. Gorgeous: _ _ _ E A U _ _ _ E _ U _ _
 14. Precipitation: _ A I _ _ _
- 

Easter phrase:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
						!	
	9	10	11	12	13	14	

Answers: 1. courageous, 2. silhouette, 3. round, 4. fleeing, 5. vicious, 6. quail, 7. Hawaiian, 8. squeeze, 9. sequoia, 10. canoeing, 11. virtuous, 12. quelling, 13. benevolent, 14. rain, Christ is Savior!