



# The Communicant

## St Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church



3328 William Penn Ave Johnstown, PA 15900 | 814-322-1307 | March 2024



Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

<sup>13</sup>They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." <sup>14</sup>At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

<sup>15</sup>He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

<sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (teacher)

Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: **"I have seen the Lord!"** And she told them that he had said these things to her. (John 20: 11-18)



**Conemaugh Valley Ministerium  
Lenten Worship Services 2024**

**Theme: "Places of the Passion"**

**Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> – 12:00 noon**

**Bethany**

**Cardiff Road Church of God**

**Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup> - 12:00 noon**

**The Mount of Olives**

**Nanty Glo Alliance Church**

**Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> – 12:00 noon**

**Gethsemane**

**Nanty Glo First Baptist Church**

**Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> – 12:00 noon**

**The High Priest's Courtyard**

**St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church -**

**Nanty Glo**

**Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>—12:00 noon**

**Pilate's Judgement Hall**

**St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church**

**Nanty Glo**

**Notes: There will be a time of fellowship for a soup and sandwich Luncheon following each of the services. Venues are subject to change.**

**St Paul's Lutheran Church**

**814-322-1307 (office)**

**Vicar Jen Sherbine**

**Email: [stpaulsmc@atlanticbbn.net](mailto:stpaulsmc@atlanticbbn.net)**

**[www.stpaulsevluth-mc.com](http://www.stpaulsevluth-mc.com)**

**Worship Services:**

**Saturday 5:30 p.m.**

**Sunday 9:00 a.m.**

**Sunday School & Adult Forum 10:30 a.m.**

**Welcome Vicar Jenn!**



Vicar Jenn Sherbine will be starting her internship at the end of this month. And we are the lucky church where she will be serving, along with St. John's in Summerhill! She has been presiding over some of our worship services which has already given her insight into our congregation.

We are excited to be sharing this very important experience with her.

**Welcome Vicar Jenn!**

Prayers for a successful internship and for our congregation.

***Gracious Lord,***

We lift up our Vicar to You, rejoicing in the gift You have bestowed upon St Paul's church. We ask for Your blessings to be poured out upon her as she begins her internship amongst us.



Grant her a heart filled with compassion and a spirit of humility. May she seek Your guidance and wisdom in her pastoral duties. Arm her with the necessary skills to speak Your Word with power and clarity.

Help her to connect with each member of our congregation, understanding their joys, sorrows, tribulations and needs. May our vicar be a shepherd who leads us closer to You and helps us to strengthen our faith. In Your holy name, we pray. **Amen.**



Think about signing up to help with the church services, or other capacities that you think you might be able to serve. Many opportunities to help..



## MARCH WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS, 2024

### GREETERS FOR THE MONTH

Virginia Ankeny

### LECTORS

- 3 - Virginia Ankeny
- 10 - Deb Deetscreek
- 17 - Jessica Hodge
- 24 - Dave Shoemaker

### ACOLYTES

- 3 - Leah Rainey
- 10 - Leighla Vorhauer
- 17 - Kathleen Hodge
- 24 - Justen Vorhauer

### ALTAR GUILD

Sue Vorhauer, Sheena Vorhauer and Barbara Bolton

### WORSHIP ASSISTANT

Dave Cobaugh

## APRIL WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS, 2024

### GREETERS FOR THE MONTH:

Jim and Donna Amigh

### LECTORS

- 7 - John Gustkey
- 14 - Lori Anderson
- 21 - Carol Fox
- 28 - Virginia Ankeny

### ACOLYTES

- 7 - Larkyn Gustkey
- 14 - Hailey Faight
- 21 - Leah Rainey
- 28 - Leighla Vorhauer

### ALTAR GUILD

LaVerne Reffner and Jeannette Vorhauer

### WORSHIP ASSISTANT:

Ellen Grace Vorhauer



**"BY GOD'S GRACE WE  
GROW IN FAITH, and  
SHARE JESUS CHRIST,  
AND SERVE ONE  
ANOTHER IN LOVE!"**

### Fourth Sunday in Lent March 6, 2024

9:30 a.m. Bible Study  
Sue Kauffman's home

### March 9, 2024

5:30 p.m. Holy Communion Service  
Lay Presider - Gary Mickle

### March 10, 2024

9:00 a.m. Worship Service  
Lay Presider Gary Mickle

10:30 a.m. Sunday School/Adult Forum  
11:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal

### Fifth Sunday in Lent March 13, 2024

9:30 a.m. Bible Study  
Sue Kauffman's Home

### March 16, 2024

5:30 p.m. Worship Service  
Bishop Paula Schmitt

### March 17, 2024

Bishop Paula Schmitt  
9:00 a.m. Worship Service

10:30 a.m. Sunday School/Adult Forum  
11:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal

### Palm Sunday March 20, 2024

9:30 a.m. Bible Study  
Sue Kauffman's Home

### March 23, 2024

5:30 p.m. Worship Service  
March 24, 2024

### March 24, 2024

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion Service  
10:30 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt All Ages  
11:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal

### Holy Week

Maunday Thursday - Bishop Paula Schmitt  
Worship 7:00 pm

Good Friday - Rev. Kevin Schock  
Noon Worship  
7:00 pm Worship

### Easter Sunday

6:30 am Holy Communion Worship

7:30 to 8:30 Breakfast

9:00 am Holy Communion Worship





## Stewardship

From Merriam-Webster - Stewardship - *the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care.*

In the context of our church giving stewardship is the careful and responsible management of our time, and our possessions entrusted to us by God as signs of His gracious love.

Our church treasurer, Steve, is the steward of the financial gifts we give to the church. Steve likes to use a traffic light metaphor ( Green, Yellow, Red) to summarize the churches financial health. **Green = Giving and expenses are on track to what we expected and planned.** ... to ... **Red = We have a problem. The traffic light indicator of our finances has turned RED. Monthly giving is the worst it has been in years.**

There are probably multiple reasons our giving is down. The economy and our interim pastor status come to mind and there may be more reasons.

The logic of some may be "We don't have a pastor's salary right now so we can slack off." Right? Well, not really. Here are some reasons we need to keep up our giving while we are between pastors:

- This is the time to make repairs and updates to the parsonage.

- When a new pastor is called, we will be responsible for moving costs. We need to save up for that. We have had costly moves from out of state in the past
- During the call process, a perspective pastor will look at our giving trends when deciding to accept our call.
- Our expenses, other than pastor's salary, are significant.
- Joyfully, we are preparing for the start of our Interim Vicar, Vicar Jenn. Her stipend, while lower than Pastor Kevin's salary, still needs covered.

We pray that the impact of inflation has been manageable in your household budgets. Please keep in mind the church expenses, even during our interim period. We ask that you prayerfully consider the stewardship of your time and possessions entrusted to you by God.

God Bless You!

*Scott Griffith*





# Food Pantry News



Food packing at the Pantry will take place on March 20 and the distribution will take place on March 23, 2024 at St. Vianney.

## St Paul's Lenten Fellowship Dinner and Annual Congregational Meeting



**PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!  
PUT THIS DATE IN YOUR PHONE!!**

**MARCH 20, 2024 5:30 : LUTHER HALL**

There will be a covered dish dinner the Wednesday before Palm Sunday.—March 20, 2024. Hopefully the sun is shining and the roads are clear!! A turkey is being prepared along with stuffing and gravy. We supply the rest!! We will be filling eggs for the easter egg hunt and homebound packages.

At this time we will also have a congregational meeting so please plan to attend. **We all need to be present to be informed.**

Please plan to attend and share some fellowship, fun stories or just come for the company. Other details to follow!

## Ladies Lunch



*The ladies luncheon at Perkins was a great success and a big THANK YOU to everyone who attended... Stay tuned, the Connections Group will be posting another Saturday soon!*

*So if you could not attend—we hope you will join us next time.*

And here we are on our Liturgical Calendar Journey (area outlined by red on the calendar). Suddenly we are in the season of Lent followed by Holy Week and to Easter Sunday.







## ***A Letter from Bishop Paula***

Many people in our Synod, don't really know what the Office of the Bishop or "**the Synod**" as many people call it, does for you. Here's a list of the big things, but there are many more smaller things.

- ◆ provide and update minimum compensation guidelines for Rostered Ministers
- ◆ receive and review updates to congregations' constitutions
- ◆ publish The Lutheran Letter
- ◆ respond to allegations of misconduct
- ◆ provide financial assistance for rostered ministers through a Discretionary Fund
- ◆ place interim pastors in congregations following long or troubled pastorates
- ◆ receive parochial reports from congregations and send them to the churchwide office
- ◆ communicate announcements through a weekly e-mail
- ◆ hold an annual Bishop's Convocation
- ◆ receive mission support remittances, disburse the funds, and account for their use
- ◆ oversee the Candidacy process
- ◆ partner with regional synods to support a Regional Gift Planner
- ◆ provide guidance in the call process
- ◆ oversee a nominating committee to invite members to serve in various leadership roles
- ◆ plan and hold an annual Synod Assembly
- ◆ assign supply worship leaders to congregations
- ◆ provide training events for rostered and lay people
- ◆ authorize worshipping communities and new starts
- ◆ assist congregations in challenging situations
- ◆ organize ministry-renewal events
- ◆ introduce Sue Ellen Spotts to congregations to aid in their renewal
- ◆ provide ongoing study of our church's social statements
- ◆ train and provide call vote facilitators
- ◆ arbitrate between factions in congregations to seek resolution through consultation
- ◆ disburse congregational vitality grants
- ◆ facilitate groups of congregation youth attending the ELCA Youth Gathering
- ◆ provide for Region 8 bishops to visit annually with seminary faculty and staff
- ◆ serve as members on or liaisons to the boards of our social ministry organizations
- ◆ support the Lutheran Campus Ministry at Penn State
- ◆ support the Kenya Evangelical Lutheran Church
- ◆ annually review and affirm the exchange of ministers with our full communion partner churches
- ◆ support a state public policy office in partnership with the six other synods in Pennsylvania (LAMPa)





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- provide worship leadership coverage in a pastoral vacancy
- provide training for lay worship leaders
- coordinate the delivery of quilts to Lutheran World Relief

*These are just some of the things your Mission Support to the Allegheny Synod helps to facilitate.*

Beyond our territory, our Mission Support to the ELCA helps to provide missionaries, young adults in Global Mission, ELCA World Hunger, Disaster Relief and so much more. This graphic shows the full extent of where our mission support to the ELCA goes:

[https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Where Does My Offering Go Poster.pdf?qa=2.141958129.257297254.1702566640.475448329.1702566640](https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Where%20Does%20My%20Offering%20Go%20Poster.pdf?qa=2.141958129.257297254.1702566640.475448329.1702566640)



### You're invited!!

St. John's Lutheran Church in Summerhill and Vicar Jenn Sherbine invite the members of St. Paul's to their church for a soup and bread dinner with an evening prayer service. The date is Wednesday, March 13, 2024 at 5:30. Vicar Jenn says the evening prayer service is very beautiful. Let's enjoy a night of fellowship and worship with our fellow Lutherans in Summerhill!



## PRESCHOOL

### Preschool in March!

It's that time of year! Spring Fever is in the air! And no one feels it more than pre-schoolers.

Our Preschool room is fairly buzzing! We get excited about everything- books, games, dancing, crafts, and especially playtime! The veterinarian's office has closed for the lack of sick animals. Our new activity is a Puppet Theater! Coming soon to Preschool Family Theater- many popular fairy tales! What's your favorite? The 3 Bears? The Little Red Hen? The 3 Little Pigs? Whatever it is, it will be quite a show!

Miss Georgia and I can't believe that the year is coming to a close! We see many changes in our little ones. They are growing up so fast and many will be going on to kindergarten next year. We are now accepting registrations for next year's class. Please see Georgia or Glenna if you need a registration form.



### Request for Council Committee Chairs!

Please turn in your annual reports to the church office by March 17, 2024.!!!!



# We carry our Petitions to the Lord

*Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."*

**Matthew 11:28-30**

## December

Diane  
Robyn  
Pam Gordon  
Rhonda Sprenger  
Frank Battaglia  
Beth Cobaugh  
Lavena  
Antoinette Franke  
Michael

## February

Ronnie  
Jeff E  
Joanne Leverknight  
Brady  
Lee  
Tom  
Harry  
Nancy  
Dave Bolton  
Linda  
Linda Hackman  
Cameron  
Gwen  
Jim Deetscreek  
Jane Hockensmith  
Brian Schill  
Erica Deetscreek  
Kate Johnsen  
Ron Leverknight  
Eric Deetscreek

Vern Ashbaugh  
Chaddie Kidd  
Stephen Griffith  
Linda Evans  
Joan Beresford  
Sabrina Tomasina  
Ronnie  
Father Voytek  
Woody Gay  
John Fedora  
Peggy Neff  
Wayne Gay  
Scott Freeman  
Bec D

## January

Michael Teeter  
Brady Thacker  
Shawn McDowell  
Steve Lane  
Marsha  
Diane



**As we embrace all listed in our hearts!**





# March "2024" Birthday Blessings



03/01 Jeannette Vorhauer

3/02 Sarah Ross

03/11 Clara Myers

03/11 Ian Mulligan

03/15 Susanne Vorhauer

03/17 Logan Boback

o 3/23 Andrew Mulligan

03/25 David Kivisto

03/27 Pamela Miller

03/27 Benjamin Kieta

03/28 Jackie Hockenberry

03/29 Ashley Deetscreek



## Our Homebound Members

- Shelly Keyser    Norma Keyser
- Betty Gressley    Sara Williamson
- Elissa Ditchcreek
- Linda Sell
- Kathryn Deetscreek
- Mary Lou Miller
- Bob Bombach
- Ken





## Congregational Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 5, 2024 – 7:00 p.m. in-person meeting

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

### Assembling in God's Name

President Scott Griffith called the in-person meeting to order and presided. Meeting held in Luther Hall.

Cindy Griffith recorded the minutes.

The following were present: Cathy Albright, Lori Anderson, Steve Dickert, Cindy Griffith, Scott Griffith, John Gustkey, Jackie Hockenberry, Steve Kauffman, Dave Kivisto & Bob Mikesell. Bishop Paula Schmitt attended to help us begin our next steps in the Transition Process. Sarah Ross attended to re-view the changing secretary needs.

### Celebrating Our Past

**Secretary's Report** - Copies of minutes from December council meeting were distributed for council review. No corrections were needed. Cathy Albright made a motion to approve minutes; seconded by Steve Dickert, the minutes were approved.

**Treasurer's Report** - Steve Kauffman presented the current financial report prepared January 2024 (*attached report filed for audit*). Steve noted we are currently up a little in our offerings. At the moment, our expenses are down, but we still have expenses to pay, including \$3,000 worth of heating oil bills. The parsonage electric bill was only \$21. He reminded us, we still need \$3,600 weekly to meet our budget. We do have work that needs to be done at the parsonage. We should still bank funds for future funds needed for maintenance on the parsonage, and moving fees for the new pastor. This will **avoid raising the budget** by 15-20% next year.

Scott noted he would write a Stewardship letter for our newsletter.

**Correspondence** – We received a flyer from Vince Brethren Church. March 1<sup>st</sup>, they are hosting a Bluegrass / Gospel Band, High Fidelity Bluegrass. Flyer will be posted. We also received a thank you note from the Birgitta Gabor Family. Patricia Ditchcreek also completed one of our communion cards, that she is interested in becoming a member. Scott said he would reach out to Patricia. (*the card has been given to Vicar Jenn*)

Steve Kauffman gave a brief update on the Food Pantry and how many actual pounds of food had been give to those in need. He noted, you can also **donate deer to the Food Pantry**. The deer can be processed there too, and the meat will be donated to the food pantry. Contact Steve for more information. He also noted that Rep. Frank Burns and Sheetz had made donations to the food pantry (\$8,000 worth of shelving from the recent remodeled store).

**Synod/Conference Report** - Our Guest Speaker, Bishop Paula Schmitt asked how we are all doing. She knew it was a difficult to keep our services going, and thanked Bob Mikesell, Sarah Ross and Scott for muddling through as well as they have. Unfortunately, Johnstown Synod has a lot of openings, so it's not an easy task at all. Now that some time has passed from our pastor's retirement, she asked if we were ready to start the site profile and call process. She said the site profile takes a little while; 3-6 months to complete.

Bishop Paula also wanted to ask us if we'd like an intern (Jennifer Bobolsky / Sherbine). **Jennifer is ready for an internship, and has asked to do her internship with our Synod, and continue working at her full-time job at the same time.**



Bishop Paula then gave us some **ballpark costs** of an intern. \$30K for 1 year: full-time intern, housing is provided on top of that. 15K for Jenn, or less, because she would be with us part-time, Saturday and Sunday on a regular basis. Jenn would also attend council meetings, visitations and funerals. She is now working at the Eensburg Center, and will continue working there fulltime.

**She would need a mentor / supervisor** in the Synod; **Bishop Paula could guide her in that role.** We would also need an in-house **Internship Committee, consisting of 3-5 people from our congregation.** They would meet with Jenn monthly. There is a program guide already provided for the internship committee to use, and an evaluation form to complete twice a year (6 months & 12 months period). *\*Note: A small group of people has happily begun submitting their names for this internship committee.*

**Bishop Paula said, we feel she is strong candidate for the internship program.** There is also an additional internship class that is being offered in March, it is a very intensive, Jenn has been offered to take this class. Bishop Paula continued, we could have her while we complete the site profile and call process. It will take her about 1-1/2 years to complete an internship. The Synod would still put a call to any others interested. Jenn is local, so she would not need housing. She could help as needed with St. John's as needed; perhaps couple times a month. **Bishop Paula said she had approached Jenn, and she is very interested in working with us.** Bishop Paula said she'd like us to have some consistency. We try to match pastor's and interns with the congregation, we want it to work. So even if another church has been open longer (vacancy), it's based on the fit.

**Bishop Paula would like us to write-up a little list of things we'd like her to do for us. She will also have requirements and need to be exposed to some different areas, including youth activities.**

As for blessing of the elements for communion and baptisms; Bishop Paula could come or another ordained pastor could help.

Bishop Paula continued, It's too early to tell if she would be available to ask to be our pastor. We probably should wait on the call committee. **As for the call committee, they are elected or appointed as per our constitution.** Steve noted, per the constitution, they would be a voting member. Bishop Paula noted, it would be best to keep the committee small and diversified; with new, young, old and open minded congregation members. It is also highly suggested they be able to keep confidence and have excellent listening skills. She noted, you cannot give names of other people you are interviewing; thus confidence is necessary. *\*Note: A small group of people has also begun submitting their names for this call committee.*

The Site Profile is now on-line. You will need someone who is willing to access it, fill in, and able to stand and give occasional updates to the congregation, then bring to council for their review. Then it's submitted to Bishop Paula who activates it.

**Our conversation then continued with Q/A for the bishop regarding ideas to help these next steps run smoothly.**

Bishop Paula noted the common number of council members depends on the size of the congregation. **7-9 people she thinks would be fine for us.**

She suggested we set up a **short-term task force.** Some congregations are using them, and find it helps. She said we are not alone in this committee challenge.



8-9 churches out of 100+ have Saturday services. However, **our Saturdays have been a blessing!** Scott said, because of the sermon being used twice.

Steve Dickert asked, if **Sunday School Services** at other churches were before or after service? Which worked better to encourage the youth and parents to attend? She answered, it varies per church. Some will leave at some point during the service, and others come back in at communion, she compared it to children's church. She likes the children staying during the service, but this is working for them. They've got new members coming in and lots of baptisms. Somethings working for them, and they've been without a pastor for 6 years. When she asked what they're doing, they answered, we ask people to come, and we pray for people. Another church has a play zone, they removed a row of pews and put lots of soft toys there for the children to set and quietly play during service, & there is a supervisor there in the play area, usually about 6 children in the play area.

Scott Griffith, thanked Bishop for her extended time with us. Her information was most helpful, and what great news to hear about this possible internship opportunity with Jenn Sherbine. Bishop Paula also handedout The Transition Process Summary Booklet to assist us.

**He summarized, our next steps:**

Newsletter to congregation

Council will discuss

Easter time frame for Jenn Sherbine to start

More communication with Bishop Paula

**NEW BUSINESS** – Sarah Ross sadly turned in her resignation. **She has been our Church Secretary for 11 years.** March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 will be her last day. She is willing to help train her replacement and help with transition. She now works FT from home from 10-6pm. At this time, we have no replacement in mind. Cindy Griffith, mutual ministry, will work with Sarah to start the hiring process. It does not need to be a congregational member.

Scott Griffith reported he had met with Mary Ann Dillon, Cambria County Election Director. They asked if we would provide a space for voting in Luther Hall. We will get a nominal fee towards cleaning. If will also give us some public exposure. Dave Kivisto approved the motion, Jackie Hockenberry second. Motion carried unanimously.

**Later decided to combine with Fellowship dinner March 20th at 5:30**

The **Congregational Meeting** Date was chosen. ~~Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>~~ following a Pot Luck Meal.

**Committee Reports** will be due February 29<sup>th</sup>.

It was also noted, we need to communicate more with our congregation. Newsletters and the Communicant are great, but there are still lots currently not taken from the mailboxes.

Due to lateness of hour (*well after 9pm*), items **tabled** for next meeting:

Adhoc committee

Renew copier lease (*due in May?, per Steve K.*)

Server

Steve Kauffman made a motion to adjourn meeting and Bob Mikesell seconded.

*Submitted by, Cindy Griffith, Council Secretary*



**HEY KIDS...** Who wants to dive into the Deep Blue Sea? Then, you don't want to miss **SCUBA!!** The VBS program for 2024! Save the dates- July 28-August 1, 2024. We'll **DIVE** into Bible Adventures and **PLUNGE** into Discovery Activities.

We'll **SUBMERGE** ourselves in Scripture and **PLUNGE** into God's Boundless Love.

Get ready for a thrilling underwater adventure this summer!! Don't miss it!



*Best Wishes to Sarah !!....*

*We will miss you as you have been a part of our church office for eleven years...!! Keeping us informed, having patience and caring!*

*Your dedication and contribution to the church will always be remembered!*

*As you start your new ventures of your life, may GOD's blessings and grace be with you all this while.*

*We will pray that you continue to rise !*



## YOUTH ACTIVITY!!!!!! Resurrection Easter Eggs

<https://bigfamilyblessings.com/19-christ-centered-easter-activities-for-families/>

Easter is a time to remember the sacrifice Christ made for us, and children are never too young to understand the true meaning of this holiday. A activity beginning 12 days before Easter..

While Easter eggs and rabbits are fun, you can still incorporate a child friendly Easter craft and activity such as the Resurrection Eggs below to really teach the true meaning of Easter.

Resurrection Eggs are a child friendly way to teach children the meaning of Easter. Not only will they have fun making this craft, you won't spend a lot of money on supplies. Take a peek below at how you can make your own set of Resurrection eggs with your child.

### Supplies needed

#### 12 plastic eggs

- egg container, optional
- Glue

### Egg fillings:

- piece of bread (or crouton)
- dime
- string or thread
- paper
- toothpicks
- purple felt or construction paper
- nail or tack
- sponge
- wood craft stick
- twig
- Rock
- 



These are common household items that you should be able to easily round up. Plastic eggs can be found at any store around Easter time.

### Directions

Fill the eggs as instructed below. After you open the eggs and show the item to your children, take a moment to find each verse in the Bible and read it together as a family to further emphasize each important symbol of Easter.

#### 1. Bread (use a small crumble of bread or crouton)

- The bread in the first egg symbolizes the bread that Jesus broke and shared with His disciples at the Last Supper. We can remind children how Jesus wants to share **eternal life** with us, and is called "The Bread of Life."
- Bible verse: Matthew 26:17-19



## 2. Silver coin (use a dime)

- The silver coin in the second egg reminds us of the silver pieces that Judas received for betraying Jesus. (This can also be a good time to discuss with your children that Jesus knew He would be betrayed and knew it would be Judas.)

## 3. Purple robe (use a strip of purple felt or construction paper)

The purple cloth represents the purple robe worn by Jesus prior to His crucifixion.

- Bible verse: John 19:5

## 4. Thorns (use a thorn or piece of twig)

- The thorn reminds us of the crown of thorns that Jesus was forced to wear prior to being crucified.
- Bible verse: Matthew 27:29

## 5. The Whip (use your string or thread)

- The string in this egg reminds us of the whipping that Jesus had to endure from the soldiers.
- Bible verse: Matthew 27:2, 26

## 6. Cross (use your toothpicks, constructed into a cross using craft glue)

- The cross in this egg reminds us of the cross Jesus died on. Explain to children how the cross is an important symbol of our sins being paid for through Jesus' love.
- Bible verse: John 17:18-19

## 7. Nails (use a small nail or tack)

- The nail reminds us of Jesus being nailed to the cross and the marks that remained in His hands and feet after.
- Bible verse: John 20:25

## 8. Sign (use a small scrap of paper)

- The paper represents the sign that the soldiers hung above Jesus that said, "THIS THE KING OF THE JEWS."
- Bible verse: Matthew 27:37

## 9. Drinking Sponge (use a small chunk of torn off sponge)

- The sponge represents the drinking sponge held to Jesus' mouth as He was dying.
- Bible verse: Matthew 27:33-34

## 10. Soldier's Spear (use a piece of wood craft stick broken off into a spear)

- The spear represents the tool used to pierce Jesus' side after His crucifixion. This was a fulfillment of prophecy in the Old Testament.
- Bible verse: John 19:33-34

## 11. Rock (use a small rock or pebble from your yard)

- The rock represents the stone used to close the tomb where Jesus' body was placed.
- Bible verse: Matthew 27:59-60

## 12. Nothing (leave the 12<sup>th</sup> egg empty)

- This empty egg represents the tomb that Jesus rose from. When the women went to find Him, the tomb was empty and He was not there.

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Bible verse: Matthew 28:5-6

What a cool way to help explain the meaning of the season..












He Is Risen



# March



## Happy Easter 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 	5	6 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Sue Kauffman's home	7 	8	9 5:30 p.m. Holy Communion Service Lay Presider - Gary Mickle
10 9:00 a.m. Worship Lay Presider Gary Mickle 10:30 a.m. Sunday School/Adult Forum 11:30 a.m. Choir	11 Take the quilts at the church some lunch...	12 Start your day with prayer 	13 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Sue Kauffman's Home	14 Take your heart for a walk today.. regardless of the weather	15 Call someone you have not seen lately 	16 5:30 p.m. Worship Service Bishop Paula Schmitt
17 Bishop Paula Schmitt 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Sunday School/Adult Forum 11:30 a.m. Choir	18 Make some cookies.. put some in the church freezer!!	19  <b>Dust off the Easter Baskets</b>	20 Resurrection Egg Journey Begins 20 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Sue Kauffman's Home 5:30 Lenten Fellowship Dinner and Congregational Meeting	21 Tell someone that you and God loves them. 	22 Decorate anything that does not move for Easter Send Easter Cards to the Homebound...	23 5:30 p.m. Worship Service <b>Make that Easter Bread!!</b>
<b>Palm Sunday 24</b>	<b>Holy Week 25</b>		26	27	<b>Maundy Thursday 28</b>	<b>Good Friday 29</b>
9:00 a.m. Holy Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt All Ages 11:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal	<b>Get those easter eggs colored!!</b> 	Look for blooming daffodils 		Bishop Paula Schmitt Worship 7:00 pm	Rev. Kevin Schock Noon Worship 7:00 pm 	Easter is tomorrow--- hope the preparations are going well. 
<b>EASTER 31</b> 6:30 am Holy Communion Worship 7:30 to 8:30 Breakfast 9:00 am Holy Communion Worship	 Remember Easter Egg Hunt is on Palm Sunday...		Kids: If you did the Resurrection Craft Start the Countdown on March 20!!			



# Easter Word Search

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

APOSTLES  
CROWN  
LAMB  
PRAYER  
RESURRECTION  
SON

CHURCH  
FAITH  
MARY  
REDEMPTION  
RISEN  
SUNDAY

CROSS  
JESUS  
MIRACLE  
REJOICE  
SAVIOR  
TOMB





