

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
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*Embraced by God through Jesus Christ our Lord, we share this gospel of hope and healing
within and throughout our community*

Faithful Reporter... Special Edition...



Telling the Easter Story with Resurrection Eggs

From ancient times, the egg has been a symbol of new life and rebirth. For Christians, it became associated with Jesus' death and resurrection. The custom of coloring Easter eggs is said to have originated in the early Christian community when they stained eggs red in memory of the blood of Christ, shed at his crucifixion. Today, the tradition of the Easter Eggs lives on and can still be used to share the story of Easter in a variety of ways.

For example, I appreciate how this year, many of you are helping us stuff Easter Eggs for our Sunday School and VCA children. It is our hope that this will become one of our traditions and be another way in which we share the love of Christ with our children and the community.

Another interesting tradition I came across which some of you may be able to use with the children (and others as well if you are creative) involves something called resurrection eggs. You can find different variations of this on the web, but the following version can be found <http://wildflowerramblings.com/easter/sharing-the-easter-story-with-resurrection-eggs/>. The basic idea involves taking an egg carton with plastic Easter Eggs, each containing items and scripture verses that help to tell the Easter story. The Eggs contain variations of the following:

1: Donkey (plastic toy) & Palm Branch(leaf) "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon [a donkey]." Zechariah 9:9 Most of the crowd spread their coats in the road, and others were cutting branches from the trees and spreading them in the road. The crowds going ahead of Him, and those who followed, were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David; Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest!" Matt. 21:8-9

2: Bread "While they were eating Jesus took a piece of bread, gave a prayer of thanks, broke it, and gave it to His disciples. 'Take and eat it,' He said, 'This is My body.'" Matt. 26:26

3: 3 dimes "Then one of the twelve disciples, named Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and asked, 'What will you give me if I betray Jesus to you?' They counted out thirty silver coins and gave them to him." Matt. 26: 14-15

4: Small string "Pilate wanted to please the crowd, so he set Barabbas free for them. Then he had Jesus whipped and handed Him over to be crucified" Mark 15:15

5: Purple cloth and crown of thorns "They stripped Jesus' clothes and put a scarlet robe on him. Then they made a crown out of thorny branches and placed it on His head, and put a stick on His right hand; then they knelt before Him and made fun of Him. "Long live the King, of the Jews," They said." Matt. 27:28-29

6: Cross "He went out, carrying His cross, and came to Golgotha, that is 'The Place of the Skull.' There they crucified Him." John 19: 17-18 "He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed." 1 Peter 2:24

wildflowerramblings.wordpress.com

7: 3 small nails "They nailed Jesus to a cross and gambled to see who would get his clothes." Mark 15:24 "And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven." Colossians 1:20

8: Sign reading King of the Jews "Above Him were written these words: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS." Luke 23:38

9: Sponge and spear "One of them ran up at once, took a sponge. He filled it with vinegar, put it on a stick, and offered it to Jesus to drink." Matthew 27:48 "One of the soldiers plunged his spear into Jesus' side, and at once blood and water poured out. John 19:34

10: White cloth and spices "Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs." John 19:40

11: Rock "Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a new linen sheet, and placed it in his own new tomb, which he had just recently dug out of solid rock. Then he rolled a large stone across the entrance to the tomb and went away." Matthew 27:59-60

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12: Empty “The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’ Now I have told you.” Matt. 28:5-7



May God Bless you as you share the Resurrection story,

Pastor Eric Schreck

“In light of COVID-19 make this an activity for all ages, get on skype with a child in our life (or just be the child yourself) and go on scavenger hunt...read each scripture from the previous article and help the child come up with an item described in the verse (use the items listed in the previous article as a reference). Get a leaf or blade of grass from outside to represent the palm. Draw a picture of a donkey or any items you can't find or come up with to fill each space in the egg carton or other container if an egg carton is not available... Decorate your containers and encourage the child to put it somewhere they can keep it for next year so that you can get it out and read the scriptures together again and remember this special time you had when much like tomb you were cooped up due to the darkness caused by COVID-19, by then hopefully we will have all come out of this particular “tomb” and in into the light and life of day... Now you and they will have another way of seeing this time in history as a reminder of the resurrection!”

EASTER MOVIES

We can't gather at church to watch [The Passion of the Christ](#), but we can watch and talk about movies and how they remind us of Easter. Try this... Gather your family at home or even get together with friends on Zoom, Skype, or social media... you could even start a movie watchers club/discussion on social media. Pick a movie to watch and then talk about the how certain characters were like Christ in the movie.... You can also answer some of the following:

- Was there a main figure in the story who was a sort of Christ-figure... How were they like Christ how were they different?
- Were there other characters in the story who reminded you of people in the story of Christ's life, death, and resurrection.... Especially during the weeks immediately leading up to and after Easter when Christ rose from the dead? How? What can we learn from them?
- Were there any people, events, or statements that reminded you of some other part of the Bible... how so? Is there something to be learned here?

Here are some movies that come recommended... You can find and watch them online or buy and have them delivered, many for little cost. Some may even be on U-tube for free. I have not seen them all so be careful of your audience you may want to read some reviews, ratings, and summaries first especially if young children.

Biblically Based/Themed Movies:

[Risen](#) (2016) presents a fresh perspective on the biblical events surrounding Easter, through the eyes of a hardened Roman Centurion

[Son of God](#) (2014) retells the life story of Jesus of Nazareth, from his birth, ministry, miracles, death, and resurrection. While in exile on Patmos, the Apostle John relives the saga of his first-hand journey as a disciple of Jesus Christ, who is played by Diogo Morgado.

[The Passion of the Christ](#) (2004) (Warning: very graphic violence...I suggest you turn on subtitles in the menus unless you speak Aramaic)

[The Gospel of John](#) (2003)

[The Greatest Story Ever Told](#) (1965) Another classic telling of the life of Christ... see if you can spot Charleston Heston.

[The Ten Commandments](#)

[The Robe](#)

[VeggieTales: and Easter Carol](#) the whole VeggieTales Series can be a good source of entertainment and discussion for families.

[The Chronicles of Narnia](#)

[Amazing Grace](#) (2007) The Story of William Wilberforce

[Martin Luther](#) (1952)

[Ben-hur](#)

[Courageous](#)

[Fireproof](#)

[Facing Giants](#)

You can also go to Rightnow Media, Pureflix, or a variety of other sources for Christian themed movies and shows. Also keep in mind you can find Christian themes even in movies the authors may or may not have intended. Some are more obvious than others.

[It's an Easter Beagle Charlie Brown](#)

[Spider Man 3](#) – you'd be surprised at the long list of things I came up with watching this one, but you have to be a bit metaphorical and creative (may not be appropriate for some viewers)

Have fun, be creative and get some discussions going—including with friends who may not yet be believers!

THOUGHTS FROM THE DEACONESS

"I Am the Resurrection and the Life"

John 11:25

Many moons ago, a children's choir under my direction sang the following anthem composed by Natalie Sleeth:

'Twas all part of the plan, since first the world began:
that on the tree He died for me. 'Twas all part of the plan!
'Twas all destined to be, by God's divine decree:
His life He gave, our souls to save. 'Twas all destined to be!
For God ordained from long ago that Christ the Lord should suffer so,
that by His death the world would know the glory of his rising.
So come now and be glad! Why should your heart be sad?
For God's own Son the vict'ry won.
'Twas all part of the plan, part of the Lord's eternal plan!

With the community of believers being a post-Easter community, we often forget and may even become numb to the complete meaning of Easter. We see Easter as the statement of our salvation from sin and the promise of life in heaven. Easter is those things, but it is far more.

Before God uttered the words, "Let there be light", a plan for the redemption of all creation was already in place. God knew that we would try to claim superiority over God and turn away from our relationship with God. But that knowledge didn't stop God from creating us, loving us, forgiving us, and saving us. The plan for Jesus to become human – for God to enter creation as a baby – for that baby to die and rise to heal the broken relationship – that was the plan.

What comfort this can give us as we still live in a broken creation. God has a plan and we are part of it.

*"This Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God."
Acts 2:23*

EASTER SERVICES

As many of you have heard by now we are doing something a little different for Easter this year. Drive-in church! (not to be confused with drive-through church). On Sunday, April 12 at 9:00am or 10:30 am (rain or shine) you are invited to join us in the Faith Lutheran parking lot for worship. This Worship has been communicated to and ok'd by the Porter County Sheriff and State health Department, based on the following plan.

Everyone (except the few leading worship) will stay in their cars with windows closed throughout this time of the gathering

For best view during worship, everyone that can should park in the main large back parking lot facing the double glass entry doors. (traffic attendants may be on hand to guide you.)

The service will be broadcast via localized transmitter (to the parking lot area only) on channel 99.1)

Pastor will lead worship from sidewalk or inside the entryway depending on weather. (Even if you cannot see the pastor you should be able to hear him on the radio in any parking space on the church property.)

The service is a shortened service that should last no more than 40 min at most.

Please check your email, Facebook, or our church web page to print off the order of service and bring this with you to worship.

For safety reasons, bathrooms will not be available except in an extreme emergency.

If you cannot attend, or do not feel it is wise to do so at this time, you can still worship with us via Facebook where we plan to live stream and post the service. You are encourage to invite people to attend the service and to watch our Facebook as well. Following Easter we will continue to have services either in this format or via Facebook. Watch your email, the church Facebook page and faithvalpo.org for more information.

HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAYS!

Carol Ballard	April 2
Anne Lyons	April 13
Evan Snowdin	April 14
Matt Dunlap	April 16
Roxanne Gottleber	April 19
Sean Allwardt	April 27
Heather Brant	April 28
Dean Gengnagel	April 29
Ray Kickbush	April 29

A Special Thanks Goes to:

Our Board
Our Staff
The Frank Family
Arpad Marton

...and all those who are putting in extra time and effort and to all of you for being patient, prayerful, and supportive as we go through this challenging time together.

**Faith Lutheran
Church**

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THIS IS A SPECIAL EDITION OF OUR NEWSLETTER. IT DOES NOT INCLUDE OUR REGULAR APRIL CALENDAR AND ASSISTING MINISTER'S SCHEDULE DUE TO UNCERTAINTY AS TO DATES.

KEEP CHECKING YOUR EMAIL, THE FAITH FACEBOOK PAGE AND OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.FAITHVALPO.ORG. DEB CONTINUES TO MONITOR OUR PHONES AND EMAIL AND IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION WE WILL GET BACK TO YOU AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

STAY SAFE AND TAKE CARE OF YOURSELVES.

FAITH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

For Easter services and other services during the month of April please see the "Easter Services" article inside this newsletter and check your email, the Faith Facebook page and our website: www.Faithvalpo.org or www.faithmemorial.net.

The Fourth Sunday of Easter, May 3, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Fifth Sunday of Easter, May 10, 9:00am Morning Prayer
The Sixth Sunday of Easter, May 17, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Seventh Sunday of Easter, May 24, 9:00am Morning Prayer
The Day of Pentecost, May 31, 9:00am Holy Communion

