



Calendar of Events

Sunday, April 5

Easter Day

9:30 am Worship/Communion

10:45 am Easter Egg Hunt

Monday, April 6

OFFICE CLOSED

6:30 pm Fellowship Committee

Tuesday, April 7

7:00 pm Council Meeting

Wednesday, April 8

Thursday, April 9

6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

7:30 pm NA

Friday, April 10

Saturday, April 11



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Symbols of Easter

The Christian faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is taught in our homes through sharing the Word of God. Visual and tactile experiences that use our senses serve as concrete memory aids. Throughout history, symbols have been used in Christian homes to communicate the message of faith. Consider doing activities this week that illustrate the promises of Christ's death and resurrection. Below are some symbols you could use.

Easter Eggs



Eggs in spring have been a pagan symbol of fertility and rebirth. Christian traditions of Easter have utilized eggs to illustrate the resurrection of Jesus. Some traditional observances of Lent have included not eating eggs for the 40 days of Lent, so the delicious eggs on Easter were a rewarding treat. The dying of eggs into different colors started with them being dyed red to symbolize the blood of Jesus on the cross. The

Easter Egg Hunt is a great deal of fun for young families. The search for eggs can also help us remember how the women went into the tomb and did not find the body of Jesus in the tomb because he had risen from the dead.

Easter Lilies

Lilies are often a centerpiece of Easter decorations. Paintings of the Feast of Annunciation, when Gabriel appeared to Mary to tell her the good news that she would give birth to Jesus, more often than not to show Gabriel holding a lily. There is also a legend that white lilies sprung from the ground around Jesus as he spent his last moments on the cross. It was said that when his perspiration hit the ground, a lily grew in that spot. It is also reported that lilies were growing where Jesus' body had been when the woman arrived at the tomb on Easter. Lilies have been used as a symbol of the trumpeting of the new life we have received in the resurrection of Jesus.



The Lamb



John the Baptist pointed people to Jesus with the words, "Behold the Lamb of God." Jesus offered his own body and blood in the upper room when a lamb had been traditionally eaten by the people gathered for the Passover Feast. On Good Friday, the day Jesus was crucified, he was led "as a lamb to the slaughter." In the book of Revelation, Jesus is the Lamb of God who is worthy to open the seals. Also, baby

lambs have been used to symbolize rebirth and new life in the spring season.

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Sunday, April 5, 2026

SERVICE ASSISTANTS

Ushers: Charles Luppert, Larry and Donna Britton, Rhonda Koch, Sylvia McCarty, Larry Solomon; **Lay Asst:** Dave Bausinger; **Comm. Asst.:** Candy Watkins; **Acolyte/Crucifer:** Dylan Sherman; **Torchbearers:** Doriann Morris, Weston Sherman; **Altar Guild:** Sue Shoemaker, Yvonne Kaiser; **Greeters/Presenters:** Yvonne Kaiser, Rhonda Koch; **Cantor:** Bob Schweppenheiser; **Flower Delivery:** Paul Weaver

Sunday, March 29: Attendance: *In Church: 119; Online: 6;* Offering: **\$3,955.10**

IN BLESSED MEMORY

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Dennis Ream Sr. on the anniversary of his 76th birthday, April 5th, by his wife Sandy, Dennis Jr., Kelley Reed and their families.

The Basket of Flowers is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory Dorothy Artman by her daughters, Emily Bausinger, Connie Hess and their families.

The Basket of Flowers is given to the Glory of God and in loving and living memory of Susie and David Hutchinson by their family.

BIBLE READINGS

Sunday, April 5: *Acts 10:34-43; Colossians 3:1-4; Matthew 28:1-10*

Monday, April 6: *Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21; Colossians 3:5-11*

Tuesday, April 7: *Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Exodus 15:1-18; Colossians 3:12-17*

Wednesday, April 8: *Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Joshua 3:1-7; Matthew 28:1-10*

Thursday, April 9: *Psalm 16; Song of Songs 2:8-15; Colossians 4:2-5*

Friday, April 10: *Psalm 16; Song of Songs 5:9-6:3; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11*

Saturday, April 11: *Psalm 16; Song of Songs 8:6-7; John 20:11-20*



Presiding over our worship Sunday, April 5 will be Pastor Amme.

Pastoral Care Number: Please call (570) 326-9171. (Available 24 hours a day) During work hours office staff will assist you. After hours, please press "3" for a Pastoral Emergency to be connected directly to the Pastor.

*Articles for the **Messenger and Bulletin** are due in the office by Monday at noon.*



Are you a veteran? If so, please call the church office for more information (570) -326-9171. *Thank you!*



The Library Corner – Highlighted Books



Children - **Madame Blue's Easter Hullabaloo** - This Veggie Tale book has Madame Blue learn the real meaning and significance of Easter. There is also a button to press for singing along with her. This book is found in the Easter Section of the library.

Adult - **Martin Luther's Easter Book** - This powerful book of passages from Martin Luther's Easter sermons portrays the reformer's lasting thought on faith, human imperfection, salvation through grace, and the wonder of God. The sermons explore events from Holy Week through the Resurrection. They combine marvelous insights with inspiring calls to action that are so characteristic of the great reformer: "The resurrection consists not in words, but in life and power." This book is found in the Easter Section.



Trivia Night is Saturday, April 18 (6:00 p.m.) Registration fees are \$8.00 per person or \$15.00 per couple. All monies go to the beneficiary-Messiah Pre-School's Scholarship Fund. Please bring food to share; pizza and beverages will be provided. George Jansson is our Quiz-master.

West Branch history is exciting! See the displays at the THOMAS T. TABER MUSEUM on SUNDAY, APRIL 26 (12:15-2:15 p.m.) But, first, we'll have a sandwich/salad lunch—provided by members of WELCA—and then car-pool to the Museum where Wilma Reeder—an employee of the Museum—will give us an “Introduction” and then we tour on our own. Tickets will be available in the narthex on April 12 and 19.

Spring is here, so it is time to think of the “Mother’s Day Dinner” (now renamed “Women’s Banquet”). Pen the date of **Tuesday, May 5**, in your calendar ... roasted turkey breast ... same ticket prices as last year ... a unique program by Candy Watkins and her nephew, Brian Gresh. Tickets will be available on April 12-19-26 in the narthex

The USSWO will hold its Day of Renewal on Saturday, April 25th, at Messiah Lutheran Church, South Williamsport. The theme of the day will be “Meditating with God”. Registration will begin at 9:30 am, and closing will be around 2:00 pm. The fee for the day is \$35.00; this includes lunch and craft materials. The program will have 2 sessions. One will be a presentation by Rev, Ken Elkin (former Pastor at St. Mark’s) speaking about his experiences on an inspirational trail in Spain, Camino De Santiago. The other session will be a hands –on activity of making a stained glass angel ornament.



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Palm Branches



Palm Sunday begins our observances of Holy Week. Parishioners are provided palms in remembrances of the crowds that welcomed Jesus' arrival into Jerusalem. As Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, the people tossed small branches and other items on his path. People have been good at folding the palms into crosses and keeping them in their homes throughout the year as a reminder of the victory and peace that Christ has brought into the world.

Butterflies

As a butterfly emerges from a chrysalis in which they are hidden away, Jesus emerges from the tomb three days after being placed in the tomb. The butterfly also serves as a reminder of the transformation of a Christian who has died to sin and been born again into the promises of Jesus' resurrection.

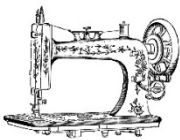


The Cross



Jesus died on the cross. He experienced physical pain, shame, and the wrath of God. He was without sin, but he carried our sin to the cross. Christians have carried the weak and shameful symbol of Rome's punishment as a sign that our Lord is not defeated by sin. In some families, hot cross buns are a traditional food for Good Friday and Easter. The recipe can be found at www.recipetineats.com/hot-cross-buns-recipe/. Each bun features a cross on top. The spices in the bun are representative of the ones that were used to prepare Jesus' body for the tomb. The leavened bread reminds us that Jesus has been raised from the dead and now lives.

Symbols of Easter Blog - 3/4/2024 from Our Shepherd Lutheran Church, 2225 W 14 Mile Rd, Birmingham, MI 4800



Lutheran World Relief School Kits "Sew-A-Sack" ~ PART TWO! Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday, April 14-15-16, 2026 ~ 9:00 a.m.-???

One ...Two ... Three! Yes, *three* days of fun and camaraderie. If you missed the last one and would like to take part, this is your second chance! Join us for a time of fellowship as we work together to sew the backpacks needed for the school kits. Come for one day or all three or any portion of the event that you can - even if it's just for an hour or two! *Come when you can, leave when you must!*

Can't sew, or don't have a machine? *No problem!* We can put you (**GUYS – you, too!**) to work marking fabric, cutting, pressing casings, (it's easy and we'll show you how), or helping in other ways. **Epecially needed: volunteers to tie knots.** With the new type of cord we are using, **knots need to be tied in the ends as it is cut to keep it from fraying.**

Join us for fellowship ... you might make a new friend! At midday, we will share light-hearted conversation over a simple lunch. ***Please sign up in the narthex on Sunday or in the church office during the week*** so that we can be prepared.

ONCE UPON A PUZZLE

† WORD SEARCH

Find the EASTER words below and circle them.
 CAREFUL! — some words might be backwards or diagonal.
 The leftover letters spell out a secret phrase

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

ALIVE
 ARISE
 BELIEVE
 BETRAYED
 BLOOD
 BODY
 BREAD
 CROSS
 CROWN
 CRUCIFY
 DEATH
 DISCIPLES
 EASTER

EMPTY
 FORGIVEN
 GARDEN
 GOD
 GUARDS
 HOLY
 HOSANNA
 JESUS
 KING
 LIFE
 LORD
 LOVE
 MIRACLE

PILATE
 PRAYER
 RESURRECTION
 RISEN
 SACRIFICE
 SALVATION
 SAVE
 SIN
 THORNS
 TOMB
 TORN
 VEIL
 WINE

4	1	9	5	2	0
5	0	2	9	1	4
9	5	4	1	0	2
1	2	0	7	9	9
6	5	7	3	2	1
1	4	2	2	2	5
0	0	5	2	0	5
1	4	2	0	3	5

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Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

1 Timothy 1:15

† SUDOKU

Each ROW, COLUMN and 2x3 BOX must contain the numbers 1 through 6.
 Numbers can only be used once in each row, column or 2x3 box.

		3	1	4	
	4	2			
6					
					6
			2	3	
	2	5	6		