



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 2025

Tues. Apr. 1

Jr. Confirmation 4 pm

Elders 7 pm

Wed. Apr. 2, Apr. 9

Ladies Bible Study 10 am

Lent Midweek Dinner 6 pm

Worship 7 pm

Sun. Apr. 6, 13, 27

Worship 930

Sun School Adult Bible Study

1045 am

Mon. Apr 7, 14, 21 28

DBSA Support Group 7 pm

Tues. Apr. 8

Quilting 930 am

Jr. Confirmation 4 pm

Church Council 7 pm

Tues. Apr 15

Jr Confirmation 4 pm

Christian Ed 7 pm

Wed. Apr. 16, 23, 30

Ladies Bible Study 10 am

Thurs. Apr. 17

Egg Stuffing 10 am

Maundy Thursday

Worship 7 pm

Fri. Apr. 18

Good Friday

Worship 7 pm

Sat. Apr. 19

Easter Egg Hunt &

Puppet Show 10 am

Sun. Apr. 20

Easter Sunday Breakfast

730 am—9 am

Worship 930 am

Tues. Apr. 22

Stewardship 6 pm

Lenten & Easter Worship Schedule

Midweek Lenten Worship

March 26, April 2, 9

Dinner 6 pm

Worship 7 pm

Palm Sunday, April 13

Worship 9:30 am

Maundy Thursday, April 17

Worship—7 pm

Good Friday, April 18

Worship - 7 pm

Easter Egg Hunt—Sat., April 19

10:00 am

Easter Sunday, April 20

Easter Breakfast 7:30-9 am

Easter Communion Celebration 9:30 am



Easter Egg Hunt

Sat., April 19- 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 Voter's Meeting Sunday, April 27 10:45 a.m.

Election of new officers and
committee chairpersons





Dear Brothers and Sisters of Blessed Savior,

Not long ago I watched a DVD that featured a Lutheran pastor speaking in a cemetery. That in itself wasn't unusual. Lutheran pastors are often found in cemeteries leading committal services. The thing that caught my eye about this scene was the monument behind the pastor. It was a large, cave-like tomb with a statue of an angel standing on top of it. To the side of the opening sat a large, round rock. A rock just large enough to cover the opening of the tomb. You guessed it! It was a monument depicting the empty tomb of Jesus. It was a silent testimony to the awesome miracle of Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday.

I think that monument is a great reminder of why Easter is such a joyous event. It reminds us that, as Jesus rose from death on Easter morning, so all those that trust in him will rise from death at the return of Jesus in glory. As Jesus burst forth from his tomb, so all the believers in Christ buried in that cemetery will burst forth from their graves. Jesus will then transform their bodies to be like his glorious, resurrected body. And so they—and all believers in Christ—will be with the Lord forever.

Eventually, everyone on the planet has to face the reality of death. It comes to everyone. The young and old, the rich and poor, the famous and nondescript. We all end up at the cemetery (unless your ashes are scattered or you're eaten by wolves). Yet, as the monument I mentioned before reminds us, we have hope in the cemetery. Jesus' empty tomb means that he's victorious over sin, death and the devil. And he shares that victory with us. The empty tomb in the cemetery reminds us that there will be millions of empty Christian graves at Jesus' coming again. Cemeteries, hearses, palls—death itself—will only be things of the past. Praise be to God for his mercy in Christ and for Jesus' gift of eternal life! God bless your Holy Week and see you on Easter Sunday!



Love in Christ, Pastor Tony



April Voters Meeting, 27 April 2025

Come one, come all to the Semi-Annual Voters Meeting. The meeting is to follow the 9:30 Service. At this meeting we will be electing Council Officers for the following positions Council Vice-Chairman and Council Secretary. We also will be electing Committee members. All Council positions are for two-year terms. In addition we will be hearing from RJ Kinsella concerning the Call Committee.

Terry Colvin will be presenting the latest update to our strategic planning process. During the update, Terry will provide more information on three fundamental goals for BSLC over the next three years. Our expectations are to 1) Strengthen our Church Family, 2) Strengthen our relationship with our community and 3) Have a more youthful approach in going forward as a church. In addition, the committee has categorized our upcoming activities into short-term, Medium-term and long-term goals. These activities will be discussed in detail. Following the update, we will have a question-and-answer period.

We hope everyone can attend!

Keith Szolga



Numbers enable our 4Gs: Go, Gather, Give, and Glorify (11 March Council Meeting)

by Phyllis Miesner, Council Secretary

I was never good at math (just ask my family and friends) but after our **11 March** Church Council meeting, I did some rethinking about numbers and how they have impacted our **Gathering Place- Blessed Savior**.

God has lent us **4** men- **2** vacancy pastors, Pastor Tony and Pastor Perry, **1** Seminarian Brett, and **1** monthly Visitor, trainer and preacher Reverend Bill –to enable us to continue to **Gather** and **Glorify** God through church services, bible study, prayer and training while many Lutheran churches are sharing Pastors or have none! Pastor Tony will confirm **2** students this spring. He teaches approximately **12** women for Ladies Bible study weekly. And there is Pastor Perry who continues to **Go** and **Give** with more than **30** personal visits, some with communion, already this year to ill members and friends. He informs us of illnesses as well as deaths of loved ones like the death of Cheryl Vohlken's father. Cheryl is a **Giver** and our **1** organist of **30** years! Our Seminarian Brett, like mentors Pastor Tony and Pastor Perry, has also **Given** through church services and bible studies for about **7** months. Reverend Bill Geis has **Giv-en** by providing **1** church service a month for **5** months as well as training teams to help us develop a church vision- a **Strategic Plan**- for our future as we **GO, GATHER, GIVE, and GLORIFY** in the mission field. I cannot guess **the number** of visitors or members of Blessed Savior these **4** men have served or how many hours they have spent in planning. As a retired teacher and planner, I know altogether they have spent **100s** of hours planning and **Giving** to this **1** church, Blessed Savior.

We have been blessed with funds to be able to pay for our church's expenses. Curtis Kuppler, our Treasurer, reported a healthy checking account of around **\$166,000.00** and our reserve account, LCEF, has close to **\$300,000.00**! Church **giving** was around **\$18,000.00** and expenses around **\$16,000.00** in February. We haven't always been able to support the Southern Illinois District that **Goes** out and **Gives** by providing ministries to prisons, colleges, older adults, foreign seminarians, disaster relief, but today we can and are!

Committees reported lots of numbers! With our blessed funds in the last **3** years, according to Ed Brandmeyer, chairman of properties, we have purchased and installed **1** new water fountain with water bottle filler upstairs, **3** parking lot lights and **3** large HVAC units. **One** fellowship hall and the **2** upstairs bathrooms have been totally remodeled. We have replaced siding, **1** roof and its gutters, upgraded our **1** security system, and purchased **100** comfortable new chairs so we can continue to **Gather and Glorify our God** with our church **Family**.

Christian Ed Sunday School, grades **pre-K -6 Youth**, **Sent** out **22** Valentines to church members, military and friends of the congregation **Family**. On the **23 March** the **Youth** praised and **Glorified** in song with music of our VBS to be held from **9 -13 of June** this summer. We will **Gather** for our annual **Easter Egg Hunt** activities on Saturday, **19 April** at **10:00a.m.** with eggs to be stuffed on **17 April** at **10:00 a.m.** If you would like to **Give** a donation, you can bring Easter candy donations to church starting **30 March**. Ryan Moureau, Christian Ed chair, reminds everyone to follow the bulletin and newsletter for more information or contact him!

The last **3** Meals on Wednesdays through Lent are on **26 March** (Elders), **2 April** (Christian Ed), and **9 April** (Stewardship) and were scheduled by Fellowship and provided by church council members before we **Gather** to **Glorify** in our Lenten services. On Easter Sunday morning **20 April**, we invite everyone to **Gather** for breakfast before church, **Give** a donation of food for breakfast, and **Glorify** our Lord in the Easter Service following breakfast. Watch for the sign- up sheet in the Narthex.

Blessed Savior is a loving **Family** that **Gives** in many ways. A motion was made and passed to **Go** into the **Community** and participate in a **meal program for low-income kids, called "Feed My Lambs"**. Meals will be delivered for **1** month from **7 July** through **8 August** on Wednesdays only. What a blessing to be able to do this! Any questions, contact Charla Morton.

And Finally, the **2** last items! Rev. Bill Geis will be here on Sunday, **6 April** for church and bible study. On Sunday **27 April** at **9:30** we will **Gather** first to **Glorify** the Lord through our church service followed by our **Annual Voters' meeting** (no children's or adult bible study that day) and **Strategic Planning Report**. Because this is so important and we want as many **visitors, members, and families** in attendance, lunch will be provided for everyone as well as childcare during meeting times. Please try to come—you won't be sorry!

(Continued on page 4)

Update from the Properties Committee

Over the past three years with the generous support of the congregation it has allowed the Properties Committee to embark on a systematic upgrade of our church facilities. Along with the regular maintenance we have been able to upgrade, replace or improve the following areas:

- Parking Lot Lights, New Siding, New Roof, New Gutters with gutter guards,
- Painted the Sanctuary, Remodeled the Fellowship Hall,
- Remodeled both the Upstairs Bathrooms,
- Replaced 3 large HVAC Units with new energy efficient units,
- Security Panel Upgrade and replacement,
- New folding chairs, New Streaming Cameras
- There are still a few items left to accomplish such as computer upgrades projector/video wall etc.

Your continued support is appreciated. If you know of any item(s), you believe that could use some attention please let Ed Brandmeyer or a member of the Properties Committee know.

I know we will probably miss a few names but please take a moment to thank the following individuals who helped make these projects possible.

John Lundebly, Perry Schefelker, Andy Herran, Don Drouin, Don Geis, Lorian Reynolds, Curtis Kuppler, Roger Miesner, Nancy Schmidt, Eric Trapp, Luke Lesire, Audrey Lesire, Ed Brandmeyer, Diana Brandmeyer and Kim Lloyd

In Service to Christ,

Properties Committee



New Water Fountain:

If you haven't noticed, we have a new water fountain in the narthex. It uses much less power, runs quietly, and filters the water. Thanks Ed!

Chairs, chairs and more chairs!

With the purchase of the new chairs for the fellowship hall upstairs and downstairs we have lots of chairs that need a new home. They are free for the taking! But you need to take them quick! There are folding chairs down stairs and stacking chairs upstairs. If they are not claimed by April 12th they will be donated for scrap metal. Take them quick! First come first served.



CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT CONTINUED

Sooooo...Looking at all the numbers of our March council meeting, whether large, small, a date or quantity, they are important to the growth and mission of Blessed Savior! Praise the Lord that our church **Family** can **Glorify** him through church services and bible studies provided by Pastor Tony, Pastor Schefelker, and soon to be Pastor Brett so we can **Gather!** Praise God that he called Rev. Geis to help us clarify and plan our **4G mission: To Go, Glorify, Gather, and Give.** God has blessed us financially to support the church and help to **Give** to the **Community.** God gave us **Families** to nurture and plan with, wonderful leaders, council members, visitors and friends. Don't miss our **Voters' and Strategic Planning Meeting on 27 April** to see how we will **Go** into the mission field! When you get the call to help the church don't say NO, say YES to the opportunity to help to build those numbers! **You may be just 1 person, but you are just the right fit and number for BSLC!!!!**



SHARING OUR GIFTS FOR A SUCCESSFUL CONGREGATION

Spirit of Life, unite our hearts. Increase our joy with the supply of your gracious help. Give each of us the blessings of Christian fellowship to live in joyful hope.

(Taken from the hymn: "May We Your Precepts Lord Fulfill")

The success of a congregation is dependent on the participation of every member. God has given each of us gifts to be used to promote His kingdom. Each member of Blessed Savior is an important and necessary component of our family of believers. We are not complete without the involvement of every individual.

This is the time to review your personal gifts and offer your time and talents throughout the year. There are many opportunities here at Blessed Savior where your talents are needed. When will you be available for an hour, day, weekend, etc., to share your gifts? EACH of us counts as a vital part to the success of the whole. Ask God for guidance. Watch for opportunities. Rejoice in the difference YOU will make in a job well done.

If you have not already done so, please fill out a Time and Talent sheet found on the table in the narthex. Feel free to be specific about what works best for you regarding time and task, etc. What do you personally enjoy doing? You can add something which is not even listed. Your personal gifts are important.

As sinful human beings we live in an imperfect world. There will be misunderstandings and judgments. We won't see eye to eye on everything but we must show RESPECT AND COOPERATION. Let's all work together in a manner of God's calling in humility, patience, and our steadfast support of growing God's Kingdom. Each of our members is UNIQUE. We must work together to build up Christ's church here in O'Fallon and elsewhere. Then, when our new pastor arrives, we will be able to join hands in thanksgiving for God's call in his service to Blessed Savior.

Concluding Thoughts . . .

How do others see us as Christians? Do we reflect our love of Christ through our genuine deeds of caring and sharing. Are we reflections of God's Love?

The ARCHERS - Uniting The Hearts of Our Congregation through Prayer



Know Who (and Whose) You Are

Actor Kirk Douglas once picked up a hitchhiker. After the man got settled in Douglas's car, he turned to look more closely at the driver. Surprised to recognize the famous man at the wheel, the hitchhiker exclaimed, "Do you know who you are?!"

We would do well to ask ourselves and each other the same thing. Often, we seem to forget — or perhaps we never knew.

Through much of life, we behave as if our identity depends on our occupation, wealth, family line, daily accomplishments or good deeds. But none of these — not even the last one — determines the core of who we are. All that matters is our Creator's opinion, and God loves us with abundant, unconditional love.

Do you know who you are? You are God's beloved child! And so is everyone else. May we live out that knowledge, treating one another as such. —Heidi Hyland Mann





Christian Ed Report

Easter Egg Hunt and Other Activities

With Easter being only a few weeks away Christian Ed wanted to remind everyone of the Annual Easter Egg Hunt. It is scheduled for Saturday, April 19 at 10:00 a.m. There will be lots of Christ centered fun and activities for ages up to 6th grade...Puppet show, crafts, cookie decorating and of course the Egg Hunt! Mark your calendars and invite some friends!

Your Help is Needed! Many eggs are stuffed for this event, which means assistance is needed! If you can lend a hand on Thursday, April 17 at 10:00 a.m., please meet in the fellowship hall. We will also need **Volunteers** to hide eggs and assist with crafts on Saturday morning 9:45 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Any help would be greatly appreciated!

Also just a reminder, Candy collection for the Easter egg hunt will start on March 30th. A donation box will be placed in the Narthex. Please contact Ryan Moureau if you can help or have any questions. It would be GREATLY appreciated!



Care Package Preparations and Name/Addresses Needed

Sunday School is also getting ready for our annual Care Package event. Treats and useful items will be collected; handmade cards with heartfelt notes created and finally, boxes will be eagerly filled with all the goodies! Military members stationed far from home and our college students getting ready for final exams will receive these care packages. It is a fun reminder that they are cared for and loved by Blessed Savior! There will be a donation box placed in the narthex also starting on March 30th. Items are needed by April 6 as the care packages will be assembled on Sunday, April 13 during Sunday School. Please contact Ryan Moureau if you can help or have any questions.

Care Packages FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS



Here is a list of items that can be donated: (30 are needed of each item)

- Hot Cocoa Packages - Microwave Popcorn
- Granola Bars - Small Bags of Cookies
- Small Bags of Crackers - Packs of Gum
- Tic Tacs - Rice Krispy Treats
- Fruit Snacks - Candy
- Travel Sized Lotion - Ink Pens
- Post-it Notes

If there is someone who would enjoy receiving a care package, contact Loriann Reynolds. We also are in need of updated addresses for our college students and military members. Your help is greatly appreciated!!!

Created in Christ! Ryan Moureau



Easter Egg Hunt and Puppet Show Saturday, April 19

10 am

Bring your Basket

Invite your friends!

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE



CALL COMMITTEE

Greetings in Christ BSLC Family!

On Tuesday, March 18th, the BSLC Call Committee had our first meeting and resumed our efforts towards finding our next spiritual leader! The meeting was attended by all members of this committee, including Phyllis Miesner, Ginger Kieffer, Ben Lesire, Sandie Rust, Keith Szolga, Terry Colvin, Pastor Chris Spelbring (our Circuit Visitor from Zion Lutheran in Belleville), and myself.

Our meeting was short and very productive. Terry Colvin briefed Pastor Spelbring on the efforts of the BSLC Vision Project, which the congregation has worked on for the past several months. The hard work of our congregation has produced a great vision for BSLC, and it provides the Call Committee with the confidence and tools we need for our mission for the next few months: Identify potential Pastor candidates, meet and interview candidates who are interested in BSLC, and present to you, our congregation, the Pastor who God has guided us to be our next spiritual leader.

I will try to update as we meet and progress along this journey. I appreciate your patience, and the support of the Call Committee, the Elders, and the rest of the congregation as we navigate this new journey together. While we were not successful in getting a long-term pastor for BSLC on our first attempt, God (through the efforts of our Pastors and congregation) has provided us with a vision for our future and the confidence that God will provide us with a Pastor who will align with our vision.

The Call Committee asks that you pray for us, and for the church, as we resume this journey!

RJ Kinsella

Share in the Miracle

Some of you may recognize that heading as that of Unity Lutheran Christian Elementary School Spring Fundraising Dinners. And, you would be right! *"Twenty-two years of growth and ministry"* says the letter inviting people to participate in *"lives changed daily by God's Word and God's people. There is no other explanation. It's a miracle."* Of course, the congregation has supported Unity Lutheran School with turkeys at Thanksgiving. Some have helped to clean up the grounds there in years past. Here's another opportunity: **Thursday, May 8th, at 6:30 pm; Regency Conference Center, 400 Regency Park, O'Fallon, IL 62269.** No cost to attend. You will have the opportunity to make a financial gift to Unity Lutheran School and its mission. All adults are invited. Could we have enough for "a table of eight" – maybe more??? If interested, contact: Nancy, Pastor Perry, or John Lundebly. Reservations required.



Join the Lutheran World Relief **QUILTERS** on **Tuesdays, April 8, May 13, & June 10** 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.





Fellowship News

Happy April!

The Fellowship Committee provides Fellowship opportunities among our congregation and through our community interactions.

We continue to have Woods Donuts and other goodies each Sunday Morning after the 9:30 service. The exception to this: when Rev Bill Geis visits- then we will have homemade goodies. If you would like to donate to the "Donut fund", please feel free to do so either through a check marked "Fellowship Donuts" or in the basket provided in the Fellowship Hall. We greatly appreciate all donations.

For April, the following activities are provided:

April 2- Lenten Dinner provided by the Christian Ed

April 9- Lenten Dinner provided by Stewardship

All Lenten Dinners begin at 6pm. The food is always delicious and everyone works hard to get it there for all. Please join us in Fellowship before the Lenten worship services beginning at 7pm.

April 20th is Easter and we will be having an Easter Breakfast again. Easter Breakfast will be at 7:30 AM. with the Elders making pancakes and ham. We will be having a sign-up sheet for incidentals, juice, and breakfast casseroles. Put your thinking caps on. We can't wait to see everyone.

As Promised, we will have some new activities coming soon. Starting in late April, we will start working at the O'Fallon Food Pantry. Several of us have signed up for Saturday, but I understand there might be a few Monday or Wednesday Mornings available to work. This is a great way for us to get our name out there and do something for our community. If you would like more information, please Contact Bethany Herran as she is our Contact person for this endeavor.

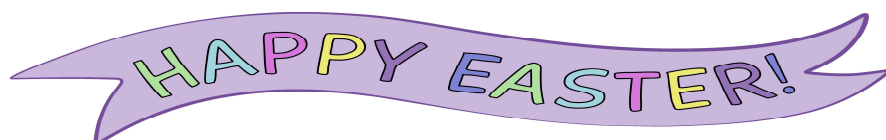
Starting in July, for four weeks, we will be doing "Feed our Lambs" on Wednesdays, with several of the other churches in the area. Charla Morton is the contact person for this event. We will be making lunches and providing snacks and drinks for approximately 150 students.

In late June, we will be hosting our first Family Scavenger Hunt through O'Fallon. More details for this event to come. How well do you know O'Fallon? This should be a great time.

Thank you for supporting the Fellowship Committee..

God's Blessings,

Gwen Borsch and Ginger Kieffer and the whole Fellowship Committee.



Acolyte Program

Begun

One word that has been used a lot during the Strategic Planning Process is the word, "transparent." I assume that means to communicate to each other in the church what we are doing or reasons for not doing it.

One program that had been suspended during covid is the acolyte program. It had been missed and has now started up again. 7th and 8th graders were asked if they would like to help the congregation by lighting the candles before Sunday worship services. They were very receptive to the idea. In fact, once the schedule was set up, a sophomore student who had not had the opportunity to acolyte on a regular basis told her dad that she would be willing to acolyte. Then, the Pastor Tony contacted other former students of confirmation classes, freshman – sophomore, to enquire into their interest. And, the list was revised to include them with instructions for lighting the candles as well as a schedule. Thank you, Pastor Tony!

Let me tell you how this all got started. One member gave the idea to Pastor Perry, that she thought it would be good for young people to once again have the opportunity to serve the congregation as acolytes. He shared it with the elders and Pastor Tony. The rest is history. What do we learn from this? By sharing an idea that we have with one of the pastors or the elders can lead to positive change in the church. Even after the Strategic Planning Process has been completed.





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:



Hope for Holy Week

As you travel with Jesus through Holy Week, don't lose heart. He is your Palm Sunday King. He will always come to you and give you the best of what he has to offer because of his humble attitude and his devotion to his mission.

When you see this Savior who personally cares for you, you can't help but join the believers of old to give to the Lord your best and most precious treasures of your heart and life, and then to join with all believers saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"
Peter Sulzle



Egg-tra 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!



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.

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 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

"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



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

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

Clothed in Compassion

In Colossians 3:12, Paul tells us to clothe ourselves in compassion. What does that look like? Consider these parallels to actual clothes:

Each morning, we select outfits depending on our activities and who we'll see. For example, clothing looks different for a day of chores than for worship on Easter Sunday. To maintain our wardrobe, we regularly clean, fold and repair items. Likewise, each day we choose how we'll treat others. Our approach to each activity or interaction might differ, as we seek to represent Christ well. And to maintain an effective witness, we often must renew and "mend" our attitude.

One more comparison: Look in your closet. Have you updated your clothes lately? Compassion looks different than it did decades ago. While staying grounded in biblical truth, let's adapt the care we wear — making it "fit" better for today's generations.



- 7— Samantha Poteet O'Daniel
- 8 – Kevin Schmidt
- 9 – Jordan Colvin
- 11—Ann Lundeby, Savannah Boggs
- 13- Brianna Berens, Leah Geis,
- 14 Callie Gorney
- 15—Maddie Moureau
- 16 – Matthew Vohlken
- 17 – Pat Dalton
- 21 – Ashley Vosholler
- 23 – Kristen Lintvedt , Jeff Trefftz
- 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
- 21– Emily & Luis Garcia
- 27—Dennis & Donna Brockmeyer

Sharing our Easter inheritance

After David Clarke's mother died in a cycling accident, she left him \$125,000. Inspired by how his mom had lived, he decided to share that inheritance with his community. Clarke chose four organizations that assist people in poverty, those with special needs and others. Liverpool (U.K.) Kids Plant to Plate received one-fourth of the money to teach urban kids about food growth and preparation. Team Oasis, which provides free meals and positive opportunities to disadvantaged families, also received 25% of the funds, as did two other nonprofits.

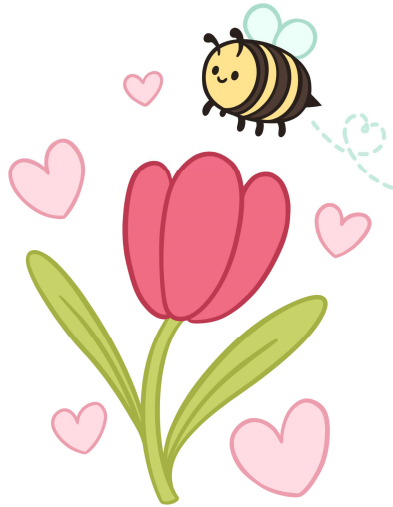
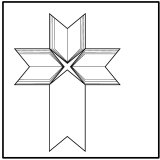
Through Jesus' death and resurrection, we too have an inheritance (see Colossians 1:12). Because we did nothing to earn this abundant love and life — and because God teaches us to serve and care for others — we look for ways to share it.

Unlike Clarke's monetary windfall, however, our gifts of salvation, grace, joy, love and blessing never run out. In fact, the more we share Jesus' love through word and deed, the more we experience it ourselves. As Clarke keeps his mom's spirit alive by following her example, so we, as Easter people, make the Spirit of God known far and wide.

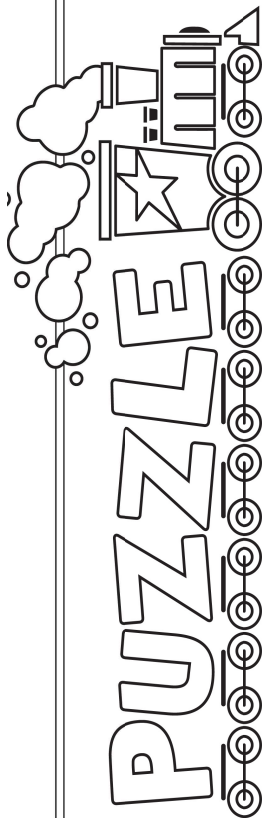
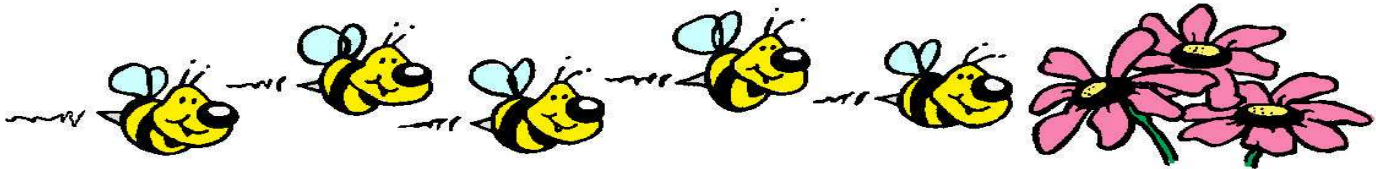




The Sanctuary
Blessed Savior Lutheran Church
1205 North Lincoln Ave.
O'Fallon, IL 62269



April
2025



OUR EASTER GIFT

Thanks to Easter, what wonderful gift does God give us?

Directions: Start at the given letter, move one space in the direction each arrow points. Write the last letter in each sequence in the spaces provided. Then write those answers in order on the blanks below to complete 1 Peter 1:3, NIV.

A	B	C	D	E
F	G	H	I	J
K	L	M	N	O
P	Q	R	S	T
U	V	W	X	Y

1. C → ↓ ↓
2. H → ↑ →
3. V → → ↓
4. I ← ← ↑
5. T ↑ ← ↑
6. P ↑ → → ↓
7. D ↓ → ↓ ↓
8. T ↑ ← ↑ ←

Praise be to the God and Father of our

Lord Jesus Christ!

In his great mercy he has given us

_____ into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

1 Peter 1:3, NIV



Answer: new birth