



# The Big Story

A Year of Discovering the Bible Together



## Beginning September 11

### IMAGINE

Church School and Worship focusing on the same BIG STORY

Families talking about the BIG STORY together all week long

Small groups going deeper into THE BIG STORY

See page 9 for *Ways to Connect*

### HOW IT WORKS

This year in worship and in Church School, we will be discovering some of the greatest stories of the Bible together. Each week in worship, we will focus on one story and the church school kids will learn that same story in their time together. Throughout the year, there will be many resources available so you can go even deeper into the BIG STORY.

### THE BIG STORY

Have you ever wished you knew more about the stories in the Bible? Have you ever wished you could make sense of how all of scripture fits together in God's BIG STORY? Here is your chance to learn more about the Bible, grow in your faith, and discover how God's BIG STORY impacts your life every day.

### WAYS TO CONNECT

Family Discussion Starters  
Adult Education Opportunities  
Small Group Guides

### SOME STORIES TO WATCH FOR BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 11

ABRAHAM and SARAH - God keeps Promises!  
JACOB - God can use ANYONE!  
JOSEPH - What do my dreams mean, anyway?  
WILDERNESS - Do I really have to go through this?  
MOSES & the EXODUS - Did the Red Sea really open up?  
DEBORAH - Who is SHE?  
DAVID - A pretty unlikely king!

# From the Pastor



“And on the seventh day...”

Remember what January and February felt like? Cold, snowy, dark... and busy!

Kids were swamped with homework, we had to shovel dump truck loads of snow every other day, basketball/volleyball/etc practices were in full swing, and our cars never stopped running back and forth to the grocery store/school/work and home again-regardless of blizzards.

Back then, I remember wishing for the bliss of summertime. Warm beaches. Lazy lawn chairs. Cookouts with friends. Cabins up north.

Lemonade with bendy-straws on porches surrounded by fireflies. Back in the winter, we imagine summertime as being wonderfully slow-paced. A three-month vacation. A holy rest from the

routine of the rest of the year. A summery Sabbath.

What happened to our summery Sabbath?! It's already August and I don't think that any of us feel that we've had our share of lemonades on the porch. I haven't sat in a real lawn chair yet- not even once. And beaches?! Who is satisfied by the number of times you've been to the beach so far?

I can tell you what I have done this summer though. None of it counts as Sabbath! ;- ) I've watched excavators dig a huge hole in my backyard... and then I've helped to build our new garage. We've built a fence when the garage was on hold.

I've taken 28 Easter teenagers and 7 adults on two week-long trips for work. I've cooked food and cleaned my house for a small army of friends and family who have stayed at my house over the weekends.

And- I know that you've been doing as much- or more- than me. So much for summertime being slow-paced!

And on the seventh day God finished the work that had been done, and God rested on the seventh day. So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy.

Everyone needs a holy rest- a Sabbath. We don't need to take our rest on a Sunday. And, since everyone finds rest in different ways, everyone's Sabbath will be different.

The important thing is that we take a Sabbath. Put your feet up. Pour a lemonade. Enjoy the summer sun. And be healthy to your soul. God is all powerful and all knowing... and still, God took a rest. How much more do we need one then?! Peace be with you!

*Pastor Sarah*

## Kristi Lockrem Scholarships Awarded

This year's Kristi Lockrem Scholarships were presented to Kristin Aune and Barbara Walling at the Church Council meeting on July 19. The scholarship was created to memorialize Kristi Lockrem, former member of Easter, for the purpose of assisting persons with learning disabilities in the pursuit of education beyond high school. Serving on the committee to oversee the awards are Pam Oettinger, Terry Vandercook, Sharry Angell. Since the inception of the scholarship in 1996, a total of \$12,350 has been awarded.



Pastor Kris, Pam Oettinger, and Pastor Jim with Kristin Aune (left) and Barbara Walling (below).



# benediction



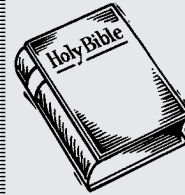
RELEVANT.  
SPIRITUAL. REACHING.

**Sundays, 5 p.m.**  
**Easter on the Hill**

Benediction is a community searching for where God is in the world. we feature new music, raw questions, and real connections. feel the love, come and check it out. Facebook group "Benediction"

## Topics in Worship

August 7: *Song Breakdown*  
August 14: *Theological Jargon* (led by Rusty Brace)  
August 21 & 28: *I believe in God, but...*



## WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

### Monday Morning Bible Study

***Mondays, 6:45-7:30 a.m.***  
***Easter by the Lake***

- Bibles and coffee provided
- Meets every week

### Great Stories

***Wednesdays,***  
***beginning Sept. 14***  
***11 a.m.-noon, Easter on the Hill***

Learn about pivotal events in the history of Christianity; led by Pastor Paul.

## Summer Music on the Hill

During the summer, soloists and instrumentalists perform during worship on the Hill.

- August 7: Bev Hannon, soloist; Dawn Whittenburg, organist; Nathan Stoerzinger, trumpet
- August 14: Barb Tjader, soloist; Sara Kotrba, piano
- August 21: Women's 5tet
- August 28: Krystle Lewis, soloist
- September 4: Bev Hannon and Cara Spurr, duet

## Saturday Audio/Video Volunteers Needed

We are looking for volunteers to commit approximately 2 hours a month to help out with audio and video at the Saturday 5 p.m. service. No experience is necessary, and it is easy to learn! Especially if you are a frequent Saturday worshiper, we'd love to have your help. Please contact Jason Hansen at 651-452-3680 or [jason@easter.org](mailto:jason@easter.org) if you are interested.

## Altar Flowers

If you would like to sponsor altar flowers at worship services at either site in honor or memory of an event or loved one, please contact the church office at 651-452-3680 at least one week before the service. The cost is \$35.

### Your Church Staff

7/27/11

Pastors ..... Jim Borgschatz, Paul Harris, Kevin Olson, Kristen Capel, Sarah Clark  
Director of Music.....Kris Henry  
Worship Leader/Youth Ministry Team .....Kent Henriksen  
Youth & Music Ministry .....Jason Hansen  
Children, Youth & Families .....Rachelle Gill, Rachel Kucker  
Director of Administration .....Laurel Gaard  
Wellness/Parish Nurse .....Stacy Wollmuth  
Communities Coordinator..... Mary Kay DuChene  
Office Administration.....Jennifer Peloquin, Cindy Wilson,  
Lisa Day, Becky Briggs, Judy Hansen  
Coordinator of Encore! .....Judy Pascoe  
Worship Lead Coordinator.....Debbie Finley  
Infant/Toddler Center Lead Coordinators .....Judy Hansen, Cindy Lutz  
Custodians.....Eric Wilson, Butch Stodolka, Rosemary Dulas  
Easter Preschool Director..... Alicia Borman  
Easter Preschool Teachers.....Theresa Graves, Patty Goehring,  
Katie Ossell, Julie Fineran, Nancy Hensch, Darla Landmark

## WORSHIP TIMES

Easter on the Hill:  
Sat. 5 p.m., Sun. 8:30 & 10 a.m.  
Benediction: Sun. 5 p.m.  
Easter by the Lake:  
Sun. 9:30 and 11 a.m.

## OFFICE HOURS

Offices are at Easter on the Hill.  
Monday-Friday..... 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
Saturdays..... 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

## Job Transitions Group

**Tuesday mornings, 7:30-9 a.m.,  
Easter on the Hill**

The goal of this free job transition group is to inspire and empower community members to get hired faster, in a job that's right for them. All are welcome! There is no charge to attend.

### Upcoming Presentations:

For additional information, check the group's webpage at [www.easter.org/CareerConnections](http://www.easter.org/CareerConnections)

**August 2:** Breakout Bonanza

**August 9:** Use "Creative" Stress for Vitality: How to Boost your Energy for Effective Results, presented by Noni Threinen, D.C., EdD Sometimes it's hard to keep your energy up and direct your focus when taking your next steps in work and life. But stress can be either an energy drain or an energy enhancer. You will learn and practice easy stress busters and energy boosters to fully engage your mind, heart and body for sustainable wellness and vitality.

**August 16:** The Art of Networking," presented by Jerome Noel, a global/international sales and marketing expert. Jerome will outline the basic principles of networking as part of a job search.

**August 23:** Breakout Bonanza

**August 30:** Breakout Bonanza

### Are you LinkedIn?

Our group is called Easter Job Transitions Group. Find it and click on "Join this Group" and you'll be approved within 48 hours. Neighbors and friends are welcome as well. In these difficult economic times, our Job Transitions Group is especially appreciative of opportunities for networking.

## Saturday Office Help

Adult help is sought for the church office on Saturday mornings (9 a.m. – noon), answering phone calls and inserting the pink Response Sheet into bulletins. A staff person is also in the office each Saturday. Choose 3-4 dates between September 2011 and September 2012. Please contact Laurel Gaard at 651-452-3680 or [lgaard@easter.org](mailto:lgaard@easter.org) with questions or to volunteer. An orientation/scheduling meeting will be held on Saturday, September 10 from 9-10 a.m. at Easter on the Hill.

## Call Transition News and Dates

### Pastor Kris Installation: September 18, 2 p.m., Easter on the Hill

Pastor Kris Capel will be installed as Easter's Lead Pastor. Join us for this monumental event in Easter's history. Bishop Rogness will preach. Several other special speakers and music will help us celebrate this new chapter in Easter's life.

### Pastor Jim Retirement Celebration: October 8

Join us for a surprise-filled, fun-filled, memory-filled, joy-filled, thanks-filled opportunity to celebrate Pastor Jim's retirement with him and his family. We will recognize his many and significant contributions to Easter and give him a special and memorable send-off. Watch for more information on the time and location.

## Chick Talk Starts in September

Chick Talk is an experience designed for women to grow in their faith and in community with one another. If you would like to be part of something amazing – you are invited to come and check it out.

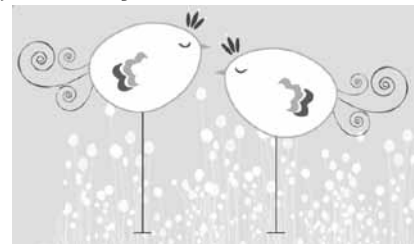
### **Love Wins: A Book about Heaven, Hell and the Fate of Every Person Who Ever Lived**

**Mondays, September 12, 19, 7-8:30 p.m., Easter on the Hill**

**Thursdays, September 15, 22, 9:30-11 a.m., Easter by the Lake**

**Leader: Dr. Dick Jensen**

Millions of Christians have struggled with how to reconcile God's love and God's judgment. Has God created billions of people over thousands of years only to select a few to go to heaven and everyone else to suffer forever in hell? Is this acceptable to God? How is this "good news?" These are troubling questions, but what if these questions trouble us for good reason? What if God wants us to face these questions? Dick Jensen will lead us through discussing these questions, along with videos from Rob Bell.



### **Martin Luther: The Finale!**

**Mondays, September 26, 7-8:30 p.m., Easter on the Hill**

**Thursdays, September 29, 9:30-11 a.m., Easter by the Lake**

**Leader: Dr. Dick Jensen**

Session will include Luther's very helpful way of understanding our relationship to the political world and our relationship to our own vocations: homemaker, business woman, volunteer etc.

## New Member Orientation

**Wednesdays, August 10 and 24,  
7 – 8:45 p.m., Easter on the Hill**

You're invited to make Easter Church your church home. Join the community by attending the 2 orientation sessions in August. Attendance at both class sessions is required for membership. Childcare is available in the church Infant/Toddler Center. Please sign up online, on the pink Response Sheet at worship, or call the church office at 651-452-3680 if you plan to attend. The next New Member Orientation will be offered on two Sunday evenings, October 9 and 16.

## Yogadevotion Fall Class

**Tuesdays, Sept. 6 - Oct. 25,  
6:30 – 7:30 p.m., Easter by the Lake**

Invest in your physical wellbeing and spiritual life by attending this class. Instructor Marie Baker leads participants through yoga poses and movement, and ends with a devotion.



Beginners and experienced practitioners welcome! Wear clothing that allows movement, and bring a yoga mat or large beach towel. Please register by sending your form and check for \$55, payable to Easter Lutheran Church, to the church office. 15 registrations received by August 23 insure the class will take place. For more information call the church office at 651-452-3680, or visit the Yogadevotion website at [www.yogadevotion.com](http://www.yogadevotion.com).

## Habitat Project

**Wed.-Fri., August 10-12**

We still need a few more volunteers for each day. You don't need any special



skills, just a willingness and desire to help and learn! If you would like to volunteer, but don't feel up to the physical demands, consider being a site host to help keep the volunteers coordinated, fed and organized throughout the day. Please contact [helpinghands@easter.org](mailto:helpinghands@easter.org).

## Small Group Kick-off: Fall Feast and Football

**Sunday, September 25, noon, Easter by the Lake**

Easter's Small Group Ministry Team is so excited to continue to help connect the hearts of people with others and God through small groups in the coming year. We had a great kick-off last fall and formed many thriving small groups like Dinner Clubs, Young Parents, Contemplative Studies, and many more. We're grateful for the dedication of many other long-running small groups who continue to have an impact, like OWLs (Older Wiser Lutherans), Sip-n-Stitch, Helping Hands, and many others.

What's next? Last fall we cast a wide net to gauge interest and availability for small group participation. We're anxious to take what we've learned and make it even easier for a small group to work into your life. It is worth it to make the time! Small groups are for everyone, and this year we look forward to focusing on several areas: connecting new members, Rosemount residents, men's ministries, and parents with young/school-aged children.

Keep your eyes and ears open for your opportunity to get involved. Join us for the launch party -- a Chili Cook-Off, fellowship, and football (maybe some watching AND playing) at noon on Sunday, September 25. Questions? Call Mary Kay DuChene at 651-452-3680 or [marykay@easter.org](mailto:marykay@easter.org).



## Judy Pascoe Retirement and Reception

**Sunday, Aug. 14, Easter on the Hill**

Join us during and after the 8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. worship services to celebrate Judy's retirement and to say thank you to her for her 17 years of service to Easter as the Director of Development. A reception will follow the 10 a.m. worship service. This event is being hosted by the Stewardship Committee.

## LSS Ambassadors Commissioned

Terolle and Dale Turnham were recently commissioned as Lutheran Social Service Ambassadors for Easter Lutheran Church. By serving in this role they are demonstrating the shared commitment of LSS and Easter Church to live out the gospel in daily life. We are all called to serve those in need, and to help every person live in safety, dignity and hope. Easter Lutheran Church and Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota value this Ambassador role to assist in communicating, advocacy and encouragement. Terolle and Dale will help Easter and LSS connect even more effectively in the future.



Providing opportunities for adults to serve, learn and gather throughout all seasons of life

## Gather

### Color Me Mine

**Friday, August 12, 10 a.m.**

**3324 Promenade Ave., Eagan**

Create your very own artistic piece at Color Me Mine, a ceramic studio owned by Easter member, Julie Schroeder. Invite a friend or family member to join you. Please contact Joy Korte at 651-797-2131 or kortes2@q.com for more information.

### Simple Steps

**Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m.**

Meet at the shelter on the right as you enter Thomas Lake Park, 4425 Pilot Knob Road, Eagan. Walk about 2 miles on paved trails around Thomas Lake and the restored prairie area. Come when you can and enjoy meeting new friends.

### Encore! Summer Golf Outings

**Wednesdays, Aug. 3, 10 a.m.**

Play 9 holes at the Lost Spur Golf Course in Eagan (2750 Sibley Memorial Highway 13). This course is friendly to players of all skill levels. Contact Bill Korte at 651-797-2131 or billkorte@q.com if you are interested in playing.

### Bread Baking Class

**Thursday, Aug. 4, 10 a.m.-noon**

**Easter on the Hill**

Come and join experienced bread baker, Mary Radtke, who has been experimenting and perfecting her recipes and techniques for years. Sign up for this class and make your own scrumptious loaf under her direction. Please contact Mary at 651-686-0219 or maryjrad@gmail.com with any additional questions.

If you would like to receive email bulletins about Encore! events, please send an email to jpascoe@easter.org and request "Encore! Updates."

## Learn

### Encore Lunch Series

**Wed., Aug. 3 & 10**

**Noon to 1 p.m., Easter by the Lake**

Join us during the lunch hour for lively discussion around relevant topics. Come when you can and bring your own lunch. Beverages will be provided. Men & women, ages 50 plus, are welcome! Facilitated by Cathy Nordheim.

#### Aug. 3: Living a Legacy

Re-imagining our lives, for what truly matters.

#### Aug. 10: Laughter and Letting Go

How attitude is everything.

### Promise & Fulfillment: A Bible Study

**Wednesday, August 17, 10-11:30 a.m.**

**Easter on the Hill**

This study, led by Rev. Dr. Richard Jensen, will present an overarching view of that which holds our sacred scriptures together. God makes promises to God's people, and God fulfills those promises. We will track the three fundamental promises of God which give shape to the Biblical story. This is an attempt to see the "big picture" of the Old and New Testament and our place within the story. Dr. Jensen is a member of Easter Church and a retired pastor, author and professor of homiletics.

## Serve

### Feed My Starving Children

**Wednesday, Aug. 10**

**9:30-11:30 a.m.**

**990 Lone Oak Road, Suite 160, Eagan**

Hand-pack meals specifically formulated for malnourished children that are shipped to nearly 70 countries around the world. To sign up for one or more of the above dates, call Rita Tester at 651-452-7342. This will be an on-going Encore! service opportunity (the second Wednesday of every month), in addition to Easter's second Tuesday evening time slot.

### Dakota Woodlands

**Mondays, Aug. 22, Sept. 19,**

**Oct. 17, Nov. 14, Dec. 19**

**10 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.**

Prepare and serve lunch for the residents at Dakota Woodlands, transitional housing for homeless women. All ingredients are provided; just plan to prepare and serve. Contact Judy Pascoe at 651-452-3680 or jpascoe@easter.org to volunteer.

## Coming in September

### Cruise the St. Croix River: Jazz Me on the Water

**Sunday, Sept. 11, 4:30-7:00 p.m., cost is \$21.75 (tax included)**

Join us for an end-of-summer cruise on the beautiful St. Croix River. The Emperors of Jazz will entertain us as we enjoy a buffet of tender beef pot roast, herb crusted chicken and garlic mashed potatoes served with fresh fruit, a salad assortment and fresh baked rolls. The boat departs out of Stillwater. Meet us there or car pool from Easter on the Hill at 3:30 p.m. Reservations are required and are due by September 6. Make your check payable to Easter Lutheran Church and put "Encore! Cruise" on the memo line. Contact Judy Pascoe at jpascoe@easter.org or 651-454-8540 with any questions.

# From a Council Member

Presented by Dean Czarnetzki at the July 19 council meeting



*This is Dean's first year on Council. He is liaison to Global Missions. Dean and his wife Lynda have 3 children.*

## The Good Stuff

Over the years I have heard a lot of good messages delivered in church but the ones that stick with me are the ones where a good story brings the message to life. We are blessed here at Easter to have a pastoral staff skilled at bringing God's word to life. I would like to share a story I heard many years ago that still resonates with me today and I pray that it might also become meaningful to you.

## God's word:

**John 3:16** *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

**John 14:1-3** *"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."*

## The story:

Many of us came from church backgrounds that included meals in the church basement. These meals were served for many church events but were often served after a funeral. It was always the same group of elderly women with blue-gray hair that would provide and serve these meals. This story is about one of those women. Her name was Mabel and this is her faith story.

Mabel was one of the women who would come around after the meal was served to collect plates and silver. As people would begin to hand her their plates she would boldly express, "Save your fork; the good stuff is coming." Of course the "good stuff" referred to the desserts served following the meal. Mabel knew that no matter whether you enjoyed the meal or not, everyone looked forward to dessert.

A few years later Mabel fell very ill. While in the hospital, she was surrounded by her family, friends, and her pastor. Mabel could sense the great sadness in the room and that's when she reached over to her meal tray and grabbed the fork. She reminded everyone how much we all look forward to dessert and that she believed heaven was the best dessert of all. Mabel was looking forward to the promise of heaven and meeting

Jesus; she was looking forward to the "good stuff" and she wanted everyone to feel this same sense of excitement.

After Mabel passed away, her family and the Pastor agreed to tell Mabel's story at the funeral. As friends and relatives arrived to say goodbye they all noticed the fork carefully placed in Mabel's hands. The fork became the symbol for Mabel's message that while she was now gone from this earth she was looking forward to the "good stuff" or God's promise of heaven. At the conclusion of the funeral service, each individual received a plastic fork on their way out. The fork was to serve as a reminder of God's promise to each of us that believing in him and carrying on his work will bring us all the promise of the "good stuff."

To this day the daily use of a fork has become a visual reminder for me of God's promise of heaven. I pray this story might also hold meaning for you.

## Prayer:

*Dear Lord, thank you for the promise of heaven (the good stuff). Send your Spirit to strengthen us so we might grow in faith and carry on the work of Jesus Christ and thus bring others to your promise of the good stuff. Amen.*

## School Supplies & Backpack Distribution

**Wed., Aug 24, noon-7 p.m. and Thurs., Aug 25, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Easter by the Lake**

Easter is partnering with the Salvation Army's Backpack Distribution to make going back to school less stressful for families in need. Donations of new, packaged school supplies can be brought to either Easter on the Hill (or Lake during worship) by August 21.

Volunteers are also needed to fill and distribute the backpacks.

**You can help by donating** new school supplies such as colored pencils, crayons, erasers, glue bottles and sticks, highlighters, markers, pencil sharpeners, pencils, rulers, scissors, pocket folders, notebooks (wide & narrow), loose leaf paper, compass, index cards, pens (blue, black & red), and protractor. Backpacks are NOT needed.

**You can also help pack and/or distribute the backpacks.** You can work all or part of either or both days. To volunteer, contact Karen Raasch at 651-457-4443 or karenraasch@q.com.



## Depression Support Coalition

The Depression Support Coalition has developed a program of monthly informational talks by leading healthcare professionals and clergy educated about and experienced with depression and related diseases.



**Thursday, August 4, 7-8:30 p.m.**

"The Will to Live: A Testimony to the Human Spirit" by John Crudele, CSP  
Grace Lutheran Church of Apple Valley  
7800 West County Road 42, Apple Valley  
Contact: Amy Fleser, RN – 952-432-7273

**Monday, September 12, 7-8:30 p.m.**

"Depression: An Illness, Not a Character Defect" with John Hottinger  
St. John the Baptist Catholic Church  
4625 West 125th St., Savage, MN 55378  
Contact: Jim Rylander, 952-890-9465, ext. 114

**Thursday, October 6, 7-8:30 p.m.**

"How Do We Love the Difficult Person" with Gloria Englund, B.S., MA  
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church  
13901 Fairview Drive, Burnsville  
Contact: Richard Erickson, 651-788-0275

**Monday, November 7, 7-8:30 p.m.**

"Depression and Spirituality" with Rev. Jerry R. Storm  
Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church  
12650 Johnny Cake Ridge Rd, Apple Valley, MN 55124  
Contact: Julie Opheim, 952-432-6351

**Thursday, December 1, 7-8:30 p.m.**

"Expectations, the Holidays, and Depression" with Lynn Silva-Breen,  
MDiv, MA, LMFT, Marriage & Family Therapist  
Mary, Mother of the Church Catholic Church  
3333 Cliff Road, Burnsville, MN 55337  
Contact: Jamie Maloney, 952-890-0045

## Food Drive for Eagan Resource Center

**August 13 and 14, both sites**

Please bring food donations when you come to worship! Summer always brings an increase in food shelf usage and a decrease in donations. Thank you for your generosity!



## Feed My Starving Children

**Tuesday, August 9, 6-7:30 p.m.,  
(990 Lone Oak Road,  
Suite 160, Eagan)**

Invite some friends and join us at Feed My Starving Children. The monthly packing date for Easter is usually the second Tuesday each month. Your support in volunteering helps Easter maintain 40 volunteer places. Bring your family, neighbors, Life Group, or book club to experience the mission and ministry of FMSC. For online sign-up instructions, go to [www.easter.org](http://www.easter.org) (search Hunger Ministries) or contact Rita Tester at 651-452-7342 or [fmsc@easter.org](mailto:fmsc@easter.org) with questions.



## Confirmation Kick Off Dates!

Make sure to mark your calendars for our fall kick off dates. Confirmation schedules are available online on the Easter website [www.easter.org](http://www.easter.org) (learn/confirmation). All confirmation classes are held at Easter by the Lake. Students, parents and mentors should attend their kick off meeting.

7th Grade Wednesday Session - Wednesday, September 7, 6 p.m.  
8th Grade Wednesday Session - Sunday, September 11, 6:30 p.m.  
9th Grade - Sunday, September 11, 6:30 p.m.  
10th Grade - Wednesday, September 7, 7:30 p.m.

Confirmation Camp Students - our first COGS is on Sunday, Sept. 11, 12:30 p.m.

### Fall Confirmation Retreats:

7th Grade September 23-24  
8th Grade September 16-17  
9th Grade - retreat is held in the spring  
10th Grade - choose one of the two retreat options: Sept. 17-18 or Sept. 24-25.  
Call the church office at 651-452-3680 to schedule a retreat date.

## VBS THANK YOU!

Thanks to the over 500 kids, families, teens and volunteers for a great action packed week at Main Street! A special thanks to all our volunteers – we appreciate all the preparation, the time, and the leadership you provided. We hope that you continue see Jesus making a difference every day! We can't wait to see you all again in worship and other summer activities! God's blessings from the Children's Ministry Team and Summer Interns.

# The Big Story - ways to Connect

Beginning this September, our weekly worship texts will focus on a survey of the Bible entitled "The Big Story." From the creation account in Genesis, through the Old Testament, to the incarnation of Jesus, and the spread of the Gospel after Jesus' death and resurrection, we will discover some of the greatest stories of the Bible, and how it all fits together: The Big Story.

## In Weekly Bible Study...

Thursdays, beginning September 8, 7-8:30 p.m. at Easter by the Lake; will be led by Pastors. This weekly study will complement the weekly worship focus.

## In Small Groups...

A Big Story guide will be available throughout the year for small groups to use as they wish. Each month's texts will be listed, along with discussion questions that the group can choose to use if they wish. Not in a small group yet? Watch for fall signups coming soon!"

## In Chick Talk...

Mondays: Oct. 3, Dec. 5, Feb. 6, April 16  
Thursday Oct. 6, Dec. 8, Feb. 9, April 19  
Five times during the year, either Pastor Kris or Pastor Sarah will help dig into The Big Story texts that are being preached at the time. Here's your chance to bring your questions and thoughts to discuss with the pastors and other Chicks.



## In Church School...

What do worship and church school have in common this year? The same "Big Story!" Join us as we learn the same Bible story each week. The Big Story encourages kids to open the scriptures and explore God's Word through activities in many different ways. Let's learn over 30 stories TOGETHER!



## Telemark Retreats

To sign up for either of these retreats or to ask questions, contact Pastor Paul at paulharris@aol.com or 651-452-3680. Cost for each retreat is \$60. Checks should be made out to Easter Lutheran Church.

### Telemark Men's Fall Retreat *Friday-Sunday, Sept. 30-Oct. 2*

Join with a group of men for a time of rejuvenation, fellowship, Bible study and recreation with the leaves at their height.

### Family Telemark Retreat *Friday-Sunday, Jan. 6-8, 2012*

Fellowship, Bible study, cross-country skiing (the 24 Hours at Telemark will probably be on in 2012), snowshoeing and holding down couches are all good options.

## Love Wins Study Group with Pastor Paul

*Tuesdays, Sept. 13-Nov. 1, 7-8:30 p.m., Easter on the Hill*

Pastor Paul will offer a four-week study group that will consider Rob Bell's best-selling book, "Love Wins: A Book About Heaven, Hell, and the Fate of Every Person Who Ever Lived"

## 2012 Tanzania Mission

Plans are already underway for an Iringa Mission Trip from June 16 to July 5, 2012. Begin praying and thinking now about going on a mission trip that will amaze, delight and transform you as you share life with our brothers and sisters in Tanzania and experience African life (and wildlife). To learn more about this opportunity, contact Pastor Paul at paulharris@aol.com or 651-452-3680.



# Children, Youth & Family

## Faith Formation

### Church School

Wednesday classes begin Sept. 14  
Sunday classes begin Sept. 18

Please contact Rachelle Gill at  
rgill@easter.org or 651-452-3680 about any of the items below.

#### High School Juniors and Seniors!

We need your help teaching children during church school! Both worship sites and various times on Wednesday and Sundays are available. There are a lot of different ways to be involved in church school this year....teaching with a friend, teaching twice a month, helping in the Resource Room, helping with Family Faith Nights...tons of things.

#### Church School Teacher Workshops – The Big Story!

Wednesday, Sept. 7, 6:30 p.m., Easter on the Hill  
Sunday, Sept. 11, 8 a.m., Easter by the Lake

If you are volunteering to lead church school this year it is important that you attend one of the Teacher Workshops. There are a lot of exciting things happening so please mark your calendars.



#### Church School Meet & Greet

All Sunday and Wednesday Church School Students meet your teacher(s):  
Sunday, Sept. 11, 9:30-10 a.m., Easter on the Hill  
Sunday, Sept. 11, 10:30 – 11 a.m., Easter by the Lake  
Classes will begin Sept. 14 & 18. If you still need to register, please complete a the registration form found on the website at [www.easter.org](http://www.easter.org) (Learn/Elementary).

#### Please Consider Partnering with Us!

Children's Ministry is a partnership between families and the church. We invite you to be involved in this ministry. There are many volunteer opportunities, both one-time and school-year commitments. Please prayerfully consider how you can volunteer to serve.

**2011-2012 Church School Registration forms are available for 2011-12  
Church School at either church site and  
[www.easter.org](http://www.easter.org) (Learn/Elementary)**

### Children's Ministry Important Fall Dates:

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

Sunday, Sept. 11 – Church School Meet & Greet  
Wednesday, Sept. 14 – Church School classes begin  
Sunday, Sept. 18 – Church School classes begin  
Friday, Sept. 23 – Pray & Play begins  
Saturday, Oct. 1 – Family Faith Night- All preschool families  
Saturday, Oct. 8 – Family Faith Night – All 3rd grade families  
Sunday, Oct. 9 Parent/Child Church School classes begin  
Saturday, Oct. 15 – Family Faith Night – All 5th grade families  
Sunday, Oct. 16 – Church School sings in worship  
Wednesday, Oct. 26 – Bible Bash (Pre-K - Gr. 6)  
Saturday, Nov. 12 – Family Faith Night – All 4th grade families  
Saturday, Nov. 19 – Advent...ure

Please refer to the Children's Brochure for more details!

## SUMMER ACTIVITIES

Check out the Summer Youth Brochure for more details and registration information. It is available at [www.easter.org](http://www.easter.org) (Learn/Elementary). Contact Rachelle Gill at [rgill@easter.org](mailto:rgill@easter.org) or 651-452-3680 with questions.

#### Age 4-5 (by Sept. 1, 2011)

- Splish Splash Blast,  
Wed., Aug. 3, 1-3 p.m.

#### Gr. 1-4 (Fall 2011) Summer Fun

- Sports Camp (Gr. 1-2),  
Tues., Aug. 2, 9:30 a.m.-noon
- Sports Camp (Gr. 3-6),  
Tues.-Wed., Aug. 2-4,  
9:30 a.m.-noon

#### Grades 5-6 (Fall 2011)

- Feed My Starving Children,  
Mon., Aug. 8, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
- Sports Camp, Tues.-Thur.,  
Aug. 2-4, 9:30 a.m.-noon
- Camp Wapo, Sun.-Fri., Aug. 14-19

### Family Camp Weekend with Pastor Kris – Last Chance!

**Friday, Aug. 12 - Sun., Aug. 14  
Register by Friday, August 5**

Arrive at Camp Wapo on Friday evening and enjoy a weekend at camp. Stay in a room with private bath (shower, 2 sinks and a toilet) and its own air conditioning control. All meals are provided. The finale will be worship on Sunday morning by the lake. Families of all ages are welcome! Learn more by calling Rachelle Gill at 651-452-3680.

# Children, Youth & Family

## Faith Formation

### Nature Camp (Gr. 6-8)

Tuesday August 23 -

Wednesday August 24,

9 a.m.-3 p.m., Easter by the Lake  
Cost, \$35

Register by Sunday, Aug. 14

During this brand new day camp, middle school students will explore God's creative glory by examining creation with Pastor Sarah and Intern Carl. We will study creation outside by hiking, both in Eagan and at Como Zoo. We'll also study nature in the Bible. Cost includes food, supplies, and excursions. Friends are always welcome! Call Pastor Sarah with any questions, 651-452-3680.

### Mission Trip

#### Thank You Night!!

Sunday, August 21, 6 p.m.,

Easter on the Hill

Everyone is welcome to join in a celebration of this year's mission trips! Whether you participated, chaperoned, contributed financially, or prayed from here in Eagan, we'd love everyone to share in stories from our trips, grab a treat, and enjoy some fellowship with our excellent youth ambassadors. If you can donate any baked goods or have any questions about the event, please contact Jason at 651-542-3680 or [jason@easter.org](mailto:jason@easter.org).

### Upcoming Confirmation Dates!

See page 8 for Confirmation Kick-off and Retreat Information for Fall!

## Exploring the Twin Cities

Youth at the MN State Fair!!

Monday, August 29, noon-6 p.m.

Meet at Easter by the Lake

Cost for the Fair: \$11

High schoolers, gather your friends and come check out the state fair!

Bring money for anything on a stick, and enjoy the end of summer the way Minnesotans do. Please fill out the release form found on the Easter website and return it with payment before August 24. Questions?

Contact Jason at [jason@easter.org](mailto:jason@easter.org).



### Twin Cities and New York Mission Trip Lock-in!

Sunday, August 21, 7:30 p.m. – Monday, August 22, 7 a.m.,

Easter by the Lake

Twin Cities and NY Mission trippers -You've gone on your trip! You've built incredible relationships! You've shared amazing and awesome experiences! Now what?! Come to the summer lock-in to reminisce with your friends, share stories, play games, and have fun! If you have any questions, contact Jason at [jason@easter.org](mailto:jason@easter.org) or 651-452-3680.

## UPCOMING AUDITIONS!!

### Easter YOUTH CHOIR

Auditions on Wednesday, September 7, 4 p.m., Easter by the Lake

All Easter youth are invited to be a part of a great youth choir. The group will meet from 4:30-5:30 p.m. on Wednesdays and will sing all types of music throughout the year. We are already lining up cool opportunities to perform in and out of worship! To join the group, come to the audition and info meeting with a song to show off your voice. Questions? Contact Jason Hansen at 651-452-3680 or [jason@easter.org](mailto:jason@easter.org).



### Easter YOUTH BAND

Auditions on Wednesday September 7, 5 p.m., Easter by the Lake

Interested in joining the youth rock band? We rehearse from 5:30-6:45 p.m. on Wednesdays and play for confirmation and several worship services during the year. This year, we're looking to expand performances to other venues! We're always looking for drummers, bassists, guitarists, keyboard players, and singers – bring your instrument or your voice! Questions? Contact Jason Hansen at 651-452-3680 or [jason@easter.org](mailto:jason@easter.org).

**Easter Lutheran Church**  
**4200 Pilot Knob Road**  
**Eagan, MN 55122-1822**  
**www.easter.org**

“to grow in faith and carry on the work of Jesus Christ”

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*Featuring Bensonwells, Cory Wong, and The Messengers*

GREAT FOOD! GREAT MUSIC! RAIN OR SHINE!