



December 2011

• Volume XXVII Number 12 •

## “WELCOME THE CHILD” CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

### Advent Choral Service - Easter on the Hill

Saturday, Dec. 17, 5 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 18, 8:30 and 10 a.m.

### Christmas Eve Services, Saturday, December 24

#### Easter on the Hill

Family Worship - 2, 3:30, and 5 p.m.

Candlelight Worship - 6:30, 8 and 9:30 p.m.

Candlelight Worship with  
Holy Communion - 11 p.m.

#### Easter by the Lake

Family Worship - 3:30

Candlelight Worship - 5 p.m.

### Christmas Day Service, Sunday, December 25

#### Easter on the Hill

Worship with Holy Communion  
10 a.m.

#### Easter by the Lake

Worship with Holy Communion  
9:30 a.m.



### Horn of Africa Famine Response

Easter is partnering with FMSC to send nutritional food to the people suffering and starving in the Horn of Africa. Easter has scheduled 4 special food packing sessions on these Sundays:

December 4, 11:30 a.m.-1:15 p.m.

December 4, 1:30-3:15 p.m.

December 11, 11:30 a.m.-1:15 p.m.

December 11, 1:30-3:15 p.m.

80 packers are needed for each shift. You can sign up following all worship services through December 4, or send an e-mail to [faminerelief@comcast.net](mailto:faminerelief@comcast.net).

**THANK YOU!**

### Advent Devotional

“Welcome the Child” is the theme of the 2011 Advent devotional, written by Easter member Autumn Lubin. Copies are available at the Information and Welcome Center at both sites, or you can download a copy at [www.easter.org](http://www.easter.org).

The *Welcome the Child* theme speaks to hospitality, to humility, to a willingness to embrace strangers, and love without hesitation.

To the right is an excerpt. Many thanks again to Autumn for her gift in creating the Devotional!

What can you do  
**TODAY** to offer  
hospitality to  
another person, a  
stranger? Imagine  
the powerful story  
some could have  
witnessed had they  
made room for  
Mary and Joseph!



### Advent Choral Service “Welcome the Child”

Saturday, Dec. 17,  
5 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 18,  
8:30 and 10 a.m.,  
Easter on the Hill

Senior Choir, Jubilate Ringers,  
Choristers and Orchestra



# From the Pastor



I still remember the words to the first solo I sang as an elementary age student. It went something like this:

*Christmas is coming,  
the geese are getting fat  
Please put a penny in  
the old man's hat  
If you haven't got a penny,  
a ha'penny will do  
If you haven't got a ha'penny,  
then God bless you!*

I remember walking around the house singing it over and over – probably driving my parents crazy....but I didn't want to forget the words in front of all of those people! I also remember thinking to myself "I have no idea what these words mean."

I now know that while the words are simple – they have a whole lot of meaning. Really, the words are an invitation to give.

We think a lot about giving this time of year. I love to wrap the

perfect gift for the people I love and see the expression on their face when they open it. And I have to be honest that I don't mind being surprised by the perfect gift myself!

I want to challenge all of us this Christmas season to expand our definition of Christmas giving. God sent Jesus as a skin-wrapped gift to each and every one of us. That's the reason we give gifts at Christmastime – to remind one another that Jesus is a gift. So how can we share this skin-wrapped gift with people who haven't heard the message that Jesus is a gift to them? I think we can do this by giving the gift of ourselves and embracing each of God's children.

Our Advent theme this year is "Welcome the Child." Embedded in this theme is the obvious welcome of the Christ Child into our hearts and homes. But how does this "Welcome the Child" play out practically in each of our lives?

Jesus said, "Anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not only me but also my Father who sent me." So every time we welcome one of God's children, we have welcomed God.

This Advent season, in addition to welcoming Christ into your hearts and homes through regular worship and daily Advent Devotions, I want to encourage and challenge you to think about how you "Welcome the Child" through what and how you give gifts. We have compiled a list for "Alternative Giving" through organizations like Heifer International and Feed My Starving Children, where you can literally welcome children around the world by providing food and sustainable living.

You can also "Welcome the Child" by giving your time, your resources and by sharing the story of Jesus with someone you see every day who has never heard about God's love for them.

Let's welcome the Christ Child this Advent season by sharing the gift of Christmas love to our neighbors near and far.

Blessings + Peace –

## Your Church Staff

11/23/11

Pastors ..... Kristen Capel, Paul Harris, Kevin Olson, Sarah Clark, Jim Borgschatz  
 Director of Music.....Kris Henry  
 Director of Music & Media ..... Kent Henriksen  
 Minister of Youth Music.....Jason Hansen  
 Director of On Purpose Ministries..... Mary Kay DuChene  
 Director of Children's Ministry..... Rachele Gill  
 Director of Administration .....Laurel Gaard  
 Director of Frontline Ministries.....Cindy Wilson  
 Wellness/Parish Nurse .....Stacy Wollmuth  
 Office Administration..... Jennifer Peloquin, Lisa Day,  
 Deanna Heise, Becky Briggs, Judy Hansen  
 Children, Youth & Families ..... Rachel Kucker  
 Coordinator of Encore! .....Judy Pascoe  
 Worship Lead Coordinator.....Debbie Finley  
 Nursery Lead Coordinators ..... Danielle Dufault, 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, December 26

# Worship, Bible Studies and Prayer

## Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Tuesdays, 6:45-7:30 a.m.

### Easter on the Hill

- Bibles and coffee provided
- Meets every week
- Led by Pastor Paul

## Great Stories

Wednesdays, 11 a.m.-noon

### Easter on the Hill

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

## The Big Story

Thursdays, 7-8:30 p.m.

### Easter by the Lake

Led by Pastor Kevin. A weekly study guide is also available for pick up at either site. (Not meeting Dec. 22 or 29)

## The Big Story

**December 4:** Jeremiah 7:1-15, 31:31-34, Jeremiah;  
Church School: Jeremiah, page 176 of Spark Bible

**December 11:** Ekezial 37:1-14, Exile: Ezekiel  
Church School: God Will Bring Peace, page 164

**December 18:** Micah 5:2-51a, Micah  
Church School: A Ruler from Bethlehem, page 104

**December 25:** Luke 2:1-20, Birth of Jesus.

### Dig deeper by participating in a Weekly Big Story Bible Study!

Meet with Pastor Kevin on Thursday nights from 7-8:30 p.m. at Easter by the Lake. Attend as often as your schedule permits! You can also pick up the Weekly Bible Study Guide at either location for self-study. Back issues are available at [easter.org](http://easter.org) (Not meeting on December 22 or 29)

**In a Small Group?** There are also Small Group Monthly Big Story Study Guides available. The current issue covers December up to Lent.



## benediction



RELEVANT.  
SPIRITUAL. REACHING.

**Sundays, 5 p.m.**  
**Easter on the Hill**  
(no service on 12/25)

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"

## Sigmund Freud and C.S. Lewis: The Question of God

Tuesdays, Jan. 17, 24, 31, Feb. 21 & 28, 7-8:30 p.m., Easter on the Hill

Pastor Paul is leading a class based on the remarkable book, *The Question of God: C.S. Lewis and Sigmund Freud Debate God, Love, Sex, and the Meaning of Life* by Dr. Armand M. Nicholi of Harvard Medical School. The book was also the basis for a PBS television series. Lewis and Freud were both concerned about ultimate questions and each came up with very different answers about the meaning of life and the existence of God. The class will explore these questions in a stimulating and memorable way. Contact Pastor Paul at [paulharris@aol.com](mailto:paulharris@aol.com) for more information.

## Christmas Stories in Matthew and Luke

Tuesdays, Nov. 29, Dec. 13 & 20, 7-8:30 p.m., Easter on the Hill

This class, led by Pastor Paul, will help us dig more deeply into the Nativity Narratives and will provide a fine way to help prepare for the coming of the Christ Child. Bring your Bible!

## Easter Prayer Team

Saturday, Dec. 3, 9-10:30 a.m.,  
Easter on the Hill

This is a ministry of prayer that links participants with others who offer prayers at Easter. It helps us feel connected to the power of God's healing Spirit in the lives of many who are hurting or in transition. This ministry strengthens the work of the whole congregation in countless seen and unseen ways. We welcome anyone to join us. Come one, come all!

## 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.

## Job Transitions Group

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

The goal of this free job transitions 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)

**Dec. 6:** "Job Trends in the South Metro," presented by Eagan Mayor Mike Maguire. Mike will give an overview of recent employment trends in the south metro and prospects for the future.

**Dec. 13:** "Career Management 2.0" presented by Jason Alba. This presentation delivers modern, street-smart information that helps the audience transform their ideas on job security, job search and their professions into an exciting future. Jason shares stories, experiences and examples to paint the picture of today's and tomorrow's career opportunities and empowers each audience member to own their career future.

**Dec. 20:** Alumni and Current Member Potluck

**Dec. 27:** No meeting

### 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.

## Ways to Connect



### Women of all Ages

#### Welcome at Chick Talk!

*Mondays, 7-8:30 p.m., Easter on the Hill, and  
Thursdays, 9:30-11 a.m., Easter by the Lake*

Meet weekly to share in fellowship and learn more about God and our relationship with Him. We are currently studying the award-

winning book, *If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat*, by John Ortberg. In January, we will turn our attention to a 4-week study on contemporary Christian music. Each week we will focus on three songs – listening, discussing, and opening our Bibles to find related passages and themes. Come explore the energy and influence music creates in us! Call Deanna at 651-452-3680 with questions.

### Women's Retreat – Women Save the Date!

The second annual Easter women's retreat will be February 4 and 5 at Villa Maria retreat center in Frontenac, MN. Come enjoy fellowship and reflection as we explore the topic "What on Earth am I Doing Here?" Cost for this overnight retreat (including 3 meals) will be about \$120 (\$45 if not staying overnight).

### Mixed Volleyball League

*Fridays, January 6–March 23, 6:30-9 p.m., Easter by the Lake*

Join the Easter Church Adult Volleyball League! If you played in the league last year, you can assume you're signed up again (unless we hear differently from you). If you'd like to join us, contact Pastor Kevin at [revkev@easter.org](mailto:revkev@easter.org) or 651-452-3680.



### Winter Fun Fest

*Sunday, Jan. 30, 2-4 p.m., Easter by the Lake*

Activities for all ages, indoor and out!

### "Easter's Got Talent" Family Talent Show

*Sunday, February 12, 12:30 p.m. potluck lunch*

*1-3 p.m. Talent Show, Easter by the Lake*

Easter is looking for families to perform in a FUN afternoon of talent. We want you and your family to get involved. Youth of ALL ages and/or their families are invited to show off talents from the serious to the wacky. We want musicians, jugglers, jokesters, magicians, tumblers, cart-wheelers, and all other talents to be represented. The afternoon will include a panel of judges (to be announced) to see who will take home the prize! Remember - everyone is welcome and signing up is free!! To sign up, contact Jason Hansen at 651-452-3680 or [jason@easter.org](mailto:jason@easter.org).

### 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, 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



# Ways to Connect



## Men's Breakfast

**Saturday, Dec. 10, 8-9 a.m.**

### **Easter on the Hill**

Gather with other men in an inviting fellowship of breakfast and Bible study (bad jokes and bad puns leading to excessive laughter and eye rolling are also welcomed!)

Our Bible study is taken from "The Big Story" worship texts that will be discussed in worship that weekend.

## Yogadevotion Class

**Tuesdays, Jan. 10-Feb. 28 ,**

**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 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. For more information and registration form, go to [easter.org](http://easter.org) (Connect/Recreational Groups) or visit the Yogadevotion website at [www.yogadevotion.com](http://www.yogadevotion.com).

## Grief In Community

**Sunday, December 18, 3-4:30 p.m.**

### **Easter on the Hill**

Have you lost someone significant in your life? Lighten your grief by surrounding yourself with others who understand what you're experiencing. Easter's Grief in Community group gathers periodically to share stories and move beyond grief through re-creating life without this significant person in it. All are welcome. Please join us. If you have questions, please contact Rebecca Boland at [raboland@charter.net](mailto:raboland@charter.net)

## Small Group Corner

*Connecting the hearts of people with others and God*

Grow. Connect. Learn. EAT! The A1 Dinner Club here at Easter enjoys doing all those things and more. Group member, Julie Bunde, describes her small group experience ...

*"It was a dark and stormy night... literally, as our Easter small group dinner club met for the first time during the December 2010 snow storm. We all thought Terry (Terry Schumacher – Shepherd of the A1 Dinner Club) was a little crazy for not canceling, especially since his wife was stuck on call at the hospital so he'd be hosting alone. It turned out to be a great kick off to what has become a monthly dinner event at each other's homes, with four couples on average who are able to attend. We keep it casual and take turns bringing the wine, appetizer and dessert so the host doesn't feel burdened. And once in awhile we ditch the kitchen and go out to a restaurant.*



*In addition to grace and a selected devotion, we have good conversation about many things we have in common; teenage/college-aged kids, aging parents, a passion for warm weather vacations... We've learned to enjoy new games like Pass the Pigs, fabulous desserts like grilled peaches, and that our fellow Easter members are warm, friendly and fun. We feel more connected to each other and the Easter community as a result. It has been a wonderful addition to our lives."*

Easter has many small groups going, and we will help you form one around any interest or passion you have. If you'd like to grow and connect in an authentic, significant way with other Easter members in your own small group, please contact Deanna Heise at 651-452-3680 or [dheise@easter.org](mailto:dheise@easter.org).

Small Group team: Mary Kay DuChene, [marykay@easter.org](mailto:marykay@easter.org);  
Jack and Steph Esser, [jackandsteph@comcast.net](mailto:jackandsteph@comcast.net), Deanna Heise, [deannaheise@comcast.net](mailto:deannaheise@comcast.net), or Chris Nechanicky, [nechanicky@comcast.net](mailto:nechanicky@comcast.net); or call the church office at 651-452-3680.

## Telemark Family Retreat

**Friday-Sunday, January 6-8, 2012, Telemark, Wisconsin**

**Cost: \$60 per adult, \$30 per child**

Pastor Paul is leading a Family Retreat at the Sponsel Telemark Chalet. For those interested in energetic skiing there may be the 24 Hours of Telemark relay race or some other event that weekend. For others who want to get outdoors, there will be cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and hiking opportunities. For everyone there will be good fellowship, Bible study, and much munching. Reservations are made by leaving a check (made out to Easter) in Pastor Paul's mailbox. Please put "Telemark Family Retreat" on the memo line. Contact Pastor Paul at [paulharris@aol.com](mailto:paulharris@aol.com) or 651-587-1999 with questions.

## Telemark Men's Retreat

**Friday-Sunday, March 23-25, 2012, Telemark, Wisconsin, Cost: \$60**

Men's Retreats are a great way for men to meet other men, develop sustaining relationships and to grow in the faith. Easter's minibus will leave Easter on the Hill at 6 p.m. Friday, and men will return refreshed and strengthened Sunday by 5 p.m. There's room for fifteen men; reservations are made by leaving a check (made out to Easter) in Pastor's Paul's mailbox. Please put "Telemark Men's Retreat" on the memo line. For more information, contact Pastor Paul at [paulharris@aol.com](mailto:paulharris@aol.com) or 651-587-1999.

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

## Gather

### OWLs (Older Wiser Lutherans) Christmas Party

Thursday, December 8, starting at 11:30 a.m.

Celebrate at the Rivers "Party Room" for a Christmas Gathering. Meet at Easter on the Hill at 11:30 a.m. to carpool or go directly to the Rivers (the Rivers is located at the intersection of River Hills Drive & Highway 13; please use the front entrance. Bring your favorite Christmas dish to share (but no lutefisk!) We will share Christmas memories, read the Christmas gospel, and of course, sing Christmas carols. All older adults are invited for fellowship with others at a similar life stage.

### Encore! Presents...Christmas Daze

Saturday, Dec. 10, 6-9 p.m., Easter by the Lake

Tickets on sale at both sites or contact Joyce Rasmussen at 952-322-5168. The cost is \$15 per person plus 1 non-perishable food item that will be donated to the Eagan Resource Center. The evening will include a catered 4-course dinner, entertainment, and surprises. Come for an evening of great food and jolly good fun!

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

For additional details, see the Encore! brochure or [www.easter.org](http://www.easter.org) (Connect/Encore!)

## Serve

### Feed My Starving Children

Wednesday, Dec. 14, 9:30-11:30 a.m.  
990 Lone Oak Road, Suite 160  
Hand-pack meals specifically formulated for malnourished children. The meals 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.

### Dakota Woodlands

Monday, 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 651-454-8540 or [jpascoe@easter.org](mailto:jpascoe@easter.org) to volunteer.

## DeAnne Parks Art Exhibit

*Through Dec. 21, Easter on the Hill*

Easter welcomes an exhibit of the colorful and inspiring contemporary Christian paintings of Minnesota artist DeAnne Parks. Plan to stop by and enjoy the show, meet some friends or treat yourself to some relaxation.

## Did you know...

Lutheran Social Service has a foster grandparent program? Foster Grandparents are volunteers who mentor young children in community classrooms to provide the attention and encouragement each child needs. This program invites older adults to put their valuable skills to use to benefit children right in their own area. Volunteers are trained and may receive a stipend for transportation. If you might be interested in volunteering call 651-310-9440 or go to [lssmn.org/seniorcorps](http://lssmn.org/seniorcorps).

## Spiritual Resource Library Circulation

Circulation is vital to life! That is true in a library too! It gives the librarians an idea of what the congregation needs to help the mission to "grow in faith and carry on the work of Jesus Christ." Every item that can be checked out has a card in the back for patrons to fill out. Be sure to list your name (or your child's name) AND phone number. After the card is filled out, just place it in front of the card box, so it can be filed.

It is the library's policy that books may be checked out for three weeks. DVDs and CDs may be checked out for one week. Please return all items by their due date. We want to make sure that all of our members have equal access to library materials, and that is why it is critical that you either renew your item or return it to the library. When you return items, please place them in the return box under the clock in the library, so your librarians can note its use, check it in, and make it available for others to use. Checking materials out and returning them helps library staff see what you feel helps you "grow in faith and carry out the work of Jesus Christ" and where we should focus efforts at strengthening the collection. Check us out!



Like us on Facebook!  
[www.facebook.com/EasterLutheranChurch](http://www.facebook.com/EasterLutheranChurch)  
Watch for the Advent Daily Prayer!



# From a Council Member

Presented by Sandy Middendorf at the November 15 council meeting



This is Sandy Middendorf's 4th year on the Church Council. She also serves on the Global Mission Committee. Sandy has two daughters.

Is it time to reset your dial to "Refocus?"

In just a few days the Advent season will be upon us. We will be preparing our hearts and minds for this wonderful season. Advent is my favorite part of the church year. It is the start of a new church year, the birth of a new baby born at Christmas, and a renewal of our spirits, of ourselves, and our existence with God.

What does the Advent season represent to you? What memories conjure up inside you when you think back on your favorite Advent season memories and traditions?

Unfortunately, sometimes those memories are so focused on the secular world. The memories of counting down the number of shopping days until Christmas; the retail stores busily advertising their holiday specials; people rushing around trying to finish their last minute Christmas shopping; and the children waiting in line to sit on Santa's lap. Don't get me wrong, these are good memories to cherish.

However, the Advent memories I recall also include the lighting of the first Advent candle in church,

building a manger scene out of popsicle sticks with my two daughters at the annual Advent family festival, gathering in the sanctuary to sing our favorite Christmas carols at Easter on the Hill and reading the Gospel which tells the story of Jesus' arrival into the world. These experiences always seem to "refocus" my energy on the true meaning of the Advent season.

As I listened to Pastor Kris preach on Solomon's prayer for wisdom, I was struck by the connection between preparing our hearts and minds for Advent and the question God asked Solomon in his dream, "Ask what I should give you." (I Kings 3:5) In other words, God was saying, "What do you want? Just ask me and I will give it to you." Imagine if God came to you during this Advent season and asked you that same question. How would you answer it? Would you be as shocked or as nervous to answer that question as I would? Would you answer it the same way Solomon did, "Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people" (I Kings 3:9) As the story unfolds, we learn how Solomon loses focus on his wisdom. We learn how he fails to recognize the difference between good and evil and how he fails to follow his faithfulness like his father David did before him. We learned that Solomon, like other human beings, lost focus on what was really important.

I know that I too am guilty of losing focus. I wonder if my answer might

be more like this. "God, I know that I struggle on a daily basis to stay focused on what is really important. I try to distinguish between good and evil. Sometimes I succeed and other times I fail. I strive to follow in your faithfulness, but some days are better than others. What I ask for is your continued patience, understanding, faith and love for me!"

As I prepare for this Advent season, I have decided to make a list of what I want to stay focused on during this season of renewal. What will my priorities be for these coming weeks? Where do I want to put my energy and what can I do to avoid the holiday stressors? The list is going on my refrigerator, my computer at work, and my bathroom mirror. I hope that it will be a constant reminder to keep the focus. If I need a reminder, then I will need to push that reset dial to "REFOCUS."

I hope and pray that as you ponder your answer to the important question "Ask what I should give you?" and as you prepare for this Advent season, you are able to stay focused on what is important. If you need some assistance, remember to push that reset dial to "refocus."

*Lord, help me to slow down during this season of Advent. Help me to treasure the days leading up to the birth of your son, Jesus. Keep me focused and if needed, refocused on what is really important in my life. Continue to guide me in your faithfulness. Amen.*

## Gar Lockrem Community Choir Concert: Sure On This Shining Night

**Saturday, December 10, 7-9 p.m., Easter on the Hill**

The 54-member Gar Lockrem Community Choir (GLCC), under the direction of Aaron Kapaun, kicks off its sixth concert season with this free concert. Singers range in age from teens to eighties, and the choir has a remarkably polished sound for a community choir. GLCC was selected as a solo choir at St. Olaf's annual choral festival in November 2009. The Choir is named in honor of Gar Lockrem, who was the father of Easter member Terolle Turnham and Kristi Lockrem, whose memorial scholarship is awarded annually to students in the Easter community. In addition to performing beautiful choral music, GLCC promotes greater awareness of the importance of music in a well-rounded curriculum and by providing grants to local schools to help support music programs. A reception follows the concert.

# Ways to Serve Generously

## Feed My Starving Children

**Tuesday, Dec. 13, 6-7:30 p.m.**  
(990 Lone Oak Road,  
Suite 160, Eagan)

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.



## Giving Tree

You are invited to participate in this opportunity to bless and support local families in need at Christmas. Pick an ornament from the decorated Giving Tree at either site, purchase and deliver the suggested item by Thursday, Dec. 8. If you choose to purchase a retail gift card, please leave it in the church office at the Hill or in the offering at worship. All items will be delivered to the Eagan Resource Center, where families will receive these gifts. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help in some way, please contact Karen Raasch at [karenraasch@q.com](mailto:karenraasch@q.com) or 651-457-4443.



## End-Of-Year Giving

If you plan to make a contribution to Easter Church to be recognized for tax purposes in calendar year 2011, it must be received in the church office by December 31, or postmarked by December 31, according to IRS regulations. The church office will be open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 27 through Friday, December 30, and 9 a.m. - noon on Saturday, December 31. Online donations made prior to midnight on December 31 are also recognized for tax purposes in 2011. Please be aware that the maximum online donation per transaction is limited by our payment processor. If you have questions regarding your giving, please contact Laurel Gaard at 651-452-3680.

## Thank You Donors and Volunteers

Heartfelt thanks to the donors and volunteers that made the Red Cross Blood Drive a success. On November 1 Easter sponsored its second blood drive of 2011. The donors rolled up their sleeves and enthusiastically gave a pint of blood while the volunteers greeted, registered and then rehydrated and fed them. It takes a lot of people to make this happen, and thanks to all of you.

*Kathie Poppen,  
Blood Drive Coordinator*

## Food Drive for Eagan Resource Center

**Dec. 10 and 11, both sites**

Please bring food donations when you come to worship! Increased need has depleted the shelves at the Food Pantry. Please help to refill them! A list of current needs can be found at [www.eaganrc.org](http://www.eaganrc.org).



## Loaves & Fishes

**Tuesday, January 3, 2:30-7 p.m.,**

**Creekside Community Center, 98th and Penn in Bloomington**

Prepare and/or serve a meal to 200+ families in need. Be part of a team from 2:30-5 p.m. that prepares and cooks the meal, or from 5-7 p.m. to serve and clean up. To sign up, contact Barb Carlton at [pixelhawk@comcast.net](mailto:pixelhawk@comcast.net) or 651-452-7557.

## Justice and Advocacy Reading Group

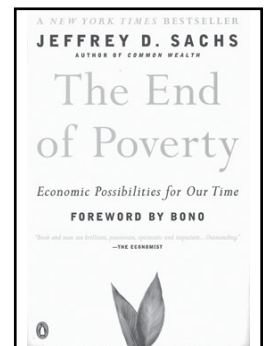
**Sunday, January 8, 7-8:30 p.m., Easter on the Hill**

**Copies of the book are available in the church office and church library**

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 "The End of Poverty" by Jeffrey Sachs. 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 each time we meet, 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 Sara Galligan at [sariegaligan@gmail.com](mailto:sariegaligan@gmail.com) or 651-454-0916.



# Ways to Serve Generously

## 2012 Tanzania Mission

If you want to explore going to Africa on an Easter Mission trip in 2012 or some other year, please come to one of the meetings planned:

*Tuesday, December 6, 5:30-6:25 p.m., Easter on the Hill*

*Sunday, December 11, 9:15-10:10 a.m., Easter on the Hill*

Pastor Paul plans to leave for Tanzania on April 9, 2012. He will again be teaching at Tumaini University in Iringa and will continue working on Microfinance and serving as Advisor for Radio Furaha. Sally will be joining him around May 16. She will be helping with the legal writing program at Tumaini and other projects.

Pastor Paul and Sally are looking forward to welcoming Easter Ambassadors to Tanzania at the Dar Airport on June 14. (The group will leave MSP June 13 and will fly back on June 30, arriving in Minneapolis on July 1; 19 days total, 3 weekends).

You may contact Pastor Paul at paulharris@aol.com or 651-587-1999 for more information. If one of the times/dates above doesn't work, another time to meet will be arranged.

**What is the purpose of the Mission Trip?** To develop significant and enduring relationships and to transform lives. The trip will help deepen relationships with our Companion Congregation, Nyanzwa, and other partners in Iringa. It will provide excellent first-hand experience of human and animal life in Tanzania, as well as develop informed, impassioned advocates and interpreters of global missions and development work.

### What will be visited?

- The capital, Dar es Salaam (over 6 million people)
- Iringa Town, provincial center of the Southern Highlands
- Tumaini University and Radio Furaha in Iringa
- Village and church life in Nyanzwa – staying with families
- Ruaha National Park – the largest and perhaps the best game park in the world. Elephants, buffalo, hippos, giraffes, kudus, leopards and lions--but no tigers.

**What difference will it make?** No one will come back the same person. Coming to know the lives of Lutheran Christians in Tanzania is a transforming, energizing experience. Good memories and new relationships will bring great blessings.

**How much will it cost?** The cost is slated to be about \$4,000.

## Laptops for Tanzania

Pastor Paul is looking for laptops to be used by Radio Furaha in Iringa.

If you have a well-functioning laptop with XP or later to give away, please contact him at paulharris@aol.com.

The laptops will be sent to Iringa soon after Christmas. Thank you for your generosity!



## Stewardship Tools

- Pledge online – click on Give/Ways to Give.
- Contribute online through your credit card or bank account.
- Download electronic Transfer of Funds form (“Simply Giving”).

More stewardship information can be found at [www.easter.org](http://www.easter.org).

## Alternative Giving Opportunities

What do you give to someone who already has everything – or someone who doesn't need or want more things? This year, consider giving a donation in their honor. You can benefit others by your gift, and support a cause dear to the recipient's heart. Here are some ways to share a gift through your Easter family:

- Help Fill the Ark (\$5,000 worth of animals) through Heifer International. Choose a level of giving listed below.
- Feed hungry people in the Horn of Africa (Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia) through our packing event partnership with Feed My Starving Children.
- Give a one-time year-end gift to Easter Church for an item not included in the budget. Items are listed below.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### Fill the Ark

Help families grow their income and improve their diets through the gift of animals. Families receiving livestock share their good fortune with others by gifting some of the offspring to other families in need.

Heifer International sends animals where they are most needed. The approximate cost of various animals are listed; gift a share in an animal with a donation of 10% of the cost. Gifts of any amount help Fill the Ark!

- Camel.....\$850
- Cow..... \$500
- Water Buffalo..... \$250
- Llama..... \$150
- Goat ..... \$120
- Sheep ..... \$120
- Pig ..... \$120
- Trio of Rabbits ..... \$60
- Honeybees ..... \$30
- Flock of Chicks..... \$20
- Flock of Ducks/Geese..... \$20
- Where needed (any amount)



### Horn of Africa Hunger Response

Support the costs of food packed by Easter Church, to be sent to the Horn of Africa through Feed My Starving Children.

- Any amount

### Easter's Ministry & Equipment Needs

- New computers for worship software, Hill & Lake ..\$5,000
- Keyboard .....\$3,000
- Computer / Software for video editing .....\$2,500
- Digital SLR camera, lens and stand for video .....\$1,000
- Table for Nursery.....\$200
- Child-size chairs for Nursery (want 8)..... \$40/each
- Flip video camera (want 3).....\$150
- Karaoke machine .....\$150
- Choir folders (want 40)..... \$30/each
- Storage rack for choir folders.....\$300
- Tables (replace worn ones) .....\$250-\$500
- Any amount - Projector for worship (upgrade current model - \$5-10K)
- Any amount - Eagle Scout projects (\$600-\$1200 each)
- Any amount - Good Samaritan Fund (emergency help for people in need locally) (any amount)

Please return this form and your check, payable to Easter Lutheran Church, to the church office at 4200 Pilot Knob Rd, Eagan MN 55122. Or make a donation online at [easter.org](http://easter.org) (Give/Ways to Give). Be sure to indicate your gift preference in the Designated Donation textbox. Please contact Laurel Gaard at 651-452-3680 if you have questions.

*Thank you!*

# Children, Youth & Family

## Faith Formation

### The Christmas Pageant – “Welcome the Child!”

**Sunday, December 11, 4:30 and 6:30 p.m., Easter by the Lake**

Bring all your family and friends to the Christmas Pageant – Welcome the Child! Hear the youth band, the church school kids and the debut of the youth choir singing praises to our newborn King! What a great way to celebrate the season! Come to either the 4:30 or 6:30 Pageant!

#### Important Rehearsal!

All Church School Kids, All Grades! Please come to the rehearsal for the Christmas Pageant. Find out where and when you will be singing. This pageant rehearsal will not be complete without you! – see below for specific times:

Sun. Dec. 4, Easter by the Lake

4:30 p.m. for Sunday Hill 8:30/10, and all Wed. 4:30/6 Church School kids

6:30 p.m. for Sunday Lake 9:30/11 Church School kids

#### Welcome the Child -Christmas Pageant! Church School Families

Join us as we retell the Christmas story and sing carols of joy at the Church School Christmas Pageants on Dec. 11 at Easter by the Lake. We look forward to celebrating Jesus’ birthday with you at the following program times:

4:30 p.m. for kids who attend church school at the

Hill on Sundays 8:30/10 a.m. and Wednesdays 4:30/6 p.m.

6:30 p.m. for kids who attend church school at the

Lake on Sundays 9:30/11:00.

### Let’s Play! Pray-n-Play

*(Open Gym Time for ages 0 – 5 years old & their parents/caregivers)*

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

Be part of this growing ministry! The little ones run and parents/ caregivers have some valued time for fellowship. Come as often and for as long as you can! No registration required! Bring your friends, it’s FREE! In December we come together on December 9 and December 16. In January we meet Jan. 6, 13, & 20.

### Youth Band and Choir Calendar

There will be NO Youth Band rehearsal on Dec. 23 or Dec. 30

There will be NO Youth Choir rehearsal on Dec. 25 or Jan. 1! Remember rehearsals resume on Jan. 8 - our next performance will be on Jan. 29!!

### Church School: The Big Story

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

**Calendar: No Church School  
Sun., Dec. 25 & Jan. 1 and Wed., Dec. 21 & 28  
Merry Christmas! See you in Worship!**



### C.O.G.S. Caroling

**Sunday, Dec. 4, 12:30-2:30 p.m.,**

**Easter by the Lake,**

**\$10 (for lunch and bus)**

We’ll begin celebrating the Christmas season by serenading our elder Easter members with Christmas carols. Pizza will be served from 12:30-12:50 and we will load busses for caroling at 12:50. Wear good festive hats/ gloves/sweaters (dress warmly)! 7th and 8th Grade students who went to Confirmation Camp are expected to attend COGS- Wednesday students are always invited to participate. Friends are welcome.

### Summer Youth Intern Positions Open

Easter Lutheran Church will be hiring Summer Youth Interns (at least one year out of high school) for summer 2012 youth programming. If you love Jesus, if you love kids of all ages (and preferably have at least some experience leading children/teens), and are excited about working with Easter’s Children, Youth, and Family Team, please submit a resume and cover letter to Pastor Sarah Clark via email, [pastorsarah@easter.org](mailto:pastorsarah@easter.org) or by dropping it off at the church office at Easter on the Hill by January 8, 2012.

### Summer Trips 2012

We’ve announced next summer’s Youth Trips! Sign up with a deposit today to secure your spot on the trip of your choice. Registration forms are found online and at both Easter buildings.

International Trip-

\*Tanzania, June 13- July 1

Domestic Mission Trips-

\*The Ozarks, June 30- July 7 (FULL)

\*Washington DC, July 7-14

\*Milwaukee, July 29- Aug 3

Adventure Trip-

\*Flathead Lake, Montana around June 17-25

**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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**Welcome  
The  
Child**



## Talk about BIG story! Easter Community Theater Presents... **Godspell**

For the first time ever, Easter and the surrounding community invite you to participate in a HUGE production. Mark your calendars NOW to make sure you're around next spring to hear this big story.

**Attention Eagan Community:** We are always looking for people like you to make BIG events successful. In particular, we are searching throughout the community for individuals to help with the following areas: Choreography \* Co-Direction \* Scenic and tech crew \* Sewers for costume help \* Ushers \* Much, much more! Please let us know if you are interested.

**Attention Actors/Singers/Dancers:** Look for auditions in February. Godspell will be open to adults and high school aged students from the community who wish to be a part of an incredible ensemble of talented musicians and actors. Performances will be April 19 through 22. Rehearsals begin in March.

**How ELSE can I get involved?** We want everyone to be involved in telling the story onstage as well as making it successful behind the scenes!! Please spread the word about our upcoming production and get your friends and family on board.

Don't miss your chance to be a part of the action! Contact Jason Hansen at 651-452-3680 or [jason@easter.org](mailto:jason@easter.org) if you have any questions.

GODSPELL is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).  
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.  
421 West 54th Street, New York, NY 10019  
Phone: 212-541-4684 Fax: 212-397-4684  
[www.MTIShows.com](http://www.MTIShows.com)

### **Christmas Flower Garden**

Provide flowers and greens for Christmas decorating of worship spaces (suggested donation of \$27).

Sign up on the pink Response Sheet, or call the church office at 651-452-3680 by Sunday, Dec. 18. Donations may be in honor (living) or in memory of loved ones. Make checks payable to Easter Church with "Christmas Garden" on the memo line.

