



February 2012

• Volume XXVIII Number 2 •

## Global Mission Emphasis - Tanzania and Guatemala



*God So Loves the World...* That is our theme this year for our global mission emphasis in February. Through our partnerships in Guatemala and Tanzania, Easter shows our love for the world. Watch your mailbox and attend services to learn more about how you can connect with our partners in Guatemala and Tanzania financially, as an ambassador, and in prayer. We are excited to

welcome Pastor Mwafute from our sister congregation in Nyanzwa. He will be here February 1-22. There will be many opportunities to meet him and to invite him to experience life with you in Minnesota.

- **February 4-5:** General information at all services about the work being done in Tanzania and Guatemala
- **February 5:** Luncheon to welcome Pastor Mwafute, noon, Easter on the Hill
- **February 11-12:** Guatemala emphasis; Pastor Amanda preaching via pre-recorded video
- **February 19-20:** Tanzania emphasis; Pastor Mwafute preaching, Dr. Ilomo translating
- **Throughout February:** Global Mission Photo Exhibit in the Fireside Commons featuring photos from Easter Ambassadors. If you have pictures from Tanzania or Guatemala you would like displayed at the Mission Art Show in Fireside Commons on the Hill, please contact Brenda Lyseng at lyseng546@gmail.com.



Pastor Mwafute

This is an exciting time at Easter. Please prayerfully consider how you can make a real difference.

## Bread for the Journey: Workshop and Performance

Bread for the Journey is a group of singers and instrumentalists who lead worship services and workshops across the country. They specialize in presenting songs of our Christian brothers and sisters from around the world.

**Workshop: Singing and Leading Global Songs**  
*Saturday, February 11, 9-11 am, Easter on the Hill*

Join the Senior Choir and other musicians in learning new songs to be sung at worship on Sunday, February 12. You don't have to be in choir to come!

**Worship: Sunday, February 12, both services at Easter on the Hill**  
Worship will be led by Bread for the Journey and Easter musicians as we celebrate Global Missions.

For more information on Bread for the Journey: [www.bfjmusic.com](http://www.bfjmusic.com)



## Ash Wednesday Feb. 22

*Easter on the Hill:*

7 a.m. – Brief Order for Forgiveness and Absolution; Imposition of Ashes and Eucharist.

5 p.m. & 7 p.m. – Worship with Holy Holy Communion; Imposition of Ashes. Burning of Palms after each worship service. Bring your palm from last year's Palm Sunday.

*Easter by the Lake:*

6:30 p.m. – The Meaning of Ash Wednesday. Worship with Holy Communion, Imposition of Ashes, and Burning of Palms. Bring your palm from last year's Palm Sunday.

## Ash Wednesday Soup Supper

*5:30-6:30 p.m. at the Lake,  
6-7 p.m. on the Hill*

Come for soup and fellowship; freewill donations accepted.



## Lenten Worship

Beginning February 29

**Wednesday Worship**

*Easter on the Hill:*

Noon-12:30 p.m. with soup lunch and fellowship at 12:40 p.m.

7-7:40 p.m. Holden Evening Prayer service

*Easter by the Lake:*

6:30-7:15 p.m.

For more information about the Lenten focus for this year, see the insert in this newsletter.

# From the Pastor



Yesterday Sally and I picked up our dear friend from Tumaini University in Iringa, Dr. Falres Ilomo. It was the coldest day yet this

winter, and he was about to experience a drop in temperature of 90 degrees in less than 24 hours.

Dr. Ilomo has come to be the Schiotz Visiting Professor this semester at Luther Seminary; during this time there should be a strong warming trend in many dimensions. When he leaves in May, the earth should be renewed with flowers blooming and nestlings hatching.

That won't be the case for Pastor Mwafute from our Companion Congregation, Nyanzwa.

He is due to arrive February 1 and return to Tanzania on February 22. He won't experience spring in Minnesota, but I believe that these two Tanzanians will help incite in us a spiritual "spring" as we catch some of the passion and vision of our African friends.

People from Easter who have gone on missions trips to Tanzania are always blessed and amazed that the strength and depth of people's Christian faith and their courage and resilience in the face of hardships unimaginable to us. Pastor Mwafute, for instance, has shepherded his people through three years of crop failure, the AIDS epidemic and grinding poverty. (His salary is about \$100 a month--and he's one of the better off than many Nyanzwans.)

Our Tanzanian companions remind us that life does not consist of amassing things. Jesus tells us, "Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions" (Luke 12:15). No one who has ever known great deprivation ever romanticizes poverty, but the point is that, above a very basic level, there is no correlation between our happiness and owning stuff. It's our relationship with God and each other that finally counts and rewards.

From the time I arrive in Tanzania on April 10, God willing, I will be thinking all the time about the people coming on the Iringa Mission Trip (June 13-July 1). I will see places and look forward to sharing the experience with our Ambassadors. I will meet people and scheme how I can get our travelers to get to know them. I will

feel surges of joy at the prospect of the visitors experiencing what I experience.

But right now I'm greedy for Easter people to get to know Pastor Mwafute and Dr. Ilomo. (Dr. Ilomo has a full schedule at Luther Seminary and will intermittently be at Easter.) I pray that our experience of Easter's global partnerships during our Global Mission Emphasis Feb. 4-19 will help create a warming trend in our hearts. I think of Albert Camus' famous statement made while he was asking for Christian baptism, "In the midst of winter, I finally learned that there was in me an invincible summer." Even in deepest winter, there is a Warmth seeking to defrost our hearts.

Please prayerfully/carefully read the Global Mission Emphasis brochure available next week for more information on our global partnerships.

Here, in the midst of winter, I pray that the Holy Spirit will use our guests and the emphasis to warm our hearts and let our souls bloom.

## Your Church Staff

1/25/12

Pastors ..... Kristen Capel, Paul Harris, Kevin Olson, Sarah Clark, Jim Borgschatz P.E.  
 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 Youth Outreach & Engagement ..... Hans Vigesaa  
 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.

# 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.

## The Big Story

**February 5:** John 3:1-21, Nicodemus;  
Church School: Light of the World, page 416 of Spark Bible

**February 12:** John 4:1-42, Woman at the Well;  
Church School: Woman at the Well, page 420

**February 19:** John 4:46-54, Healing the Official's Son;  
Church School: The Centurion's Servant, page 290

**February 26:** John 5:1-18, Healing at Bethesda;  
Church School: Four Friends, page 348

### 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)

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



## 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"

## Lenten Wednesday

### Worship, Lunch & Class

Wednesdays, Feb. 29 - March 28

Worship at noon,  
Soup lunch 12:30 p.m.  
(freewill donation)

class 12:50-1:50 p.m.  
Easter on the Hill

On Wednesdays during Lent, there will be a noon worship service at Easter on the Hill, followed by a soup lunch and class led by Pastor Paul. The class will be using Ruth Haley Barton's book, *Sacred Rhythms: Arranging our Lives for Spiritual Transformation*. The class will help participants more deeply connect with God through simple, usable spiritual practices.



Like us on Facebook!  
[www.facebook.com/  
EasterLutheranChurch](http://www.facebook.com/EasterLutheranChurch)

**Easter Lutheran Church's Vision**  
"Transforming hearts and lives for Christ, making disciples and welcoming many more."

## What it Means to be Lutheran

(in 90 minutes or less)  
Tuesday, March 27, 7-8:30 p.m.  
Easter on the Hill

Pastor Paul is offering an overview of the essentials of the Lutheran witness. In less than 90 minutes, he will identify the key themes of the Lutheran story and their vital contributions to the Christian faith. You're sure to understand learn some new things and be inspired by some familiar ones themes. Mark your calendar!

## 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)

**Feb. 7:** Alumni Testimonial by Kent Brodsho, Director Retail Accounts at OnStar. Kent was a charter member of the Easter Transition Group and was out of work for 16 months before landing a job. His catch-phrase would be, "keep the faith and get involved!"

**Feb. 14:** "Resiliency in the Face of Tough Times," presented by Pastor Paul Harris.

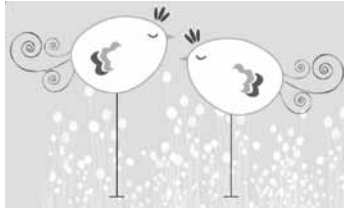
**Feb. 21:** Alumni Testimonial by Mark Linden. About a year ago, Mark showed up at the Easter Job Transitions Group looking for a new career opportunity. And sometimes, opportunities sometimes come from where we least expect!

**Feb. 28:** 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.

## Ways to Connect



Chick Talk is a women's ministry for all ages and stages. The first weeks of February will conclude a study on contemporary Christian music (come even if you missed the other weeks!). Starting the week of February 20, we will welcome Julie McCarty to walk us through our Lenten book, *Sacred Rhythms: Arranging our Lives for Spiritual Transformation* by Ruth Haley Barton.

Based on gospel stories and spiritual practices of ancient Christians, this book will look at such topics as longing for more, praying with Scripture, making space for God, finding God in everyday experiences, and cultivating our own sacred rhythms through the week – and having a little fun along the way. We look forward to seeing you there! Contact Deanna Heise at 651-452-3680 for more information or see [easter.org](http://easter.org) (Connect/Chick Talk) for details.

The books will be available for purchase through the church for \$15 or you can easily find them at your favorite bookseller.

## Calling All Men! Launching New Men's Ministry

**Friday, February 3, 8:30-10:30 a.m., offsite at Target Field, freewill donation**

Save the date for an exciting opportunity to launch the new Men's Ministry at Easter. This private event will be held at Target Field and includes a breakfast buffet with Dave St. Peter, President of the Minnesota Twins, followed by a tour of the stadium. This ministry event is open to all men of Easter and their friends. Contact Jack Esser at [jesser@activision.com](mailto:jesser@activision.com) with questions or to reserve your spot.

## Getting Involved at Easter

Easter is a large community, which is wonderful! There is a place for every person to feed his or her passion, to grow spiritually, and to serve. Sometimes, because it's such a large place, it can feel daunting when you decide you want to get more involved. You might not know how to do that or even what you want to get involved in! If you're feeling the desire to get more connected to this community in some way, even if you don't know what that looks like, please contact Mary Kay DuChene at [marykay@easter.org](mailto:marykay@easter.org) or 651-452-3680. She'll help you get it done!

## Sip and Stitch

**Saturday, Feb. 18, 9:30-11 a.m.**

**Easter on the Hill**

We are collecting knitted/crocheted 8" squares to assemble into blankets for new babies. You can contribute squares made at home as well. Contact Barb Moon at 651-454-9561 for more information.



## Telemark Men's Retreat

**Friday-Sunday, March 23-25, 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.

# Ways to Connect

## DivorceCare

**Sundays through March 18**  
**5:30-7 p.m., Easter on the Hill**  
**\*no childcare available**

Find help and healing for the hurt of separation and divorce. DivorceCare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. Don't go through separation or divorce alone. DivorceCare is led by people who understand what you are going through and want to help. If you have questions, please contact Pamela Oettinger at oettinger3@hotmail.com



## Men's Breakfast

**Saturday, Feb. 11, 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.

## Small Group Corner

Connecting the hearts of people with others and God

Easter defines a small group as 8-12 individuals meeting for a common purpose – to engage in significant, authentic relationships with other Christians and with God ... to grow in faith and carry on the work of Jesus Christ!

Have small groups enticed you recently with our exciting articles and Starbucks Sundays? Sound interesting but not sure you have the time? A little afraid to commit? Well join us for a taste of the small group experience during Lent!

This Lenten season, the pastors have chosen to focus on the book, *Sacred Rhythms: Arranging Our Lives for Spiritual Transformation*, by Ruth Haley Barton. Based on gospel stories and spiritual practices of ancient Christians, this book will look at such topics as longing for more, praying with Scripture, making space for God, finding God in everyday experiences, and cultivating our own sacred rhythms through the week – and having a little fun along the way.

The Small Group Ministry Team is organizing several small groups around a 6-week study, which accompanies the book. The groups will kick off on Ash Wednesday and meet once per week during the weeks between Ash Wednesday and Easter. We are excited to offer a variety of times, locations, and peer leaders to facilitate these discussions. Be sure to let us know if you would like to be PART of a small group book study or LEAD a small group book study during the weeks of Lent. If you're not involved at Easter in any other way, this is a great way to give it a try! Contact Deanna Heise at 651-452-3680 for more information and to sign up.

Books will be available for purchase at the church for \$15. Or, you can easily find them at your favorite bookseller.



## Depression Support Coalition

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

**Monday, February 6, 7-8:30 p.m.**  
**Shepherd of the Valley Church**  
**12650 Johnny Cake Ridge Road**  
**Apple Valley, MN**

"The Whole-Person Approach to Treating Depression and Anxiety" presented by Kim Bushman, PhD, LP, Water's Edge Counseling & Healing Center, Questions? Contact Julie Opheim at 952-432-6351.

## Easter New Member Orientation - New Process!

Easter's vision is "transforming hearts and lives for Christ." That's our vision for the world, and it's our vision for each and every person we touch. We think about transforming hearts and lives for Christ in everything we do. The new member process is no exception to that! As such, we're excited to announce a new way to become a member of Easter! Easter's new member process has two goals: to get you the information you need about the church in your discernment process, and to get you connected to the church in ways that are meaningful to you (so that you might experience more spiritual transformation in your life).

Starting now, Easter is piloting an individualized new member orientation program. This new program takes you through about a 3-month period of orientation that focuses on the goals of the process (see above). A person from the New Member Team will help you create your personalized plan for joining and mentor you through the process. For example, we have many people of Catholic background joining Easter; one way they might choose to connect during their orientation time would be to take a "Lutheran 101" type class at the church. If you're interested in becoming a member of Easter, call the office or contact Mary Kay DuChene (marykay@easter.org) to express your interest.

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

Events are further detailed in the **Encore! Happenings brochure**, available at each site and also at [www.easter.org](http://www.easter.org) (**Connect/Encore!**)

## Learn

**Three Persons, One God: The Trinity**  
Thurs., Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23 & March 1,  
1-3 p.m, Easter by the Lake  
The doctrine of the Trinity is routinely misunderstood in churches. We'll consider: how the Trinity is identified, prayed to and preached in sacred worship, special contributions from Lutheran theology and why this essential teaching matters. The instructor is Stephen Paulson, Professor of Systematic Theology at Luther seminary. Contact Dorie Erickson at 651-454-2250 or [doriejerickson@yahoo.com](mailto:doriejerickson@yahoo.com) for more information.

## SALT

**(Senior Adults Learning Together)**  
Monday, April 23, 30, May 7 & 14  
Church of the Risen Savior, Burnsville,  
9:30-11:45 a.m., optional lunch.  
Join a group from Encore! and attend one or more of SALT's spring sessions. Brochures describing the sessions will be available at both sites. Cost is \$5 per session per Monday. Pre-register with the form in the brochure for all sessions and save! Contact Roger Fredlund at 952-953-4569 or [ottofocus@yahoo.com](mailto:ottofocus@yahoo.com) with questions.

## Gather

**Simple Steps in Winter**  
Mondays, 9:30 a.m.  
Eagan Community Center,  
1501 Central Pkwy  
Walk the indoor track at the Eagan Community Center and chat with other Encore! folks. Cost per walk is \$2. For more information, contact Dorie Erickson at 651-454-2250 or [doriejerickson@yahoo.com](mailto:doriejerickson@yahoo.com).

## Gather continued...

**Friday Night at the Movies**  
Friday, February 10, 7-9 p.m.  
Easter by the Lake  
We'll watch a movie on the big screen and munch on popcorn and theater candy. Bring a lawn chair if you choose. Contact Judy Englund at 651-687-0910 or [judyke1@comcast.net](mailto:judyke1@comcast.net) for more information.

**O.W.L.s (Older Wiser Lutherans)**  
Thursday, February 9, 11:30 a.m.  
Al Baker's Restaurant  
3434 Washington Dr., Eagan  
To make a reservation, please contact Phil Friest at [plfriest@juno.com](mailto:plfriest@juno.com) or 952-893-0313.

## Serve

**Feed My Starving Children**  
Wednesday, Feb. 8, 9:30-11 a.m.  
990 Lone Oak Road, Suite 160  
Hand-pack meals specifically formulated for malnourished children. To sign up for one or more of the above dates, call Rita Tester at 651-452-7342.

**LSS Tour**  
Wed., Feb. 29, 9:30 a.m.- 2:30 p.m.  
Tour Lutheran Social Services Center for Changing Lives, have lunch at their café and do a service project for Camp Noah, LSS summer program for children who have been personally affected by natural disaster in the past year. Meet at Easter on the Hill to car pool to LSS. Contact Terolle Turnham at 651-452-4474 or [t.turnham@gmail.com](mailto:t.turnham@gmail.com) for more information.

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."

## Serve

**Dakota Woodlands**  
Monday, Feb. 20,  
10 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.  
Prepare and serve lunch for the residents at Dakota Woodlands, transitional housing for homeless women. Contact Judy Pascoe at 651-454-8540 or [jpascoe@easter.org](mailto:jpascoe@easter.org) to volunteer.

**Encore! Serves Easter (ESET) Team**  
Wed., Feb. 1 and Wed., April 4,  
9 a.m.-noon  
Choose to work on a service project at Easter Church. Choice of projects may include painting, dusting furniture, cleaning & organizing the kitchen, etc. Contact Dave Woodward at 651-681-1578 or [c\\_dwoodward@q.com](mailto:c_dwoodward@q.com) for more information.

**Eagan Resource Center (ERC)**  
Please consider serving the ERC clients as a greeter or as a personal shopper while some of the "regular volunteers" have gone south for the winter! There are openings for Encore! to help on the following days:  
Thurs., Feb. 2 & 16,  
10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. or 12:30-3 p.m.  
Three people are needed per shift.  
Mondays, March 5 & March 19, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Four people are needed per shift.  
Please contact Diane Aga to volunteer or for more information at [dianeaga@charter.net](mailto:dianeaga@charter.net) or 952-255-8040.

**Greeter at Worship**  
Sunday, Feb. 12  
Encore! will be on hand to greet worshippers at both sites. Extend a warm welcome before and after worship. Let Joy Korte know if you are willing to serve and which service you will be at - [kortes2@q.com](mailto:kortes2@q.com).

# From a Council Member

Presented by Sandy Bull at the January 17 council meeting



*This is Sandy's 1st year on Council, and she serves as liaison to the Worship committee. Sandy has two grown daughters.*

## **Start Engaging Now**

With just a few weeks into the New Year many of us may be struggling with those New Year's resolutions we made. At the time they seemed easy to accomplish, but as the days and weeks have gone by, this has proven to be far from a slam dunk. How easy it is to gravitate back to those behaviors we desired to change. Recently I have found a lot of insight from the book *"Growing an Engaged Church"* written by Albert L. Winseman, which the church council (as well as the Easter Leadership team) have been reading. It has helped me see the path to accomplish a behavioral change.

The key word is found in the title of the book; "Engaged" or "Engagement". If you haven't picked up on it yet, this is the new buzz word both in business as well as church communities. There have been studies completed by Gallup, which confirm people with engaged behavior, are happier, healthier and more satisfied in their lives, compared to people who are dis-engaged. As members of Easter, how do we create engagement within our congregation? Pastor Kris wrote about this in the January mid-month eNews, and Pastor Kevin recently gave a sermon which demonstrated the principles of the book. To use

Pastor Kevin's examples, (followed by my interruption) he provided 3 key actions which lead to engagement:

1. As you go, so you grow (When you are engaged, you grow spiritually).
2. As we Invite, so we excite (God's grace is contagious and meant to be shared).
3. As we proclaim, we are never the same ( When we witness, we are forever changed).

Each of these statements requires a level of engagement that brings about a change, just like a cause and effect statement. The heart of this principle is that engaged members are those members who feel a strong connection to their church, which tends to lead to more spiritual commitment. These members tend to worship more frequently, invite others to worship and activities, serve more in their own and creative ways, and give selflessly of time and resources. But engagement is not just involvement, it is much more. Involvement is what you do in and for your church; engagement is how you feel about your church. Engagement is about emotions: feeling that you belong, are valued and growing with the church, that the work you do matters in transforming both yourself as well as others.

On a personal note, I have experienced how engagement at Easter Church leads to a deeper emotional commitment with God. In the past I have taught church school working with 4 year olds and 6th graders. Yes there is quite a difference between the two groups, but when you reach out to personally

invite a young person to join in a relationship with God, they respond with excitement. While chaperoning a youth mission trip 5 years ago, to witness the spiritual growth in the youth over a course of a week, was truly amazing. Young hearts inviting and proclaiming Christ as their Savior, serving others came back forever changed. Take one of Pastor Paul's classes, and you will be greatly enlightened by his teachings and find yourself asking more questions and wanting to learn more. And finally, now as a member of the Church Council, I get to observe the many engaged members who witness freely in giving of their time, talents and resources to make Easter Church a welcoming place for all to grow in faith and carry on the work of Jesus Christ.

Starting today, ask yourself, "how can I connect with the church? What do I get from church? Where do I fit? What do I have to offer or give? How do I want to grow to have a deeper spiritual commitment with Christ and doing God's work?" There are many, many opportunities to serve and become emotionally engaged with the work of Christ at Easter Church. Take the first step: become involved in something that you feel passionate about, and the rewards you find will change you forever.

*Prayer: Heavenly Father, open and transform our hearts to become more engaged in the work of your church. Lead and teach us to understand your unending forgiveness, love and grace. Prepare us to serve others as you have taught us to serve. Amen.*

## **Kristi Lockrem Memorial Scholarship**

The Kristi Ann Lockrem Memorial Scholarship fund offers one or more scholarships in varying amounts to a student or students with learning disabilities who seek further training or education following high school graduation. Funds can be used for tuition, tutoring, materials, or anything else needed to enable learning. The scholarship is administered through the Kristi Lockrem Scholarship Committee of Easter Lutheran Church. An applicant should live within the boundaries of ISD #197 or ISD #196. Applications are available at schools in those districts and at Easter Lutheran Church and can be returned to the church, attn: Scholarship Committee. They must be received or postmarked by April 1.

# Ways to Serve Generously

## Feed My

### Starving Children

**Tuesday, February 14, 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.

## Food Drive for Eagan Resource Center

**February 11 & 12, 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).

## Blood Drive

**Friday, February 17, 12:30-5:30 p.m.**  
**Easter by the Lake**

To sign up, please go to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and enter the zip code of 55122 (it is listed as Eagan Community)

## Loaves & Fishes

**Thursday, February 16, 3-7 p.m.**  
**Hope Presbyterian Church,  
7132 Portland Ave. S., Richfield**

Prepare and/or serve a meal for about 100 homeless and needy people. Help is needed to prepare, cook and serve food, and clean up after the meal. Work a two-hour shift with others from Easter from 3-7 p.m. Sign up on the pink Response sheet.

## “Easter’s Got Talent”

### Family Talent Show & Pizza Lunch

**Sunday, February 12, Easter by the Lake**  
**12:30 p.m. pizza lunch (\$5 per person), 1-3 p.m. Talent Show**

See who takes home the prize...

Start practicing!! We want to see your act in Easter’s talent show!

*Easter is looking for youth and families to perform  
in a FUN afternoon of talent!*

Come and see youth of ALL ages and their families show off talents from the brilliant to the wacky. The afternoon will include a pizza lunch at 12:30 p.m. and include a panel of judges to see who will take home the prize!!

It’s not too late to sign up to showcase your act!!

**SIGN UP before Sunday, February 5 by contacting  
Jason Hansen at 651-452-3680 or [jason@easter.org](mailto:jason@easter.org)**

## Staff Profile: Mary Kay DuChene

*(Note: to help all Easter people learn the faces of staff and understand what they do, over the next year, we will profile a staff member each month.)*

Mary Kay is the Director of On Purpose Ministries at Easter. With that curious title comes the task of pulling together and organizing all ministry areas by caring for the strategic planning and execution process. Mary Kay also cares for staff and lay leadership development through coaching and training individuals and teams. Through her work, our goal is to be able to do more, better as we grow in faith and carry on the work of Jesus Christ.



Other places you will see Mary Kay in and around Easter are: on the small group ministry team, shepherding a brand new new member orientation process, helping members engage more deeply with Easter, and various other special projects as they arise.

Mary Kay has a background in leadership and business. Prior to joining Easter full time, she spent the last 10 years doing leadership development coaching and consulting with small to mid-sized businesses in the Twin Cities. She also leads a leadership development program for women pastors. Mary Kay is married to Mark and they have four children – Alisha, Courtney, Alex, and Amy. They love to spend time on the North Shore when they can get away.

# Ways to Serve Generously



## Easter Community Theatre presents... **GODSPELL!**

### **Casting:**

Adults and high school ages throughout the Twin Cities

### **Auditions:**

February 20-21, 6 p.m.  
Easter on the Hill

\*\*Also looking for production and tech crew

Questions or to get involved contact Jason Hansen  
651-452-3680 or jason@easter.org

## **Justice and Advocacy Reading Group**

**Sunday, March 18, 7-8:30 p.m.,  
Easter on the Hill**

Are you interested in poverty alleviation, development economics, environmental sustainability, global politics, foreign aid, feeding the world, education, health care?

We will talk in small groups about *A Framework for Understanding Poverty* (2005) by Ruby K. Payne. There is no long-term commitment. 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. 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 651-454-0916 or sariegalligan@gmail.com.

## **International Mission Trips - Summer 2012**

### *Guatemala Mission Trips Summer 2012*

Easter is not sponsoring a trip to Guatemala this year. However, there are several opportunities to join Global Mission Trips to Guatemala in the summer of 2012 by joining groups from other churches. Como Park Lutheran welcomes Easter ambassadors on their June 16-23 trip as does Augustana Lutheran on their July 29-August 9 trip. For more information contact Pastor Paul at paulharris@aol.com or 651-452-3680.

### *Easter Ambassadors Going to Tanzania*

Here's a list of Easter Ambassadors who will be going to Tanzania June 13-July 1: Gaylon Bratlund, Melanie Banta, Paul Ellingson, LeAnn Ellingson, Dennis Gibson, Pastor Paul Harris, and Sally Harris. There is still room for a few more people. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Paul at paulharris@aol.com or 651-452-3680.

## **Candidate Selection Underway**

The Leadership Development Committee is preparing a slate of candidates for elected leadership at Easter in the coming year. Candidates for church council, committee chairs, Audit Review, Leadership Development, and Foundation committees will be elected at the annual meeting, scheduled for April 24. If you would like to submit a name for consideration for an elected position, please contact a member of the committee: Tim Dawson, Karen Svendsen, Jane Freeberg, Brett Boyum, Kent Brodsho, or Mary Kay DuChene through the church office at easter@easter.org or 651-452-3680.

## **Spiritual Resource Library - Donation Policy**

The Spiritual Resource Library team would like to share with you guidelines to follow when you wish to make donations. The library collection reflects recent publication trends connecting faith to healing, family dynamics, personal reflection, global outreach, stewardship of the Earth, trauma and abuse issues, parenting, aging, interpersonal relationships, pluralistic society, cancer, AIDS, hospice, death and dying, spiritual development, theological understanding, church relationships and more.

- Donated materials should be in compliance with the Library mission: *To provide resources for our community of faith that will enable, enlighten, and support a journey to grow in faith and carry on the work of Jesus Christ.*
- Condition of books: Hardcover books and soft-cover books will be accepted that have intact bindings, clean pages (free of markings, mustiness, missing pages, torn pages). Books should have a copyright within the past seven years, unless it is considered a classic, such as writings by Martin Luther, C.S. Lewis, etc.
- Condition of CDs and DVDs: These items should be in their original packaging and should be free of scratches and be in playable condition. We are not able to use video or cassette tapes.

Items that are donated to the Spiritual Resource Library are reviewed by the team for appropriateness to the collection and mission of the library.

# Children, Youth & Family

## Faith Formation

### Pray & Play

**Open Gym Time (for ages birth – 5 years old)**

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

What are you doing on Friday mornings? Need a change? Come to Pray & Play with your little ones and get them running! It's warm, dry, and lots of fun! There are balls, scooters and lots of play toys for the kids to run, be loud and get some energy out. Come as often and for as long as you can. No registration required! Bring your friends -no need to be a member of Easter! Contact Rachele at 651-452-3680. *No Pray & Play Feb. 10*

### Church School Sings in Worship

**Sunday, February 19, all services**

Wednesday students are invited to participate at any of the services. Students at Easter on the Hill will meet in Fellowship Hall. Easter by the Lake students will meet in Community Room. After the students sing in worship they will return to their classes or sit with their parents in worship. If you have questions, please contact Rachele at 651-452-3680.

### Family Faith Night for Kindergartners

**Saturday, Feb. 25, Easter on the Hill**

5 p.m. Family Worship; 6 p.m. Enjoy pizza with Kindergartners families, then at 6:15 come together to find out what the Lord's Prayer says to you! Join us as we make an edible treat to remind us about prayer. Childcare is provided for siblings. The cost for pizza is \$5/person the night of the event (age 3 and under are free). Please RSVP by emailing Rachele Gill at [rgill@easter.org](mailto:rgill@easter.org) if you will be coming for pizza and if sibling care is needed. Invite another kindergarten family too - no need to be an Easter member!

### Family Faith Night for 2nd Graders

Saturday, March 10  
Easter on the Hill  
5 p.m. Worship  
6 p.m. Pizza  
6:15 p.m. Activity

### Easter Preschool

Easter Preschool registration dates for the 2012-2013 school year will be held on Wednesday, February 1 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. for church members and preschool alumni. Open community registration is on Friday, February 3 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. A \$50 non-refundable fee is due at the time of registration.

### 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  
Wed. Feb. 22 - Ash Wednesday  
See you in Worship!**



### First Communion Class

**Sundays March 4, 11, and 18 from  
6:30-8 p.m. at Easter on the Hill  
Cost: \$5 per student**

This First Communion Class is for students in 5th or 6th Grade and is designed to help students prepare for the sacrament of Holy Communion. Parents must attend the final session with their child on March 18. Please pre-register with the registration forms available at both sites and at [easter.org](http://easter.org). (If your child is not yet baptized, please call the church office at 651-452-3680 to arrange a baptism date prior to first communion.) Questions, please contact Jennifer Peloquin at [jpeloquin@easter.org](mailto:jpeloquin@easter.org) or 651-452-3680.

### Giving Tree Thanks

Thank you for your generous support of the Holiday Gift Shop. The gift shop was arranged by a coalition of area churches for clients of the Eagan Resource Center. Clients selected a gift for each member of their family. We had 369 families sign up this year —about 1,036 children and 600 adults. We distributed over 2,000 gifts this year. In addition to the gifts, each family received 1 fleece blanket.

Your generous donation of 178 blankets, over 1,000 gifts and many gift cards were greatly appreciated. We wouldn't have been successful without your support.

I would also like to thank the volunteers who helped set up the gift shop, those who spent a week shopping, and those who were shepherds for our guests, making them feel welcome and assisting them with the selection of their gifts. Thank you!

Karen Raasch, Chairman

# Children, Youth & Family

## Faith Formation

### Youth Mission Trip Sponsorship Meeting

**Wednesday, February 22, 8-9 p.m., Easter by the Lake**

**After Ash Wednesday worship**

Students going on a trip -- this is your chance to begin asking for sponsorship money from the generous members of our congregation and receive support for your Mission Trip this summer. PLEASE bring a calendar and be ready to sign up for sponsorship opportunities. Please note this important date to keep in mind:

**March 4: The first half of your Mission Trip payment is due.**

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Sarah Clark at 651-452-3680 or [pastorsarah@easter.org](mailto:pastorsarah@easter.org). Thanks!

### Confirmation Students - Need Service Hours?

**Saturday, Feb. 25 and/or**

**Saturday, March 10**

**5:30-7:30 p.m., Easter on the Hill**

Serve pizza to elementary families during Family Faith Night, then help in the Nursery while siblings are doing other activities. Contact Rachelle Gill at [rgill@easter.org](mailto:rgill@easter.org) or 651-452-3680.



### Join the Youth Choir!

**Sundays, 11:30-12:30 p.m., Easter by the Lake**

We'd love more 6-12th graders to get involved in youth music. Start by joining the first ever Easter Youth Choir! We've already planned a bunch of performances of pop tunes and a rap to mix in with the choral music.

Invite your friends and come on in! Questions? Contact Jason Hansen at 651-452-3680 or [jason@easter.org](mailto:jason@easter.org).

### Kids Kits for Camp Noah

During February, Encore! will be collecting items for Kids Kits for Camp Noah. Camp Noah is a summer project of Lutheran Social Service (LSS) for children who have been personally affected by natural disaster. We will take the items to LSS and pack the kits on Feb. 29.

Items needed are:

- 8-count broad line washable markers (classic colors, Crayola or Rose Art brand)
- 8-count pan washable watercolor paints with brush
- Glue sticks
- 24 count box of crayons (Crayola or Rose Art brand)
- kid-sized scissors
- black pens
- 3-ounce container of Playdoh (any color)
- gallon-sized plastic freezer bags to pack the supplies in

Please bring the items to Easter on the Hill and place in the box beneath the Encore! bulletin board. Contact Terolle Turnham at 651-452-4474 or [t.turnham@gmail.com](mailto:t.turnham@gmail.com) with questions.

### Did you know...Adoption Services!

Lutheran Social Service (LSS) of Minnesota has been creating and supporting families since 1865. Since then, an estimated 18,000 children have been united with permanent, loving families. LSS provides a full range of services, from pregnancy counseling to adoption and post adoption services supporting birthparents, adoptive families and adopted adults.

At LSS, adoptive families meet and work together with birth parents to plan their child's adoption. Decisions about openness and future relationships are thoroughly explored as families decide what will work best for all involved.

LSS is fully Hague Accredited. Children available for adoption range in age from a few months old up to 16 years-old; siblings and children with special needs are also in need of adoption.

Hundreds of children (typically ages 8-18 years) living in the Minnesota foster care system need permanent, loving families and strong role models. LSS can assist families wishing to adopt waiting children in Minnesota as well as families who wish to expand their search nationwide.

LSS offers a broad range of post adoption services for all members of the adoption circle: support following placement & finalization, communication facilitation between birth parents & adoptive families, background information & search / reunion services, support groups, trainings, and referrals to outside resources.

Wondering if adoption is right for your family? Call LSS at 888-205-3769 or check out the website at [www.lssmn.org/adoption/services](http://www.lssmn.org/adoption/services).

**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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### **Easter Serves!**

**Sunday, March 11, 12:30-2:30 p.m.**

**Easter by the Lake**

**A free will offering will be taken  
(suggested \$5/per person for a  
light lunch)**

Jesus calls us to serve others,  
but how? Jesus calls us to be  
in fellowship with His body of  
believers, but where? This event  
allows you to do both! We will

- assemble fleece blankets for homeless youth
- build sandwiches that will be enjoyed by the hungry and homeless in the metro area
- put together military care packages for our service men and women overseas and
- assemble health kits that will be used by women about to give birth in foreign countries.

Sound interesting? This is going to be fun! And in addition to the fun, God will be praised and our neighbors will be served! Watch for more details in the weeks to come!

### **Godspell Auditions in FEBRUARY!**

**Presented by Easter Community Theatre**

**Monday, February 20 and Tuesday, February 21, 6 p.m., Easter on the Hill**

Calling all actors from the Twin Cities! Be part of a BRAND NEW Community Theatre production of Godspell, directed by Jason Hansen and Kathryn Kidwell. Invite your friends to participate and spread the word!

We will cast adults and high school students for all parts and a small ensemble of singers. During the audition, you will be asked to read from a scene and sing a song from the show. No need to prepare anything in advance. The cast list will be posted at [easter.org/godspell](http://easter.org/godspell) on February 27.

Rehearsals begin March 5 and will be held most weekday evenings. Godspell performances will be April 19-22 at Easter on the Hill. For full details and a list of parts, visit [www.easter.org/godspell](http://www.easter.org/godspell).

If you have questions or if you'd be willing to help distribute posters and other publicity for the auditions, please contact Jason Hansen at 651-452-3680 or [jason@easter.org](mailto:jason@easter.org).

Help us spread the word! Please “Like” and “Share” this on Facebook!  
([facebook.com/EasterCommunityTheater](https://facebook.com/EasterCommunityTheater))

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)

**Auditions!**

