



MARCH 2024



Early Easter, Yet Joy Is Still the Same

Don't let the Easter celebration this year catch you off guard. It's early. Easter will be celebrated on March 31st. Which got me to thinking. How many times has Easter been celebrated in March? What has been the earliest celebration of Easter? Here is what I found on Google.

- March 23** 1913, 2008
- March 27** 1910, 1921, 1932, 2005, 2016
- March 24** 1940
- March 28** 1937, 1948, 2027, 2032
- March 25** 1951, 2035
- March 29** 1959, 1964, 1970
- March 26** 1967, 1978, 1989
- March 30** 1902, 1975, 1986, 1997
- March 31** 1907, 1918, 1929, 1991, 2002, 2013, 2024

So why does Easter fluctuate and is never a set celebration? There is a long and some would say, interesting history as to how and why the computations to determine Easter came to be. If anyone is interested, perhaps the easiest and simplest explanation is the online encyclopedia -**Wikipedia**.

But here is the most basic explanation of why Easter moves each year. That is because the date for Easter is

*the first Sunday
after the first full moon
after the spring equinox of March 21st.*

The complexity of the algorithms is due to the fact that early Christians wanted to celebrate Easter as close to the Jewish celebration of Passover. The complexity was also due to the fact that the Jewish calendar is based on the moon cycle while the Roman calendar is based on the solar cycle.

We also know that Passover was the last Festival celebration Jesus had with the disciples in Jerusalem. And there is significant Biblical connections between Passover and the lamb that was sacrificed, to Jesus, who was declared by John the Baptizer to be the **Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world**. (John 1:29) The death of Jesus, who is true man and true God, shedding His blood for the forgiveness of the sins of the world happening at Passover is significant. But what is also significant is His resurrection three days later.

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EARLY EASTER (CONTINUED)

The shed blood of Jesus on the cross means all our sins are forgiven, which brings us relief, because it means God is acting on our behalf to accomplish something we would be unable to do – to restore the broken relationship so we can be with Him forever. But it is the resurrection of Jesus, signifying His power over death, that gives us **JOY !!!**

Why? Because all who believe and trust in who Jesus is – true God and true man at the same time, and who believe and trust in what Jesus accomplished – shed His blood and died as the atoning sacrifice and the rose from the dead, conquering death – will have eternal life.

And for those who believe and trust in this, God invites into His family through Baptism. And why is this significant? Romans 6:3-5 says:

³ Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. ⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his.

It is the joy of Easter that encourages and impels us to gather every Sunday to praise and thank God, but to also receive His continuing grace and mercy through His Word and Sacraments.

EVERY Sunday is a mini-celebration of Easter. That is why the bulletin covers for Sunday worship during Lent will say

*First Sunday **in** Lent* or *Fifth Sunday **in** Lent* **But NOT**
*First Sunday **of** Lent* or *Fifth Sunday **of** Lent*

Even in Lent – a time of sorrow and contrition, - we can still celebrate with joy as we look forward to the celebration of Easter.

Chad Bird, a pastor and professor in the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod says this to remind us again of why we should be joyful, not only at Easter, but our entire lives as followers and disciples

“When the Father sees us, He sees His Son. Period. He doesn't see a glowing success or an embarrassing failure, He seeks Jesus. ‘You have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God’ (Colossians 3:3) And there's no safer hiding place in the world than there.”

Jesus is Risen ! He is Risen INDEED !!! ALLELUIA

**Yours in Christ,
Pastor Craig Mathews**

Calendar of Worship Services for March

Sunday worship services with Holy Communion	9:15 am
Midweek Lent services on Wednesdays	5:00 pm
3/24 Palm Sunday service	9:15 am
3/28 Maundy Thursday service	5:00 pm
3/29 Good Friday – Tenebrae service	5:00 pm
3/31 Easter Sunday service	9:15 am

WHO ARE WE?

The following is a short summary of the 6 words/phrases that describe what the fellowship of believers at Redeemer Lutheran Church value.

It is a flyer that was handed out when Redeemer Lutheran Ministries had a booth at the recent Englewood Cracker Festival. It is also intended to go into the application/enrollment packet for those interested in enrolling their students in our School and even Child Care.

We are **Bible based, Christ Centered**

We believe the Bible reveals God's plan of salvation for all people and that He accomplished this plan by sending His Son into this world to die on the cross for the forgiveness of sins, then rise from the death to conquer death. We also believe that Jesus is the only way to eternal life.

We are **Evangelical**

Evangelical means – Good News or Gospel. What God did for us so we could live with Him forever is indeed Good News and we are committed to share that Good News with others.

We are **Confessional**

We believe that the three Creeds of the ancient Church – the Apostles Creed, Nicene Creed, and Athanasian Creed as well as the Lutheran Confessions of faith are a correct statement of faith and summary regarding what the Bible declares about the Triune God, salvation by faith – not works, and the Bible being the source of all teaching and preaching.

We are **Sacramental**

We believe, based on the truth of God's Word, that Baptism and Holy Communion are sacraments in that they offer the forgiveness of sins to those who receive these Sacraments. Baptism – Acts 2:38 Holy Communion – Matthew 26:26-28

We are **Missional**

Believing in the truth of God's Word we take seriously God's command to His believers and followers when Jesus said this - Matthew 28:18-20 - ¹⁸ "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. Therefore we find ways to share God's love with others.

We are **Liturgical**

We follow a set order or pattern of worship every Sunday including hymns, confession and forgiveness of sins, affirming the ancient church creeds, readings from God's Word, a sermon, as well as prayers. It is a time to celebrate the receiving of God's grace.

You are invited to join us on Sunday morning at 9:15 for worship and stay for fellowship, meet new people, and join in Bible study.

**THE HOLY LAND CHRISTIANS ARE GOING TO BE OUR GUESTS
HEAR THEIR STORY AND SEE THEIR BEAUTIFUL OLIVEWOOD CRAFTS**

On March 31, 2024 during the service, we will be hearing a ministry moment about the Christians of the Holy Land, and after the service we will be hosting in the church Narthex a nice display of handmade olive wood religious articles from Bethlehem available for purchase. These carvings include olive wood Nativity sets, crosses, Christmas ornaments, candle holders, angles and many other religious crafts that could make a nice wedding, baptism, confirmation, Easter and Christmas gifts. The carvings are hand-made by Christian families from Bethlehem who rely on it for their daily bread.

More than 70% of the Christian Community in the Holy Land depend upon tourism as their only source of income. For decades those Christians have been enduring many hardships as tourism in Bethlehem has plummeted and access to other sources of income has been sharply restricted due to the ongoing conflict, the wars, the 12 yard wall built around Bethlehem, the COVID-19 pandemic, and nowadays the catastrophic ongoing war. Many Christians tourists are afraid and unable to visit the Holy Land. This makes it very difficult for the Christian families to find their daily bread and forces them to immigrate and flee their homeland since they have lost their source of income. The Christian population of the Holy Land was 30% in the last century. Today it is less than 1%. If it continues like this, in few years we will find no Christians in the land of Christ, which could cause tragic consequences to our faith and holy sites.

Please help support our Christian brothers and sisters in the town where Christ was born by purchasing their carvings.

A Christian family from Bethlehem will be telling us the story of the Christians of the Holy Land and they will be presenting these carvings after the services.

It is never too late to help. All proceeds go to support Christian families from Bethlehem.

Let us carefully tend our roots, the Christians of the Holy Land.

And let us pray together for peace in the Holy Land



Church: www.redeemerfl.com
Child Care: www.redeemerfl-cc.com
School: www.redeemerfl-school.com



Redeemer Lutheran Church of Englewood
Redeemer Lutheran Child Care
Redeemer Lutheran School

HANG IT ON THE **C**ROSS

IF YOU HAVE A SECRET SORROW,
A BURDEN OR A LOSS,
AN ACHING NEED FOR HEALING ...
HANG IT ON THE CROSS.

IF WORRY STEALS YOUR SLEEP
AND MAKES YOU TURN AND TOSS,
IF YOUR HEART IS FEELING
HEAVY ...
HANG IT ON THE CROSS.

EVERY OBSTACLE TO FAITH
OR DOUBT YOU COME ACROSS,
EVERY PRAYER UNANSWERED ...
HANG IT ON THE CROSS.

FOR CHRIST HAS BORNE OUR
BROKENNESS
AND DEARLY PAID THE COST
TO TURN OUR TRIALS TO TRIUMPH ...
HANGING ON THE CROSS.

Lisa O. Englehardt

Cherish What God Has Given

In the Small Catechism, Luther follows a pattern when explaining the Ten Commandments. With each commandment, there is something prohibited, and something commanded. There is something wrong which must be avoided, and there is something right which must be done.

The one time this pattern is not followed is with the Sixth Commandment.

“You shall not commit adultery. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other” (SC I).

Here, the catechism focuses solely on the positive: we should live in a chaste and decent manner in both word and deed, and husbands and wives should cherish and honor one another.

Keeping this commandment, and all of the commandments, is a lot easier if you see your chastity and your spouse as a gift from God that is to be protected and cherished. In the same way, you will find keeping the Fourth Commandment easier if you see your parents and other authorities as a gift from God, given to you for your blessing.

This is the key stewardship insight that runs through all of the Christian life: Everything that we have has been given to us by God. We deserve none of it. All of it comes to us by God’s fatherly kindness and open-handed generosity. If I know that everything I have — every possession, every relationship, every ability — is a gift from God, then my perspective changes. All of these things are both gifts to be cherished, and things that I should direct towards God’s purposes. My possessions should be shared generously according to how God has called me in my family, church and community. My spouse should be cherished, loved and encouraged in faith. My children are on loan from my own Heavenly Father, and I have but a brief time to show them the path of righteousness. My neighbor is a gift from God so that I can imitate His kindness toward me.

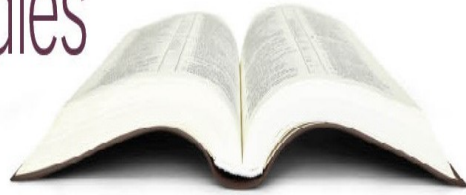
No matter the gift, everything has been given to me by God so that I may participate in His own goodness and open-handed generosity.



**Treasurer's
Report**

Financial information is available to all members upon request.

Bible Studies



Sunday Morning Bible Study: Please join us after the morning service (and after a cup of coffee – approximately 10:30 a.m.). We will be using a study called “The Unlocked Door:”.

Table Talk: Table talk is a very informal Bible study now held on Thursday mornings at 9:30 AM, immediately after the 8:45 school chapel service. Participants come with any sort of question. We work to answer those questions from God’s Word and from our Lutheran Confessions. In doing that we all learn more about God’s Word and its application in our lives. We are currently focusing on the book of Acts. One way or another there is always friendly and interesting discussion.

All are welcome and encouraged to come early to attend the chapel service. Who can’t be cheered by the sound of the children’s voices? There is always coffee and usually doughnuts. Please consider joining us! **Pastor Mathews** is leading the discussion; come and meet him.

SERVING THE LORD

Interim Pastor Rev. Craig Mathews

Office Admin Asst Caitlin Tilton

Organist

Choir Director

Newsletter Pat Finkenbine

School Admin Wendy Horvath

Child Care Director Debby Buel

School Admin Asst

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Youth Cherylann Galway

Financial

Secretary Sherrie Keesee

Property Mgmt. Steven Horvath

GROUPS/GUILDS

Altar Guild Catalina Bakas

Coffee Hour Joyce Schneider

***The deadline for the April 2024 Newsletter is March 18th.
PLEASE have all your submissions sent to patchas123@gmail.com
OR drop them off at the church office by the date indicated above. Thank You!***

DAY SCHOOL

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. John 15:5

Exciting times in Coach's class. All three classes finished their Presidents Day research papers; each person chose a different president and researched them and presented it to the class. Science: we learned the different levels in which fossils are found in the Earth. Math: the class has been going into Pre-Algebra and Scientific Notations in class. Language: the kids have been busy learning the different types of writing; either Poems, Book reports or E-mails. In Spelling the classes compete against each other in weekly spelling bees. The class is doing well as a collective group working together. They are also looking forward to some field trips coming up soon. Have a Blessed day with love, **Donald Rattey aka Coach.**

We have had a great February. The students Pen Pals sent a Mardis Gras party with loads of beads and a King Cake. Our students were so excited. We had a Valentine's Day Party next with more than enough prizes and gifts for everyone. We are going to go to the Mote Laboratory and Aquarium Feb. 26th. The students have been researching different species of fish to learn more about what they will observe on our Field Trip. All of the students have started to prepare well in Arithmetic, Language, History, Map skills and Reading Comprehension for their next grade level with Iowa testing coming this spring. **Ms. Fran**

K-2 has started their health book! We have been learning about the importance of exercise, eating healthy, and taking care of ourselves by brushing our teeth and keeping ourselves clean! February is also heart health month, and each child will participate in a jump rope challenge. **Ms. Pam and Ms. Emily**

Upcoming events:

March 2, 2024, Open House from 11-2:00 pm

March 15-22 Spring Break

March 29 & April 1 Easter Break

April 9 PTL Taco Dinner and Children's Awards 5:00 in the Fellowship Hall





Letter of the month: R,E
Number of the month: 9
Shape of the month: Star
Color of the month: Black
Bible Lesson: Jesus Gives Us New Life

This month we are learning about Easter

What we are learning in VPK A... We are continuing our study of different kinds of clothing and where and how clothing is made. Letters K,S,E.

VPK B is continuing their study about buildings and how they are built and what materials we can use to build them. Letters S,T,V.

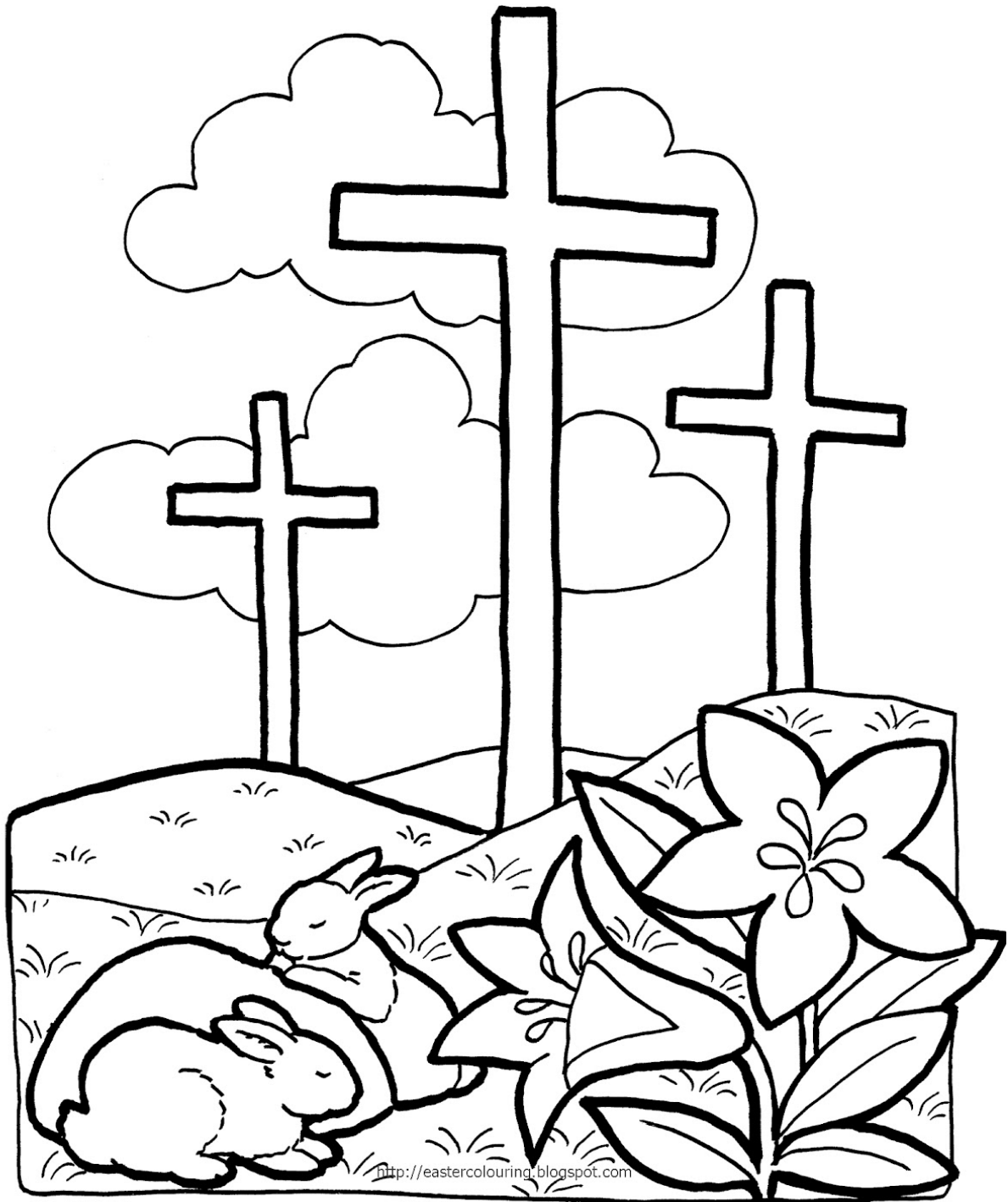
Prayer Requests



Shut-ins: Rita Kaufman and Dorothy Sinowetski.

Healing for members: Ed & Jan DeTrow, Don Garay, Rylie Giroux, Judy Guastella, Jane Harty, Steven Horvath, Nancy Kozak, Kitty Hill, Chuck & Elaine Malecki, Lillian Miles, Colette Nagel, Tom & Sue Poyer, Jim & Bonnie Schluentz, Joyce Schneider, Bob Varone, and Pauline Vickey.

Friends and relatives: Barbara George, Mikayla Hack-sunda, Daniel & Michelle Kalstrup, Dave McMullan, Esther Murphy, Rob Powers, Becky Rurade, Laurie Steinke, and Wava Zeitlow.



He was buried, [and] he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.

1 Corinthians 15:4

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH,
SCHOOL & CHILD CARE
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ADDRESS SERVICE
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2024

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REDEEMER REPORTER

Published monthly for members, associate members and visitors of Redeemer Lutheran Church. Redeemer is a member congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. (LCMS).

WORSHIP SERVICES:

Divine Service: 9:15 am

Bible Study: 10:30 am



The Redeemer Lutheran Church, School & Child Care Family are called into the service of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by His command (Matthew 28:18-20) to:

- ◆ *Disciple all nations, that is, all people;*
- ◆ *Baptize in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit;*
- ◆ *Proclaim the Gospel and teach His Word in its truth and purity; and*
- ◆ *Never be ashamed of the Gospel—it is the power of God unto salvation (Romans 1:16)*