



Installation of Kristen K. Capel as Lead Pastor

Sunday, September 18, 2 p.m., Easter on the Hill

Bishop Peter Rogness will preach and officiate at the service. Pastor Kris will then be fully installed as the Lead Pastor for Easter Lutheran Church. Pastor Jim will complete his work as a pastor on September 30 and retire as of October 1. (A retirement celebration is planned for October 8.)

The Pastors, the Church Council and the Bishop have prepared a letter of understanding about what will happen after the installation of Pastor Kris and the retirement of Pastor Jim. That proposed agreement is available on www.easter.org for anyone who wishes to see it.

One of the items addresses Pastor Jim's physical presence at Easter. In order to demonstrate conspicuous support and respect for Pastor Kris' new role and leadership, Pastor Jim will not be attending worship at Easter Lutheran Church for three months. "I want people to see that there is a difference in leadership. I don't want to confuse people about who is in charge by being present in situations that may not be helpful. Both Pastor Kris and I think this is a good transitional plan," said Pastor Jim.

The transition agreement also suggests a different title for Pastor Jim in retirement, that of Pastor Emeritus. It is an honorary title, with no duties, responsibilities or compensation.

This plan of transition is designed to benefit Easter Church in the most helpful and healthy way going forward including supporting new leadership. With the successful transition, it will be possible for the retired Pastor Emeritus Jim and Janet to participate with their family and others in the ongoing life of the church.

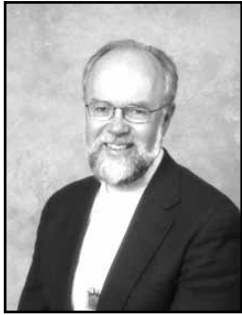


The Big Story

A Year of Discovering the Bible Together
Beginning September 11
See page 9 for details

Date.....	Primary Text.....	Story	SPARK Story Bible & Page
Sept. 11	Genesis 1	Creation.....	Creation- 1
Sept. 18	Genesis 12:1-4	Abraham and Sarah	Abram's Call- 26
Sept. 25	Genesis 28:10-22	Jacob	Jacob Wrestles- 46
Oct. 2	Genesis 50:15-26	Joseph.....	Joseph Helps His Family- 60
Oct. 9	Exodus 2:23-3:12	Moses and Exodus.....	The Burning Bush- 72
Oct. 16.....	Exodus 19:3-6; 20:1-21	Covenant and Law	The 10 Commandments- 94
Oct. 23.....	Numbers 14:1-25	Wilderness	A Message from God- 100
Oct. 30.....	Judges 4:1-16	Deborah	Deborah- 106

From the Pastor



Dear Friends
at Easter,

It's been said that "all life is meeting," but it could as truly be said that "all life is leaving." I'm keenly aware

of this as I return to my "regular" responsibilities at Easter during Pastor Jim's last month as Senior Pastor. I feel both great delight in anticipating the next chapter of Easter under Pastor Kris's leadership but also both sadness and gladness at Pastor Jim's tenure coming to a close.

When I left my first call, I got some good advice. My friend said, "You will be tempted to say to people that our relationship will continue just the same even though I am no longer your pastor. The truth is that things will not continue the same at all in any relationship that has combined the dimensions of pastor and friend." That was helpful then and remains so now.

Pastor Jim has given remarkable leadership to Easter. He joins a very small group of founding pastors who have successfully led a church through the different stages that growth brings and to

do so with grace and laser-focus on the central mission. Pastor Jim has not only helped create what I think is the best church mission statement I have ever seen--"To Grow in Faith and Carry on the Work of Jesus Christ"--but also has never wavered from striving to make those words the living reality of Easter Lutheran Church.

Leaving is a constant theme of "The Big Story"—the Bible's story of God's dealing with people and the creation. Adam and Eve leave the Garden. Abraham and Sarah leave Ur and then Haran at the invitation of God to begin a new life in a new place. The people of Israel leave the (relative) comfort of slavery for a long sojourn in the wilderness. Elijah leaves settled land for years in the wilderness. Jesus leaves Heaven to be our Savior on Earth.

The Bible does not teach us to discount the grief of leaving. In Scripture, leaving is never wanderlust or taking a vacation in a new and refreshing setting. It always comes with the heart-pain of leave-taking and with uncertainty and trepidation of facing the new.

However, leaving is also the avenue to new growth and new life. Adam and Eve discover not death but the renewed grace of God. Abraham and Sarah enter the Promised Land. The children of Israel leave slavery behind and forge a new life in an old

land. Elijah leaves the wilderness to bring down an evil king and queen. Christ comes to become our Savior and King.

I'm back at Easter after many recent leavings and farewells. Good-byes to friends, students and colleagues in Tanzania have a particular poignancy. At our cabin, we have hosted friends and family we may not see again for a very long time. And now I join the farewells to Pastor Jim.

In the Bible there is a theme even stronger than "Leaving." It's the "Promise of Presence." In Genesis 28:15 God speaks to Jacob, who is leaving the familiar for a new place. "Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go... I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." God promises to be with Jacob in his leaving and in his new journey.

I look forward to a powerful time of blessing as we thank God for Pastor Jim's remarkable and blessed ministry at Easter and as we take strong comfort in knowing that it hasn't been Pastor Jim's work, but God's work, and that God will continue to be with us all as we, in grace and mercy, enter a new place.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Jim". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Take Action and Get Involved

Tuesday, November 1, 1-7 p.m., Easter by the Lake

Easter Lutheran's second sponsored blood drive of the year is coming! Here is your chance to take action and get involved.

- Be a regular donor! You can donate whole blood every 56 days, up to six times a year; double red cells can be donated every 112 days up to 3 times a year.
- Volunteer! Every day generous people like you support the blood program by volunteering their time. We need greeters at the welcome table and people in the canteen.
- Spread the word! If you're busy Nov. 1, then tell your friends and family about the difference they can make and ask them to donate blood.
- Visit www.redcrossblood.org! Get the most up-to-date information and register for our site #5372.

Your blood is needed more than you think! Join us. Direct questions to Kathie Poppen (651) 688-7386 or klpoppen@comcast.net.



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"

Easter Prayer Team Meeting

Saturday, September 10, 9-10:30 a.m., Easter on the Hill

Come check us out! All are welcome to join us for coffee and goodies and fellowship. Pastor Kevin starts us off with prayer and a devotion. Sometimes we have a video and sometimes we discuss a book on prayer. We spend time in prayer for those with concerns in their lives. There is no pressure to pray out loud...it's all very comfortable! Hope to see you there!

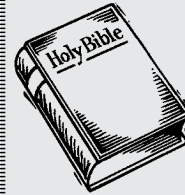
Lake Hosts Needed

For both the 9:30 and 11 a.m. services at the Lake

Greet worshipers, pass out/return Bibles before and after worship, direct people to seats in the Great Room, help receive offerings, and assist with directing people for communion (when served). No special skills are needed, just a willingness to be there 15 minutes before and about 10 minutes after service. We also welcome families to do this together. Interested? Contact Debbie Finley at dfinley@easter.org.

Saturday Audio/Video Volunteers Needed

We are continuing to enhance worship and 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 if you are interested.



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.

Love Wins Study Group

Tuesdays, Sept. 13-Nov. 1,

7-8:30 p.m., Easter on the Hill

Pastor Paul offers this 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"

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

8/24/11

Pastors Jim Borgschatz, Paul Harris, Kevin Olson, Kristen Capel, Sarah Clark
 Director of Music..... Kris Henry
 Worship Leader 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.

Office closed Monday, Sept. 5

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

Sept. 6: "Self-Care During Unemployment," presented by Pastor Jim Borgschatz. Pastor Jim will be exploring not only the predictable and frequently cited ways of self care, but also self-care from the perspective of deep personal awareness. Pastor Jim has served as the senior Pastor at Easter Lutheran Church for 38 years.

Sept. 13: Breakout Bonanza

Sept. 20: "The Economy of the United States," presented by Randy Mudge. Randy will discuss the fundamental changes that have had dramatic and far reaching impacts on the U.S. economy over the last 30 years. What do we need to do to position ourselves for successful long term employment? Randy is a consultant with Project Consulting Group. His background includes Accounting, Marketing, Manufacturing Operations Management, and General Management.

Sept. 27: 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.

Attention Job Seekers!

Wanted: WIP Participants (Work In Progress)

Wednesdays, Sept. 14 - October 26, 9:15-11:15 a.m., Easter on the Hill
Unemployed more than six months? Stuck in a rut in your job search? Would you like to share strategies, plans and successes and in a small group and achieve personal goals that you set each week?

WIP is an opportunity to benefit from and contribute to a mutually supportive, objective, confidential, small group as we discuss what is and isn't working for us, report successes, overcome obstacles and generally try to uplift each other in our job search.

For questions and to reserve your spot, contact either Pastor Kevin Olson at 651-452-3680 or revkev@easter.org or Karen Rainford at 651-454-5487 or karen.rainford@gmail.com.

Saturday Office Help

Orientation on Saturday, September 10, 9-10 a.m., Easter on the Hill

This opportunity for adults to serve involves answering phone calls and inserting the pink Response Sheet into bulletins. You'll choose 3-4 Saturday mornings (9 a.m. - noon) in the coming year. A staff person is also in the office each Saturday. Please contact Laurel Gaard at 651-452-3680 or lgaard@easter.org with questions or to volunteer.

Adoption Option

Easter Church has three families looking for a child through domestic adoption. For a variety of reasons it is getting harder to arrange this kind of blessing. If you know of someone who can't manage an upcoming pregnancy and is willing to consider placing that child in a good home, please let us know of this viable and valued option. Contact one of the pastors at 651-452-3680.

OWLs Fall Picnic (Older Wiser Lutherans)

Thursday, September 8, noon

Shel & Betty Holt's Place, 2065 Marble Lane, Eagan

Gathering around the theme of "Those Good Ol' School Days", participants at the picnic can share their favorite (or not so favorite!) memories of the start of school. Pictures and other keepsakes to share with the group are also welcomed. Please bring a side dish or salad to share and \$5 to cover the cost of meat for the grill. Play croquet and other yard games. Phil Friest has promised to show us how to make homemade ice cream! Please RSVP to Phil Friest at 952-893-0313.



Snow Season Help Wanted

We're looking for volunteers to help clear snow from sidewalks at Easter on the Hill during the snow season (November through April). 3-4 volunteers are scheduled to be on call for a week at a time. If it snows during the on-call week, the volunteers come to the church to clear snow with church-owned snowblowers and shovels. Volunteers are generally on call 4-5 times during the season. To volunteer, sign up in the Happenings Book at the Information/Welcome Center or contact Laurel Gaard at 651-452-3680 or lgaard@easter.org. A schedule will be mailed in mid-October.



Men's Breakfast

**Saturday, Sept. 10, 8-9:30 a.m.,
Easter on the Hill**

Yogadevotion Fall Class

Tuesdays, Sept. 6 - Oct. 25,

Invest in your physical wellbeing and spiritual life by attending this class.

Instructor Marie Baker leads class members through yoga poses and movement, and ends with a devotion.

The instructor offers options that allow full participation by all, whether beginners or longtime practitioners. 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 by September 5. For more information call the church office at 651-452-3680, or visit the Yogadevotion website at www.yogadevotion.com.



Life Line Screening

Monday, October 10, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.,

Easter by the Lake

Have You Taken Control of Your Health Today?

Identifying Your Risk = Disease Prevention. Life Line Screening recommends these screenings for anyone 50 and older, or 40 and over with cardiovascular risk factors. They are non-invasive, painless, and take 60-90 minutes to complete. The results, which are mailed directly to you, will help you and your doctor protect your health. Stroke, Vascular, and Heart Rhythm Package range from \$129 to \$159. To be proactive about your health, call to register at 1-888-653-6441 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/ community-partners. There is no time like the present to take action! Questions? Contact Stacy Wollmuth at swollmuth@easter.org or 651-452-3680.

Small Group Corner

Connecting the hearts of people with others and God

The Small Groups Ministry Team inspires and forms groups that will connect the hearts of people and God. We have many underway and thriving, such as: New Parents, Life Groups, Young Couples, Dinner Club, Women's Bible Study, and Contemplative Spiritual Practices, just to name a few.

A new model for a small group has started called, Parents and Children (PAC), for busy families with school-aged children. Since this past spring, five families--all with kids in early elementary school -- have been meeting once a month on a Sunday afternoon from 3-5 p.m.. They are alternating monthly what they are calling Family Fun and Family Faith. One month they have Family Fun time -- the purpose of the gathering is solely social and fun. They've met at a park, flown kites, and gone swimming. The following month, they meet for Family Faith--an opportunity to further explore their faith, history, questions, favorite Bible stories, etc.

During Family Faith gathering time, two Easter teens (selected and trained by Pastor Sarah) join the families. The first 30 minutes of the gathering is spent with ice breakers and games to reconnect after a month has passed since the last gathering. Then the adults have their faith-based conversation while the Easter teens give the kids a faith-based lesson of their own. Everyone meets together during the last few minutes to share what they talked about and close in prayer.

We are so excited at the idea of being able to make small groups more accessible to those with young kids AND to incorporate Easter teens, encouraging them to share and grow in their faith through working with the kids every other month.

If this sounds interesting and you have kids ages 5-11 (or thereabouts), please sign up at www.easter.org (connect/small groups), find a sign up form on the Small Group bulletin board at both sites, or contact Mary Kay DuChene in the church office at 651-452-3680. If you are an Easter teen, and you have a passion for faith and kids (and would like to earn some confirmation service hours), please contact Pastor Sarah.

Small Group team: Mary Kay DuChene, marykay@easter.org; Jack and Steph Esser, jackandsteph@comcast.net, Deanna Heise, deannaheise@comcast.net, or Chris Nechanicky, nechanicky@comcast.net; or call the church office.

Small Group Kick-off

Sunday, Sept. 25, 12-2 p.m., Easter by the Lake

The ministry team will engage in a friendly chili cook-off (you are the judges!) and we'll play and/or watch some touch football, have family activities, games, etc. Join us, and vote for your favorite chili (feel free to enter one yourself too). Let Mary Kay DuChene know if you're coming and if you'd like to enter a chili (651-452-3680 or marykay@easter.org). Small group sign up for Fall 2011 is "officially" between 9/1 and 9/15. (But honestly, we'll take your interest and sign up at any time before or after that. We just want you in a small group!) Check out the website and watch for the sign-up sheet.

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

Gather

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 Outing

Wednesday, Sept. 7, 10 a.m.

Meet at Arbor Pointe Golf Club in Inver Grove Heights. It is a 9 hole par 31 executive course that provides both fun and challenges. Join us for tee times beginning at 10 a.m. To sign up or for more information, contact Bill Korte at 651-797-2131 or billkorte@q.com.

Cruise the St. Croix River:

Jazz Me on the Water

Sunday, Sept. 11, 4:30-7 p.m., cost is \$21.80 (tax included)

Join us for an end-of-summer cruise on the beautiful St. Croix River. The boat departs out of Stillwater. Meet us there or carpool from Easter on the Hill at 3 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.

OWLs Gatherings

- Sept. 8 – Fall Picnic (see page 4)
- Oct. 13 – Trip to Red Wing
- Nov. 10 - Cookie Extravaganza (make & bake cookies to take to shut-ins)
- Dec. 8 – Christmas Party at the Rivers

Learn

SALT

(Senior Adults Learning Together)

Mondays, Sept. 19 through Oct. 10

Church of the Risen Savior,

Burnsville, 9:30-11:45 a.m.,

followed by optional lunch

Join a group from Easter and attend one or more of SALT's fall sessions. Choose from an array of presentations that include both serious and amusing topics, ranging from current affairs and travelogues to sports, religion, local authors and much more. Brochures describing the sessions and registration forms are available at both sites. Cost is \$5 per session per Monday. Pre-register for all sessions and save! An optional catered lunch is available for \$9 per session. Please contact Roger Fredlund at 952-953-4569 or ottofocus@yahoo.com with questions. Transportation from Easter on the Hill can be arranged.

SALT is a non-profit consortium of churches in the south Metro area offering life enrichment sessions each spring and fall.

Promise & Fulfillment:

A Bible Study

Thursdays, Oct. 20 through Nov. 10

7-8:30 p.m., Easter on the Hill

This study, led by Rev. Richard Jensen will dig deeper into the theme of Promise & Fulfillment that holds the Bible together. There is a flow that runs from Genesis to Revelation. It will help us see the "big picture" of the Old & 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.

For additional details, see the Encore! brochure or www.easter.org (search for Encore)

Serve

Feed My Starving Children

Wednesdays, Sept. 14, Oct. 12,

Nov. 9, Dec. 14, and Jan. 11

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 is an ongoing Encore! service opportunity (the second Wednesday of every month), in addition to Easter's second Tuesday evening time.

Dakota Woodlands

Mondays, Sept. 19, Oct. 17,

Nov. 14 and 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.

Tour the Eagan Resource

Center Food Pantry

Thursday, Sept. 15, 9:45 a.m.

Meet at Easter on the Hill to carpool to the Food Pantry. We will learn more about the distribution of food and volunteer opportunities at the Pantry and the Eagan Resource Center.

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

From a Council Member

Presented by Barb Squires at the August 16 council meeting



This is Barb's 3rd year on Church Council. She serves as liaison to the Global Mission Committee. She and her husband Danny have 2 grown sons.

I think we are all familiar with the song "Count Your Blessings." The refrain is *Count your blessings, name them one by one, Count your blessings, see what God hath done!*

Over the last few months Danny and I have kept "Counting our blessings" in mind as we had a major decision to make. Danny's job here in Minnesota was being eliminated, and we needed to make a decision as to a new job.

Blessing #1 – He had options as to employment.

Blessing #2 – Our families are healthy and happy, which enable us to move elsewhere.

Blessing #3 – After much prayer and discernment we felt that this was God's plan for us. We made the decision and we are moving to Waco, Texas.

There have been many other blessings in our lives the past few years. Becoming members of Easter Lutheran Church is among the highlights. Easter Lutheran Church is a church home, not just a place.

The "Easter People" are part of the blessings for this church. We have met so many wonderful, caring people at Easter and have participated in many activities. This is a warm and welcoming church community we have had the opportunity to share in.

As "Easter People," please continue to reach out to those who come through the door looking for a new church home.

There are exciting changes happening here at Easter and I pray that you will embrace the changes and count the many blessings here at Easter Lutheran Church and within your own lives.

God's spirit is alive and working through the Easter congregation and staff.

"Rejoice always; pray without ceasing: in everything give thanks: for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" -- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Dear God, May each of us remember to count our blessings and know that this is the day that the Lord hath made. Let us be glad and rejoice. Amen

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.



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.

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



Justice and Advocacy Reading Groups – Seeing the Naked?

Every 6 Weeks Starting Sunday, October 2, 7- 8:30 p.m., Easter on the Hill
Copies available for pick-up in the church office

'Lord, when did we see you hungry, and feed you; or thirsty, and give you a drink? When did we see you as a stranger, and take you in; or naked, and clothe you? When did we see you sick, or in prison, and come to you?' Matthew 25:37-39

We live in a community that, for the most part, doesn't "see the naked" on a daily basis. Compassion runs deep within each of us, but surfaces for some of us in rare instances when we see the naked, the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the sick, the imprisoned.

Want to get to know other people who want to "see the naked" and explore how to put compassion into action? If you are interested in poverty alleviation, development economics, environmental sustainability, global politics, foreign aid, feeding the world, education, health care,there is a place for you in the Justice and Advocacy Reading Groups.

We will talk in small groups about "Exodus from Hunger" by David Beckmann. Subsequent books will be chosen based on group interest. There is no long-term commitment to a small group. Join to read just one book or join for the long haul. You will have the chance to change small groups every 6 weeks, based on finding or inviting people with shared interest.

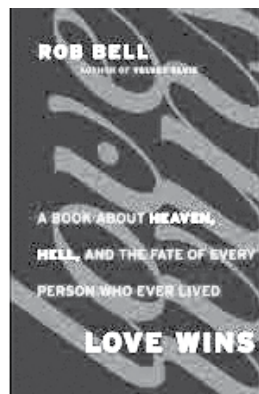
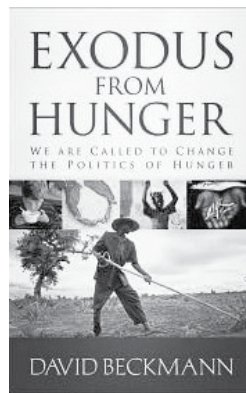
All are invited. No need to register in advance, and you can attend one or all classes, as your schedule permits. Consider this a possible Life Group activity. Read the book or just join for conversation, as long as you want to "see the naked" and put compassion into action! If you have questions, contact Dan Coyle, Robin Sicoli or Terolle Turnham.

Get Ready for Chick Talk!

When the weather cools down and the kids go back to school, the Chicks start talkin'! Chick Talk, a women's Bible study ministry at Easter, offers women of all ages a chance to gather and study the Bible (or sometimes books), spend time with friends, and have fun!

We're kicking off the year with a book read: *Love Wins: A Book about Heaven, Hell, and the Fate of Every Person Who Ever Lived*. This lively book by Rob Bell asks a lot of questions, and answers a few too! Dr. Dick Jensen leads this book read for two weeks, then continues last year's sessions on Martin Luther. (Purchase your book from your favorite book seller.)

Chick Talk kicks off on Monday evenings beginning September 12, 7-8:30 p.m. at Easter on the Hill, and on Thursday mornings beginning September 15, 9:30-11 a.m. at Easter by the Lake. Child care is provided for a nominal fee. Visit www.easter.org/wordpress/chick-talk for the full schedule for the year. We look forward to welcoming back returning Chicks and especially welcoming all new Chicks! Please join us!



Food Drive for Eagan Resource Center

Sept. 10 and 11, both sites

Please bring food donations when you come to worship! Summer has depleted the shelves at the Food Pantry. Please help to refill them!



Feed My Starving Children

Tuesday, Sept. 13, 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 (search Hunger Ministries) or contact Rita Tester at 651-452-7342 or fmsc@easter.org with questions.

New Member Orientation

Sunday, October 9, 6-8:20 p.m.,
and Sunday, October 16, 5-8 p.m.,
Easter by the Lake

Make Easter Church your church home by attending these two orientation sessions. Meet other Easter members. Learn about the church's ministries and how you can get involved. Questions welcome, too! Dinner is served at the second session, and childcare is available in the church Infant/Toddler Center. Attendance at both sessions is required for membership. Please sign up online, on the pink Response Sheet at worship, or call the church office at 651-452-3680.

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, led by pastors. This weekly study will complement the weekly worship focus. A study guide will be available.

In Chick Talk...

Mondays, Oct. 3, Dec. 5, Feb. 6, April 16
Thursdays, 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 being preached at that time. Bring your questions and thoughts to discuss with the pastors and other Chicks.



In Small Groups...

Looking for something new this year? Here's an idea...we have prepared small group materials that coordinate with the Big Story sermon series! Each booklet (pick them up at either information center) contains the texts from each week, and offers discussion questions for your group. If your small group is just starting up, it couldn't be any easier...just follow the Big Story study guide! Small Group signups begin on September 4. Pick up a form at either site. Questions? Contact Mary Kay DuChene at marykay@easter.org.

Watch for more ways to connect to The Big Story!

In Church School...

Let's create our own BIG STORY book! Every week Church school kids will add a story page of the Bible story presented that week. By the end of the church school year you will have a story Bible that you created! We start in the Old Testament with Abram's Call and end with the story of Lydia in the New Testament. Join us every week to get a new page in YOUR story Bible.



Music for Adults

Senior Choir

Rehearsals for Senior Choir begin Wednesday, September 7, 7-8:30 p.m. in the Music Room. New members are always welcome! Please contact Kris Henry so a folder is ready for you. Contact Kris at khenry@easter.org or 651-452-3680 with questions.

Jubilate Ringers

Save your Thursday nights starting September 8, 7-8 p.m. for rehearsals!

Exultate Ringers

First rehearsal is Thursday, September 15, 8:15-9 p.m. in the Sanctuary. There are openings in this ensemble; no ringing experience is necessary but the ability to read music is helpful. Please contact Kris Henry at khenry@easter.org if you would like to participate.

The **Recorder Ensemble** rehearses on Thursdays, 8-9 p.m. Their first rehearsal is Sept. 8.

There are many times during the year when **instrumentalists** are needed. Rehearsals are scheduled as needed to accommodate the schedules of the musicians. If interested, contact Kris Henry at khenry@easter.org or 651-452-3680.



Telemark Retreats

To sign up or 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 autumn leaves at their height of color.

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.

Children, Youth & Family

Faith Formation

Church School - The Big Story

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

Schedule

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

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. You will learn about all the excitement that will happen this year with the Big Story!

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 (Learn/Elementary).



120 is the NUMBER!

Did you know it takes over 120 volunteers in many different areas of ministry for church school to take place? Please prayerfully consider joining our team as an energetic large group leader, teacher, resource room helper, or Family Faith Night helper. Email Rachele Gill at rgill@easter.org with questions and your, "YES I want to be part of the excitement!"

Church School registration forms are available for 2011-12 church school at both church sites and www.easter.org (Learn/Elementary)

Family Faith Night for Preschoolers

(Age 4 Kids and their families!)

Saturday, Oct. 1, Easter on the Hill

5 p.m. Family Worship. 6 p.m. Enjoy pizza with families, then at 6:20 p.m., preschoolers and their parents have an activity time full of fun and interaction. Childcare is provided for siblings. The cost for pizza is \$5/person the night of the event (age 3 and under are free) payable the night of the celebration.

Please RSVP by emailing Rachele Gill at rgill@easter.org if you will be coming for pizza or if sibling care is needed.

Welcome Wagon

If you are an Easter member expecting a new baby, please contact the church office at 651-452-3680 when your new bundle of joy arrives. Easter's Baby Welcome Wagon ministry would love to greet your new little one and provide your family with a meal and a gift from Easter.

Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday, September 18,

all worship services, both sites

Bring your backpack or schoolbag for a blessing on the bag and the student.

Let your kids RUN!

Pray & Play

(Open Gym Time for ages birth-5)

Fridays, Sept. 23 – May 11,

9:30-11 a.m., Easter by the Lake

Come play! There will balls, scooters and toys for the kids to play with, or bring toys to share! The weather is always fantastic in the Great Room, so kids can run, be loud and play. Come as often or as long as you can! No registration required! Bring your friends, it's FREE! Questions? Contact Rachele at rgill@easter.org.

Family Faith Night for 3rd graders and their families– The Bible!

Saturday, Sept. 24,

Easter on the Hill

5 p.m. Worship – 6 p.m. Pizza – 6:20 p.m. Activity with your parents/guardians. Bring your family and celebrate! A blessing for the personalized Bibles will be given during worship. After the service, celebrate with pizza, followed by an interactive parent/child learning session using your new Bible! Childcare will be provided for siblings. Please RSVP to Rachele at rgill@easter.org if you will be having pizza or childcare is needed. The cost is \$5 per person (3 and under free) for pizza. Please pay the night of the celebration.



**Third grade parents, if you have not picked up your child's Bible, please pick it up soon at Easter on the Hill so you can personalize your child's Bible before the celebration. Bring your personalized Bible to the worship service at 5 p.m. for a special dedication. This will be the first time your 3rd grader will see it!
Thank you!*

Children, Youth & Family

Faith Formation

September COGS

**Sunday, Sept. 11, 12:30-2:30 p.m.,
Easter by the Lake, Cost \$5**

This is the year's first COGS! Summer camp confirmation students are expected to attend with their mentors. 7th graders will have the opportunity to meet their official mentor groups and mentors- bring your parents!. 8th grade groups will reconnect after the summer. Crazy games will be played, fun will be had, and you will grow in faith. Bring \$5 for pizza, which is served for lunch. Contact Pastor Sarah with questions, sarah@easter.org or 651-452-3680.

October's COGS will be Sunday,
October 9, 12:30-2:30 p.m. at
Easter by the Lake.

Children's Singing Choir Registration:

Register now to participate in Music Explorers, Cherub Choir or Choristers! You can find the registration form online (Learn/Elementary) or at either site.

Music Explorers	3 & 4 years old	Wednesdays, 4:15-4:55 p.m.
Music Explorers	3 & 4 years old	Wednesdays, 5:15-5:55 p.m.
Cherub Choir	5 years, K, Grade 1	Sundays, 11:10-11:55 a.m.
Choristers	Grades 2-5	Sundays, 11:10-11:55 a.m.

Bell Choir Registration:

Registration for bell choirs is important because there are a limited number of ringing positions in each choir. Please register **before September 1** so we can include everyone in a choir. You can register for Choir Chimes or Tintinnabula using the form available online (Learn/Elementary) or at either church site. To register for Strikepoint, contact Kris Henry at khenry@easter.org.

Choir Chimes	Grade 5	Wednesdays, 5:40-6:20 p.m.
Tintinnabula	Grades 6-8	Sundays, 5-5:45 p.m.
Strikepoint	Grades 9-12	Sundays, 6-6:50 p.m.

HUGE New Youth Choir - Informational Meeting

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

Beginning this fall, all Easter middle school and high school youth are invited to be part of an AWESOME youth choir. The group will meet from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on Sundays and sing all types of music throughout the year. We are already lining up cool opportunities to perform in and outside of worship! To join the group, come to the informational meeting. Questions? Contact Jason Hansen at 651-452-3680 or jason@easter.org.

Youth Movie Night

Sunday, October 2, 2011, 6 p.m., Easter on the Hill

Geeet ready...! Another chance to hang out with your friends at Easter. We'll kick off the first Youth Movie Night. Bring your friends and \$3 for pizza/snacks. Send your movie requests to: Jason Hansen at 651-452-3680 or jason@easter.org.

Confirmation Kick Off Dates!

Make sure to mark your calendars for our fall kick-off dates. Classes are held at Easter by the Lake. Students, parents and mentors should attend the meeting for their grade level.

- 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.

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 Jennifer at 651-452-3680 to schedule a retreat date.

Acolyte Training

**Saturday, Sept. 10,
9:30-10 a.m., Easter on the Hill**

Easter on the Hill is looking for teenagers (grades 6-9) who would like to be acolytes. Come to this training to learn how to participate in worship by lighting candles and assisting with communion. Being an acolyte earns you service hours (grades 7-9) towards confirmation. Parents are invited to attend this short session. Contact Pastor Sarah with questions, pastorsarah@easter.org or 651-452-3680.

Infant/Toddler Center Training Session

**Saturday, Sept. 10, 10-11 a.m.
Easter on the Hill**

Confirmation students - learn how to care for children in the Infant/Toddler Center. Earn one service hour for attending the training. After training, sign up for the worship time and location that works best for you. Questions? Contact the church office at 651-452-3680.

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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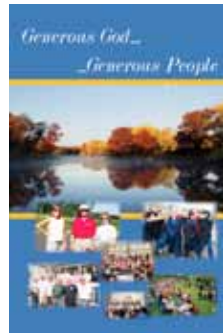


GENEROUS GOD, GENEROUS PEOPLE: Fall Stewardship Appeal

“Generous God, Generous People” is the theme for our fall stewardship focus and appeal. Before there was a world, before each of us took our first breath, God was being generous. God is still generous even to the extent of giving his own son, Jesus, that whoever believes in him would have life eternal (from John 3:16).

People who embrace the generosity of God become generous themselves as part of the expression of faith. Easter people are a generous people in a wide variety of ways. We have a track record of generosity with the church and with those beyond the church.

At the end of September and into October, Easter Lutheran Church will be inviting each of us to consider our financial support plan for the coming year as part of the fall stewardship appeal. There will be brief messages shared at worship the weekends of September 25, October 2 and 9.



Harvest of Art: A Community Art Exhibit *On display September 7 through October 26*

This 6th annual community exhibit features over 30 artists from the South of the River area. It is on display at Easter’s Fireside Commons, Dunn Brothers Coffee at Diffley & Lexington, Ring Mountain Creamery and the Eagan Community Center. Plan your art tour and visit all four locations. For more information, call Julie at the Eagan Art House at 651-675-5521.



**Samples from
the 2010
Harvest of
Art Show**



Pastor Jim Retirement Celebration

Saturday, October 8,
time and location to be determined

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.