

Share the experience of God's love!

VOLUME 22 ISSUE 4

Cornerstone

April, 2011

SYMBOLS OF EASTER



Easter has as many wonderful and rich symbols as does Christmas.

In both cases there are two sets of symbols and traditions.

It seems that the United States has the most Easter traditions, probably because immigrants brought their customs with them and they became incorporated into the local community.

Here is a quick bit of history about some of those traditions.

First – the religious symbols. We all know about the cross, crown of thorns and lamb. How about the other non-biblical symbols that are associated with 'church'? Churches almost always decorate the altar area with lilies. No one knows where the tradition came from but a good guess is Germany, France or Italy since lilies are abundant in that part of Europe. The white blossoms of the Easter Lilly symbolize the purity of Jesus. The trumpet shaped flower that blooms in the spring also symbolize new life and the resurrection of Jesus. Next comes the Butterfly. Their unique life cycle is meant to symbolize the life of Jesus Christ. The first stage, the caterpillar, stands for his life on Earth. The cocoon stage portrays the crucifixion and burial of Jesus. And the final stage, the colorful butterfly, represents Jesus rising from the dead and the resurrection. Eggs are a part of the religious tradition also. At the Passover Seder, a hard-boiled egg dipped in salt water symbolizes both new life and the Passover sacrifice offered at the Temple in Jerusalem. Now – some of the tried and true traditions that do not have a religious connection but are all related to Easter. In fact, Easter was originally a pagan festival. It was co-opted by Christian missionaries in the 2nd century CE. The ancient Saxons celebrated the return of Spring with an uproarious festival commemorating their goddess of offspring and of springtime, Estre. When the missionaries encountered the tribes of the north, they did what missionaries have always done; they attempted to convert them to Christianity. It would have been dangerous for the very early Christian converts to celebrate their holy days with an observance that did not coincide with the local celebrations. To save lives, the missionaries decided to spread their dogma slowly throughout the populations by allowing them to continue to celebrate pagan feasts, but to do so in a Christian manner.

Continued on page 3, "From Margie's Desk"

**Serving the
Our Redeemer
Community!**

**Ministers:
The People of
Our Redeemer
Lutheran Church**

**Rev. Margie
Faulkner, AIM
Interim Pastor**

**John
Zacharias
Director of
Music**

**Kathy Pound
Secretary**

**Connie
Kent-Largent
Financial
Secretary**

**[Position Open]
Sunday School
Coordinator**

**Congregation
Council**

**President
Grant Swanjord**

**Vice President
Brooks Maxwell**

**Council
Secretary
Derrick Ellison**

**Treasurer
Bob Lonergan**

Council

**Hattie Hammer
Rachel Largent
Paul Templin
Ron Templin**

**Share the
Experience of
God's Love!**

NOTES AND NEWS

PLEASE,
DON'T FORGET
TO WEAR
YOUR...



Confirmation Classes

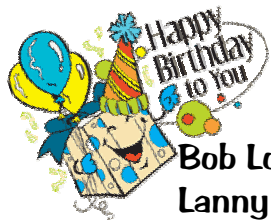


Confirmation Classes
In the pastor's office.
Each week during
Sunday School hour.

"ON THE EDGE"
Meets in the Youth Room
(except for 1st Sunday of the month (We
meet at Starbucks then)
when we meet at Starbucks!)
"On The Edge"...



VBS! June 13-17
This year
is going to be
THE BEST!



| | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Bob Lonergan | April 15 |
| Lanny Ford | April 17 |
| Rachael Largent | April 18 |
| Brandon Gibbs | April 19 |
| Nancy Gibbs | April 24 |



THIS MONTH'S ANNIVERSARIES

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Pat & Sharon Leary | April 7 |
| Todd & Julie Lehmann | April 22 |
| Mel & Hattie Hammer | April 23 |

SYMBOLS OF EASTER

Continued from page 1



As it happened, the pagan festival of Eastre occurred at the same time of year as the Christian observance of the Resurrection of Christ. It made sense, therefore, to alter the festival itself, to make it a Christian observance as pagans were slowly indoctrinated. The early name, Eastre, was eventually changed to its modern spelling, Easter. Easter eggs are likely linked to pagan traditions but eggs have long been used to celebrate spring and the idea of renewal. It's not unusual that in almost all ancient cultures, eggs are held as a symbol of life. In the Ukraine the art of pysankay (drawing small religious symbols on the egg shell) was used as a means of Christianizing the pagan tradition.

The EASTER BASKET came from Germany. Children made nests in which the "Osterhase", an egg-laying hare, could lay his colored eggs. These nests were replaced with baskets once the tradition was brought to the United States and the contents were expanded to include candy and other treats. The EASTER RABBIT or the cute, furry EASTER BUNNY is certainly not mentioned in the Bible, but it has nonetheless become the best known symbol for the Spring Holiday. The Easter Bunny's origins are not entirely known, but some stories date his arrival in the United States back in the 1700's when the German immigrants brought their tradition of the "Osterhase". Much like children leave cookies out for Santa, boys and girls would leave carrots out for the bunny in case he got tired from hopping around all night. EGG HUNTS or EGG ROLLS are purely American. The first official White House egg roll took place in 1878 under the Presidency of Rutherford Hayes. Egg hunts and rolls have no religious connection but some will point out that the roll is a symbolic act for the removal of the stone blocking Jesus' tomb.

The idea of an Easter Parade actually came from middle Europe. In the Spring when the weather turned warm, folks celebrated by walking out in groups into the fields where wild flowers bloomed. After being cooped up inside dark, dank, smoky houses and castles all winter, they also celebrated by taking a bath (rare in those days) and putting on new clothes. Thus started the tradition of a 'new Easter Outfit'. The superstition that wearing new clothes at Easter brought good luck for the coming year persisted into the 19th century. In England, during the reign of Queen Victoria, Her Majesty required her whole court to wear only unadorned black during Lent. Once Easter arrived everyone celebrated with new pastel colored clothing with frills and lace for women and patterns for men. The origin of an official, organized Easter parade dates back to the mid-1800s in New York City. The wealthy used Easter as an opportunity to show off their new spring wardrobe by walking up and down Fifth Avenue after church. Soon the less fortunate started showing up to watch the spectacle and a tradition was born. The Easter Bonnet was fixed in popular culture by Irving Berlin, who wrote a famous song about the ladies in this³ parade.

Continued on page 4

SYMBOLS OF EASTER

Continued from page 3

There are food traditions too. Historians tell us religions sometimes use food to forge identity and create community. A favorite during spring and the Easter season, Hot Cross Buns are a sweet, yeast-leavened, spiced roll made with currants or raisins. The practice of eating special small cakes at the time of the Spring festival dates back to the ancient Greeks, but the English custom of eating spiced buns on Good Friday was perhaps institutionalized in Tudor times, when a London bylaw was introduced forbidding the sale of such buns except on Good Friday, at Christmas, and at burials. The first mention of an icing cross appearing on the bun, in remembrance of Christ's cross, was in 1733. The fact that they were generally sold hot, however, seems to have led by the early 1800's to the incorporation of hot into their name.

Pretzels also have a long history. As early as 610 at a monestary in Southern France monks used scraps of dough and formed them into twisted strips to represent a child's arms folded in prayer. The three holes represented the Trinity. The monks baked them and gave them as a reward to the children who had memorized their Bible verses. Later on they were used in Germany as a Good Friday treat to break the fast of the use of unleavened bread.

A tradition from earliest Christianity is having lamb for Easter Dinner ; this came from the Seder meal. Some early Christians, especially Greeks and Romans, embraced HAM, in part, to proclaim their break from the Jewish religion. Later, this tradition became prevalent because the pig was considered a symbol of luck in pre-Christian Europe. In the USA, ham became a tradition because meat was slaughtered in the fall. There was no refrigeration so the fresh pork that wasn't eaten during the winter was cured for Spring.



Holy Week Schedule



Sunday, April 17 Palm/Passion Sunday: 10: 15 AM,
A traditional service beginning with a Palm Parade into the sanctuary and ending on the somber anticipation of Maundy Thursday.

Thursday, April 12, Maundy Thursday, 7:00 PM,

Friday, April 22, Good Friday Tenebre Service, 7:00 PM

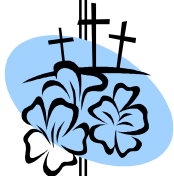
Sunday, April 24, Easter Sunday

8:00 AM Outdoor Chapel Service (weather permitting)

9:00 AM Easter Breakfast (NO SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY!)

10:15 AM Traditional Celebration Worship,

11:30 AM Easter Egg Hunt



Morning Group

The Morning Group will NOT meet during April due to Lenten and Holy Week activities. Watch for announcement of the May 19th meeting at 10:30 a.m.

The group will continue studying the Bible with Pastor Margie..

Evening Group

The Evening Group will NOT meet during April due to Lenten and Holy Week activities. Watch for announcement of the May 19th meeting at 7 p.m.

The group will be reading the novel, LAMB, by Christopher Moore (The Gospel According to Biff, Christ's Childhood Pal).

**Conversation and Refreshments After Church in the Fellowship Hall
Sign Up to Provide Coffee, Punch and Goodies**



A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in the hallway. All are invited to be part of this activity. And then join those attending worship for conversation and coffee, punch, goodies in the fellowship hall. What a great opportunity to meet each other and share your stories!

***Triennial Gathering of the Women of the ELCA
July 14-17, 2011 in Spokane, Washington***

Join others for a life-changing experience that will inspire you to live out your faith. Build lasting memories with family and friends at this transformational Christian women's event.

2011



2011

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|--|--|---|---|---|
| | | | | | 1 Office Closed | 2 Summit Baptist 6 p.m. SeniorFest King of Glory |
| 3 Sunday School & "On the Edge" 9 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 10:15 am | 4 Office closed Boy Scouts 7 p.m. | 5 Office Hours 9:00am-3:00pm | 6 Office Hours 9:00am-3:00pm Soup & Sandwich 6 pm Lenten Worship 7 pm | 7 Office Hours 9:00am-3:00pm | 8 Office closed | 9 Men's Breakfast 9:00 am in Fellowship Hall Summit Baptist Church 6pm |
| 10 First Sunday in Lent Sunday School & "On the Edge" Thrivent-Adult SS 9 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 10:15 am | 11 Office closed Boy Scouts 7 p.m. | 12 Office Hours 9:00am-3:00pm | 13 Office Hours 9:00am-3:00pm Soup & Sandwich 6 pm Lenten Worship 7 pm | 14 Office Hours 9am-3pm | 15 Office closed | 16 Summit Baptist Church 6pm |
| 17 <u>Palm/Passion Sunday</u> Sunday School & Adult Sunday School "On the Edge" 9 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 10:15 am | 18 Office Closed Boy Scouts 7 p.m. | 19 Office Hours 9:00 am –3:00 pm | 20 Office Hours 9:00am-3:00pm Soup & Sandwich 6 pm Lenten Worship 7 pm | 21 Office Hours 9:00am-3:00pm Maunday Thursday 7 pm | 22 Office closed Good Friday Tenebre Service 7 pm | 23 Summit Baptist Church 6pm |
| 24 <u>Easter Sunday</u> Outdoor Chapel 8:00 am Easter Breakfast 9:00 am Traditional Worship with Holy Communion 10:15 am Easter Egg Hunt 11:30 am | 25 Office Closed Boy Scouts 7 p.m. | 26 Office Hours 9:00 am –3:00 pm | 27 Office Hours 9:00am-3:00pm | 28 Office Hours 9:00am-3:00pm | 29 Office closed | 30 Summit Baptist Church 6pm |



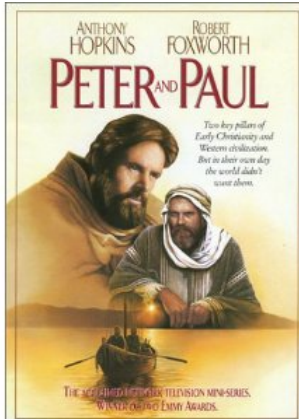
| | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 |
|--------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Acolyte | Aden Lonergan | Lynnlea Banks | Cecelia Largent | Ryan Adix |
| Altar Care | Kris Davies | Ann Weldon | Ann Weldon | Cindy Dolezal |
| Assisting Minister | Kris Davies | Mel Hammer | Brooks Maxwell | Cindy Dolezal |
| Counters | Cindy Dolezal | Renee Swanjord | Grant Swanjord | Cindy Dolezal |
| | Jeff Adix | Dinah Norton | Lois Phipps | Jeff Adix |
| Crucifer | Laci Lonergan | Blake Maxwell | Blake Maxwell | Jacob Adix |
| Lay Reader | Bob Lonergan | Hattie Hammer | Jeanne Maxwell | David Dolezal |
| Ushers & Greeters | Swanjords | Dolezals | Maxwells | Adix |
| Nursery Care | Swanjord | Templin | Dolezal | Swanjord |

Life-long Learning Opportunities at Our Redeemer

SPARK!!!
SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR
FOR KIDS GRADES 1-4



**LEARN THE STORIES, SING THE SONGS,
 JOIN THE FUN!!!**



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

All adults are invited to attend a study of Acts and how Paul changed from the persecutor of Christians to a leader of the Church. We meet in the fellowship hall from 9:15 'till 10:00. We will view a video starring Anthony Hopkins, called "Peter and Paul," in thirteen sessions. The video follows the book of Acts very closely and brings the story of Peter and Paul to life.

The class is lead by Joe Faulkner.

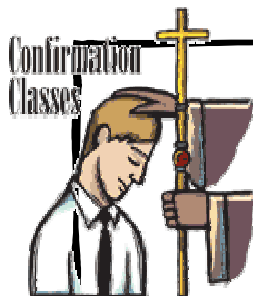
Bring your coffee and join us, learning how it all began.



JUNE 13-17

Plans are underway for VBS,
June 13-17, 2011

"Hometown Nazareth, When Jesus Was a Kid"
 promises to be exciting, informative
 and just plain fun!
 The next planning session is April.



CONFIRMATION CLASSES

When we bring our children to Holy Baptism, to be marked with the Cross of Christ, and set apart by God forever, we promise to bring them up in Word, Sacrament and the Church preparing them for their Faith Journey. Sometime during their Junior/Senior High years we provide classes for their spiritual edification so they can personally AFFIRM THEIR FAITH and become voting members of their local parish. Meeting time and place: each Sunday during the Sunday School hour in the pastor's office.

GRAND PRAIRIE FOOD AND CLOTHING CO-OP

“United to Serve Those In Need”
118 NE 4th Street, Grand Prairie, TX 75051
9:00 AM to 11:30 AM, Monday through Friday
972-264-8540

MARCH 2011

The Co-Op Board of Directors met March 10, 2011, at the Thomas B. Hunter Masonic Lodge Building. The various reports distributed at that meeting are available for your review on our bulletin board.

FOOD PANTRY

(Clients served up to 3 times in 12 months)

Most needed food items currently include: canned meat (like Spam, chili, ravioli, tuna, chicken), spaghetti, macaroni & cheese, cereal and PEANUT BUTTER

The Co-Op spent \$1,266.89 in February for food, \$448.00 at the North Texas Food Bank and \$818.89 at other sources, mostly for meat, rice, cereal and pinto beans.

CLOTHING ROOM

Men & Boys

Men's blue jeans, specifically up to 34" waist and long—34" and up

Boys' pants and summer shorts Men and boys' shoes Men's sport and dress shirts

Women & Girls

Summer clothing, all sizes Women's underwear and socks Women and children's shoes

Linens Queen size sheets

Any items donated other than food, clothing and linens will be given to Brighter Tomorrows Women's Shelter, Lifeline for Children (homeless with children enrolled in G. P. schools) or Goodwill Industries.

These reports and others (Statistical Report, Income and Expense for Co-Op and Crisis Fund accounts, Annual Report, Crisis Report, Food Pantry donation by members breakdown) are posted on the bulletin board. See how your contributions work in our community!

Three more ways to help the Co-Op:

Albertsons—the Community Partners card is a plastic key tag card with a barcode. Scan the card at Albertsons each time you shop and the Co-Op earns 1% of your shopping total.

Kroger—Neighbor-to-neighbor barcode. The Kroger Customer Letter contains a barcode. Scan it once and it links to your Kroger *Plus* Card for the current year. You are then welcome to pass the letter on or make copies to distribute to your friends or organizations.

Tom Thumb—Good Neighbor Program. Simply fill out the form and take it to the Tom Thumb Courtesy Booth or bring it back to church.

These cards are available in the church office and will go to work immediately benefiting the Co-Op. Share them with your friends!

Ann Weldon

Co-Op Representative



HOLY WEEK SERVICES:

Sunday, April 17 Palm/Passion Sunday: 10: 15 AM,
A traditional service beginning with a Palm Parade into the sanctuary and ending on the somber anticipation of Maundy Thursday.

Thursday, April 12, Maundy Thursday, 7:00 PM,

Friday, April 22, Good Friday Tenebre Service, 7:00 PM

Sunday, April 24, Easter Sunday

8:00 AM Outdoor Chapel Service (weather permitting)

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10:15, Traditional Celebration Worship,

11:30AM, Egg Hunt



PEANUT BUTTER MONTH

All the peanut butter we bring to ORLC in April will go to the Grand Prairie Co-Op. Let's see how many 16-oz. jars of peanut butter we can place in the basket in the Narthex gathering area during April and surprise the Co-Op with a big donation of peanut butter!

Prayer and Care for April



Remember in your prayers:

Gus Virkus

Friends of the congregation:

Pam Wiley; Dennis; Nina; Cliff and Gwen Barker; the Blake family;
Jean & Gordy Buschell; Doris Butelstroker; Nikki Gilbert and family;
Darrell Kebsbach; Bill Nissen; Dorothy Stalmach;
Family of Neena; Jamie; Harry Lyle

Praying Together for Mission & Ministry

DLA! pray for the support and training of Mission Interpreters

**Please pray each week for these congregations
and their ministries beginning the week of**

| | |
|----------|--|
| April 3 | Joy, Rockwell Christ, San Angelo NT-NL Hispanic/Latino Ministry |
| April 10 | Peace, Vernon Hope, Springtown Panhandle Conference |
| April 17 | Christ, Texarkana St. Matthew, Waco Our NT-NL Mission Assembly |
| April 24 | Trinity, Wichita Falls Gloria Dei, Lubbock Youth and Family Ministry |

*Prayer &
Thanksgiving*



*I thank my God every time I remember you,
constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you,
because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.
I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you
will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.*

Philippians 1:3-6

Sunday Schedule

9:00 am Sunday School for all ages
10:15 am WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION

Inside the April Issue:

| | |
|--------------------|------------------------------|
| *Dates & Info | *Anniversaries and Birthdays |
| *Calendar | *Lay Ministry Schedule |
| *Women of the ELCA | *Prayer & Care |

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Living the Gospel,
we share the experience of God's love
by serving our families, community, and world.*

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Grand Prairie, Texas 75052
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ChurchontheCorner.info