



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 2023

Sun. April 2, 16, 23, 30

Worship 930

Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10 am

Mon April 3, 10, 17, 24

Support Group 7 pm

Tues. April 4

Election Day BSLC polling

place 6 am -7 pm

Quilting 930-12

Wed. April 5

No Ladies Bible Study

Adult Choir 7 pm

Thurs. April 6

Egg stuffing 10 am

Maundy Thursday Worship 7 pm

Fri. April 7

Good Friday Worship 7 pm

Sat. April 8

Easter Egg Hunt & Puppet Show 10 am

Sun. Apr. 9

Easter Sunday

Breakfast 730-9 am

Easter Celebration

Service 930 am

No Sunday school

Tues. Apr. 11

Church Council 7 pm

Wed. April 12

Adult Choir 7 pm

Wed. Apr. 12, 19, 26

Ladies Bible Study 10 am

Sat. Apr. 15

Confirmation Rehearsal 9 am

Care Pkg assembly following

Tues. Apr. 18

Christian Ed Mtg 7

Youth Board Mtg 7

Thurs. Apr. 20

Fellowship Mtg 430

Bunco 6 pm

Fri. Apr 21

Youth Night

Sun. Apr. 23

Voters Mtg 830 am

Easter Worship Schedule

Palm Sunday, April 2

Worship 9:30 am

Maundy Thursday, April 6

Worship—7 pm

Good Friday, April 7

Worship - 7 pm

Easter Egg Hunt & Puppet Show

Saturday, April 8

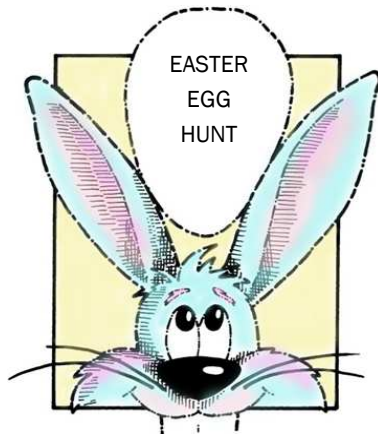
10:00 am

Easter Sunday, April 9

Easter Communion Celebration 9:30 am

Sunday, April 16

Junior High Confirmation 930 am



Easter Egg Hunt

Sat., April 8, 2010

10:00 a.m.

Puppet show & Egg hunt

All kids toddler through 6th grade are invited.

Invite your friends and neighbors!

Don't forget your basket!

Semi Annual Voters Meeting

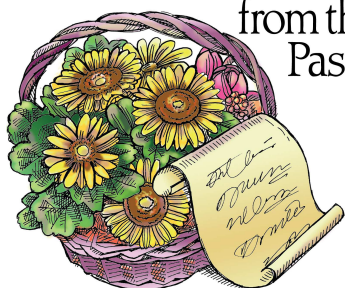
Sunday, April 23

8:30 a.m.

Election of officers will be held.



Easter Message from the Pastor



If you saw Mel Gibson's movie, the Passion of Christ I'm sure you haven't forgotten how graphic it was. For Jesus it was a day of unbelievable torture and cruelty. It was difficult to watch the movie because of the violence Jesus endured. But imagine how difficult it was for those who witnessed his arrest, the scourging, the mockery, being stripped, and finally nailed to a cross where He would die. Gibson didn't want to present a "sanitized" version of Jesus' suffering and death. He wanted us to feel Lord's agony.

Yet, strangely enough, throughout all this mistreatment Jesus is ministering to others. Even though the High Priest authorized an illegal "night court," Jesus doesn't press

them for His rights. He has no malice for the clueless Pilate, but engages him to think about the subject of truth. And while the heartless soldiers spat upon Him, dressed Him up like royalty with a robe and crown of thorns, and nailed Him to the cross, He endured it without expressing any bitterness toward them. To the repentant criminal hanging beside Jesus at Calvary, Jesus said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise." What should have shook the world was not the earthquake, but in the face of all this violence Jesus prayed, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:42-43).

Why would He do that? St. Paul got it. He wrote to the church at Rome these glorious words: "God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

LOVE! That's why He endured. That's why He suffered. That's why He didn't call a legion of angels to rescue Him (which He could have done). That's why He gave up His Spirit to God the Father with His dying breath. It was Love. Love for people who had all been infected by sin and needed a Savior. Love for people who were clueless about their debt of sin and their inability to pay it. Love for people who were angry about their lives and lashed out on others in vicious and vindictive ways. Love for people who were self-righteous. Love for people who would rather die than lose control of their own life.

But there is another reason besides love that motivated Jesus to endure suffering. The writer to the Hebrews states, "For the joy that was set before him (Jesus) endured the cross" ([Hebrews 12:2](#)).

Enduring suffering is NOT the way most people see as the way to a joy-filled life. Jesus obviously knew something that His contemporaries did not. So consider the verses below and let them illuminate your mind and swell your heart. Jesus endured suffering because He loved us and He knew that His suffering would result in joy; a joy that He wants each one of us to share as we follow Him through our own suffering in our journey heavenward.

Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up ([John 2:19](#)).

The Son of Man must suffer many things . . . and be killed, and after three days rise again ([Mark 8:31](#)).

I will never die again ([Acts 13:34](#)).

I will be an eternal high priest by the power of an indestructible life ([Hebrews 7:16](#)).

All authority in heaven and earth will be mine ([Matthew 28:18](#)).

I will be the King over all kings and the Lord over all lords ([Revelation 17:14](#)).

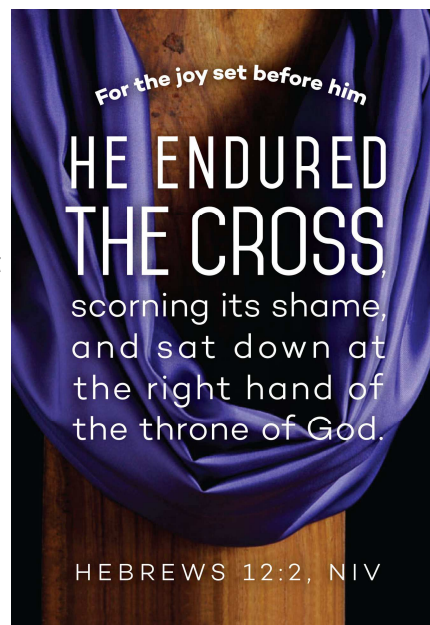
I will be alive forevermore, and have the keys of Death and Hades ([Revelation 1:18](#)).

I will sit with my Father on his throne ([Revelation 3:21](#)).

I will have in my hand the check signed in my blood for the perfect, completed, irreversible purchase of my Bride ([1 Corinthians 6:20](#)).

I will be surrounded by angels and saints crying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" ([Revelation 5:12](#)).

And from my throne I will build my church on earth, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it ([Matthew 16:18](#)).



(Pastor Vern article continued)

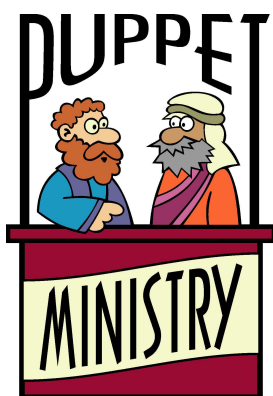
And when the time is full, I will come again in power and great glory, and I will gather my elect from one end of heaven to the other ([Matthew 24:30](#)).

And I will say to my bride, "Enter into the joy of your Master" ([Matthew 25:23](#)).

Holy Week up until Easter Sunday is difficult to bear. Gibson didn't sugar coat the suffering of Jesus, because His suffering was purposeful. His suffering and death became the means of our salvation. Love was the impulse that kept Jesus directed toward that end! But Holy Week wouldn't be worth celebrating if not for the resurrection of Jesus. That horrible week ended with such incredible and lasting joy; a joy that Jesus knew and promised would come even as he suffered. Love canceled our debt to sin and brought forgiveness to the world. Joy comes as a result. And If all the things Jesus said above are true (and we believe they are) what have we to fear when suffering comes our way? We can endure those "light and momentary afflictions because Jesus said, "These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full" ([John 15:11](#)).



May our Lord's Joy be in You this Eastertide,
Pastor Vern



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 for the approx. 533 mile trip soon. 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 8 at 10 am for the Children's Easter Egg Hunt. Invite your friends!

Confirmation Sunday

April 16, 2023
9:30 am Worship Service

Our Confirmands:

Grayson Gorney
Sam Kinsella
Paul Monaco
Maddie Moreau
Olivia Siron



FELLOWSHIP NEWS



ed already.

This past month we assisted with the Trivia Night, and the Lenten Dinners. We also help the Ladies Bunco Night on the 16th of Mar with 10 ladies attending, 3 of which were new. April's Bunco night will be on April 20, 2023 at 6pm. Can't wait to see everyone there!

As a reminder, you do not have to know how to play Bunco to come out and enjoy, we will be happy to teach you and it is a great way to get to know others. We always have a great time.

This has been a very busy season for us, but we have an Awesome Team and we all love what we do.

As always.. If you would like to have an activity or know of an activity for us to host, please message either Gwen Borsch @ 618-304-2338 Or Ginger Kiefer @ 618-407-2639

God's Blessings,
Gwen and Ginger



Easter Breakfast

The Elder's will be flipping pancakes again this year! Since there will not be a sunrise service, breakfast will be served prior to our regular worship beginning at **7:30 a.m. until 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



VIBRANT BELIEF

The disciples did not bother to try to understand the resurrection body. They doubted, and then they believed. They believed something so wonderful that it changed this broken, fragmented, beaten-down little group of men and women in a moment from depression to enthusiasm, from despair to new life, vibrant and unafraid.—Madeleine L'Engle, *The Rock That Is Higher*

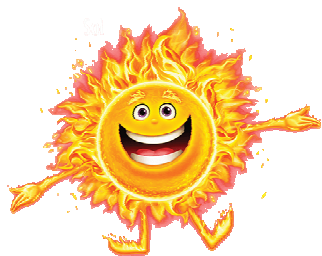


Join the Lutheran World Relief QUILTERS on **Tuesdays Apr. 4, May 2 & June 6** from 9:30–12:00 p.m. to tie quilts. (We don't actually quilt by hand. Instead we secure the layers by hand tying them.) Come and join us for a time of good ole fellowship. Hope to see you there! Mark your calendar for the 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.





VBS 2023 coming soon!
Save the dates!
June 5—9



More information and sign up sheets
 coming soon!

SHARING THE LOAD

In 1969 the Hollies released “He Ain’t Heavy, He’s My Brother.” Do you know the story behind that song title?

Fifty years earlier in Omaha, Nebraska, a boy with polio was abandoned at Father Flanagan’s Home for Boys, predecessor to the Boys Town organization. Soon several older residents started carrying young Howard — with his heavy leg braces — especially up stairs. Father Flanagan once saw an older boy, Reuben, doing this and asked if it was hard work. Reuben replied, “He ain’t heavy, Father. He’s my brother.” Years later, these words and the image of one person carrying another became the Boys Town brand.

JESUS ANSWERS OUR UNCERTAINTIES

Thomas didn’t believe the other disciples when they said Jesus had risen. The two travelers to Emmaus despaired over Jesus’ death, uncertain what might come next.

During our life of faith, we all face questions, doubts and despair. In *Fearless*, Max Lucado says Jesus’ responses to us echo his responses to the disciples. His answer to our doubt is the same as with Thomas: “Touch my body” — which we do every time we connect with the church (the body of Christ), wounds and all. As with the Emmaus disciples, Jesus urges us to ponder his story found in Scripture — which we do through Bible reading and study. Today, just as long ago, Jesus meets his followers — in his body, in his Word — and strengthens our faith.



Choir
Rehearsals

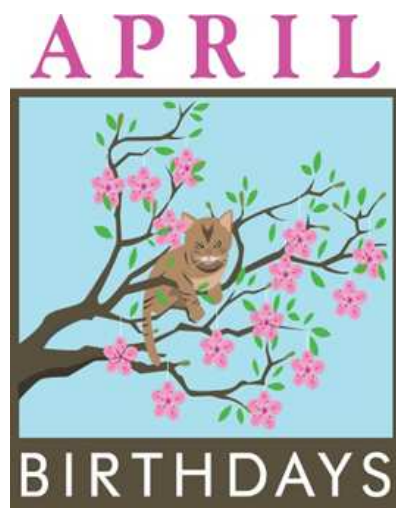
Choir will practice Wed Apr 5 at 7pm
 and last rehearsal of the season
 Wed Apr 12 at 7pm



Come, be Energized

After some time away from the church, author Donald E. Miller returned to the fold. He writes: “One thing that brought me back ... was asking simply: What are the alternatives to the church? Where are the communities that sanction the pursuit of meaning and truth as a legitimate enterprise? that have material and personal resources to assist in this search? that provide regular occasions for confession of failures? that renew and inspire? that provide a setting where children are nurtured? where family members can be buried? where births can be celebrated? where social issues can be debated?”

Miller concludes: “There are a number of institutions that deal with one or several of these questions, but historically the church has demonstrated its ability to energize all of these activities.”

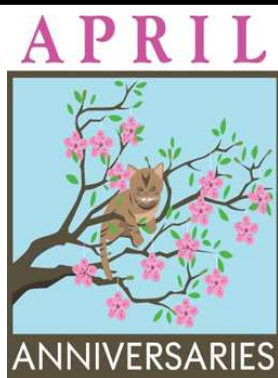


7—Samantha Poteet O'Daniel
 8 – Kevin Schmidt
 9 – Jordan Colvin
 11—Ann Lundebly, Savannah Boggs
 13- Brianna Berens, Leah Geis,
 14 Callie Gorney
 16 – Matthew Vohlken
 17 – Pat Dalton
 21 – Ashley Vosholler
 23 – Kristen Lintvedt
 25—Zachary Kinsella, Harlan Feary
 26 – Diana Brandmeyer

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
 2– William & Ellen Boswell
 7 – Ralph & Karen Olson
 17—Emily & Gogo Sanchez

 19 – Rich & Linda Williams
 21– Emily & Luis Garcia
 27—Dennis & Donna Brockmeyer



How Jesus Says Your Name

It's been said that when someone loves you, they say your name differently. Your name is "safe" coming from their mouth.

Mary Magdalene found this to be true. Walking alone in the dark to Jesus' tomb, she wanted nothing less than for a concerned loved one to interrupt her private grief, crooning her name in pity: "Oh, Mary, there, there." Or worse, someone from her old life who would spit her name like a curse, not knowing that Jesus had cast out her demons. But then Mary saw the tomb open and panicked, ran to get Simon, hurried back to the garden. Angels addressed her — not by name, just "Woman ..." — and then a gardener: "Woman ..."

Except then — "Mary" — this man knew her after all, speaking her name so knowingly, tenderly, lovingly that she recognized him. "Mary." Her name was safe in his mouth, her life safe in his care. He wasn't the gardener. He was her teacher, her friend, her Savior.



Death Doesn't Win

In the final hours of 2021, a wildfire near Boulder, Colorado, destroyed 1,000 homes, including one belonging to Pastor Bill Stephens. His family, out of town at the time, lost all their possessions. After months of feeling buried in debris, insurance paperwork and mourning, Stephens decided that Easter 2022 would mark a fresh start.

During worship that morning, the pastor shared a photo of vibrant daffodils emerging on his charred property. Burned remnants were visible in the background, just as Easter's backdrop includes the pain and death of Good Friday. But the empty tomb in Easter's foreground means death won't win, reminded Stephens. Even when earthly life "isn't all daffodils," we have hope and eternal life through Jesus.

Easter reveals that God will "give us the joy, and it's going to be in the heart of pain that we go through as well," added the pastor. "And that just makes me draw closer to God."

Stewardship CORNER



A Better Way

The most common question about stewardship is not *whether* a Christian should give to their church. Of course Christians should give to their church. Everyone knows this. Rather, the question asked most is, “How much should I give?” But this question really means, “Should Christians give a tenth of their income to their local congregation?”

Here are some common reasons against tithing. Some say tithing isn’t necessary because it isn’t expressly commanded in the New Testament. There is no “Thus saith the Lord,” or “should” concerning tithing. Others say that Christians give to their congregation in ways much broader than money. They give of their time and their talents, and these together with treasures (money) add up to more than a tithe. Still others say that they give of their treasures to other things besides their congregation, and they want to support those things alongside their church. And then there are those who think Christians shouldn’t tithe because of some fear. They are afraid that if they tithe, their gift will be misused, or that after tithing, there won’t be enough left over to get the things that they use, want or need.

Here are some reasons why Christians *should* tithe. Even though the New Testament doesn’t specifically command Christians to tithe, the Old Testament people were commanded to. And on top of this, St. Paul often describes giving a regular and generous proportion of the first fruits of one’s income — terms similar to a tithe (2 Cor. 8:7–23; 2 Cor. 9:2–7).

But here’s another way to think about it. What was the point of the tithe in the Old Testament? Where did it go? This tithe was intended to support the ministry of the Levites. They were not given any land because they had no time to farm; their full-time job was the ministry. What does it say in the New Testament? “The Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel” (1 Cor. 9:14). This is the verse that Luther used in the Small Catechism’s Table of Duties to explain what Christians owe to the support of the ministry.

It seems clear from both the Old and the New Testaments that the tithe is the goal of Christians in their giving. But what if we’re not there yet? How should we handle this? What are we to do?

Let’s answer this by asking a different question. What would you say to your adult children who only attended church quarterly or once a month? After all, there is no passage in the New Testament that requires Christians to go to church weekly. Hebrews 10:25 is the closest verse we have, and it states simply that Christians should not neglect gathering together. And even though there is no passage that commands Christians to gather weekly, that is the implicit expectation throughout the Old and New Testaments.

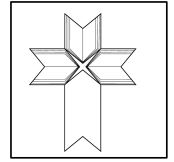
So, what would you say to that son or daughter? The conversation might go something like this. I’m glad you’re still going to church. It is a wonderful blessing to hear God’s promises of forgiveness, life and salvation, and to receive His gifts in Word and Sacrament. But you can do better, and it will only be a blessing to you. There is a better way, and I’d really like you to try to attain it.

We should approach the topic of tithing with a similar conversation. The tithe is not specifically commanded in the New Testament, but it sure seems like the implicit expectation of both the Old and New Testaments. So, we’re ecstatic that you’re giving, and that you’re giving in all these various ways — time, talents and treasures. But there is a better way. And that will only be a blessing to you, just as the Word of God — Old and New Testament alike — promises. Can you try increasing your gifts over the coming weeks, months and years? Can you put your trust in the God who sent His Son to take away your sin and give you everlasting life? And if He did this for you, if He did not spare His only Son, how will He not give you all things? He will not disappoint.

LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship




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



PUZZLE

SEEING AND BELIEVING

Until Thomas saw Jesus' nail scars with his own eyes, he doubted the resurrection. What did Jesus tell Thomas?



Directions:
Use the code to fill in the vowels and complete John 20:29, NIV.

"B _ C _ S _ y _ _ h _ v _ s _ n m _ ,
bl _ ss _ d _ r _ th _ s _ wh _ h _ v _ n _ t
s _ _ n _ nd y _ t h _ v _ b _ l _ _ v _ d ."

JOHN 20:29, NIV

Answer: "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." John 20:29, NIV

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!

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

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*



“Consider”

Consider the lilies of the field
whose bloom is brief:
We are as they; like them we
fade away, as doth a leaf.

Consider the sparrows of the
air of small account:
Our God doth view whether
they fall or mount, he guards
us too.

Consider the lilies that do nei-
ther spin nor toil,
Yet are most fair: What profits
all this care and all this coil?

Consider the birds that have
no barn nor harvest-weeks;
God gives them food: Much
more our Father seeks to do
us good.

Christina Rossetti

**A Daily Prayer**

Since God will be my end
Let him be my beginning,
So that I may now fully live
Instead of falling, straying,
sinning.

—Angelus Silesius



In *The Story of the Easter Robin* (Zonderkidz), Dandi Daley Mack-all 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

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!

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.



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 ...

Prove it!

In *Jesus Christ, Superstar*, King Herod mocks the bound prisoner who's brought to his courtyard. "So, you are the Christ. You're the great Jesus Christ!" he sings. "Prove to me that you're no fool: Walk across my swimming pool!"

Likewise, the Pharisees demand evidence that Jesus is speaking for God (see Matthew 12:38). It's easy to poke fun at them, but have you ever faced a tough decision and thought, "If only God would give me a sign"?

Jesus tells the religious teachers about the "sign of Jonah," a metaphor for his upcoming death and resurrection. Though it's meant to be a sign for all, not everyone accepts it as truth. Luke 16:31 notes that if the rich man's brothers weren't predisposed to listen to Moses and the prophets, then "they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead" (NIV). Signs are useful only to people who accept their messages and act accordingly.—adapted from *The Wired Word*



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)

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

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