



March 2012

• Volume XXVIII Number 3 •

Lent, Holy Week and Easter Worship Schedule

Lenten Worship

Wednesdays, Feb. 29 - March 28

Easter on the Hill:

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

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

Easter by the Lake:

6:30-7:15 p.m.

Lenten offering appeal directed to Lutheran Social Services homeless youth ministry.

Holy Week Worship

Palm Sunday, April 1

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

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

Maundy Thursday, April 5

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

Worship with Holy Communion

Good Friday, April 6

Crosswalk, 10 a.m., Easter on the Hill. Join this ecumenical community walk to carry a large cross through Eagan, stopping at intervals to pray, read and sing. Those who wish to walk only for brief intervals may ride in a church bus accompanying the walkers.

Family Service (Passion Story), 5 p.m., Easter by the Lake

Tenebrae Service (Seven Last Words), 8 p.m., Easter on the Hill

Holy Saturday, April 7

5 p.m., Easter on the Hill

Easter Worship - Sunday, April 8

Easter on the Hill

6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service with Holy Communion

8, 9, 10, and 11 a.m. Festive Worship (traditional)

11 a.m. service includes Holy Communion

Continuous communion 8:30-11 a.m. in the preschool rooms

Easter by the Lake

9, 10, and 11 a.m. Celebration Worship (band-led)

11 a.m. service includes Holy Communion

Continuous communion 9:30-11 a.m. in the Community Room



Easter Serves!

Sunday, March 11, 12:15-2:30 p.m.

Easter by the Lake

A free will offering will be taken (\$5/per person for 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! In tangible ways we will "be the hands and feet of body of Christ" by:

- assembling fleece blankets for the homeless
- building sandwiches that will be enjoyed by the hungry and homeless in the metro area.
- assembling military care packages for our service men and women overseas, and
- assembling health kits that will be used by women about to give birth in foreign countries.
- assembling hospice kits to comfort patients dying of AIDS in third world countries

To help prepare our hearts for this day of service, Rev. Richard Anderson from Lutheran Social Services will be the guest preacher for worship (both Hill & Lake sites).

This will be a fun family event!

And in addition to the fun, God will be praised and our neighbors will be served! **You can help:**

1. pray for those who will be blessed by it
2. donate items such as: bath towels, wash clothes, ivory soap bath bars, and other items listed at easter.org
3. come for all, or part of the event. Encourage your friends and neighbors to come, too!

From the Pastor



I love making music, listening to music, reading about music, talking about music, and going to concerts to experience it live. My radio is always on.

I am equally ecstatic to sit in Orchestra Hall or to stand in First Avenue. Every year, I get excited to watch the Grammys- to see all those rock stars together in the same big room. So last Sunday, with a steaming bowl of stir-fry, comfy sweatpants and a blanket, I settled into the couch to watch the Grammys. Aaahhhhh.

Meanwhile- it's Lent. And truly, every year, Lent feels a little less relevant to our world. Even the word 'Lent'... what the heck does it mean? (Actually, it is an old English word for 'spring'.) Lent is SO long... forty days of fasting and penitence (excluding Sundays... which make it even longer). That is forty days to give up eating chocolate or drinking pop. Forty days of slush and ice before spring really starts. Forty days of... Lent. Uff dah.

But, I am writing today to tell you that Lent is more than Wednesday worship services and withdrawal

symptoms from giving up caffeine. Lent does not have to feel irrelevant. In fact, this year, here is what I learned about the church season of Lent from a room-full of rock stars (aka, the Grammys):

1. Start out with a prayer. LL Cool J, better known for being a pretty kick-butt rapper, turns out to be a pretty excellent leader of prayer. Within the first 30 seconds of the Grammys (watched by 39.9 million people on TV), LL Cool J was praying. Totally unexpected and beautiful. Before any trophies were handed out or any bands took the stage, LL Cool J placed the anxieties and sorrows of millions, over the death of Whitney Houston, in God's hands. In the season of Lent- start out with a prayer.

2. No matter your age, give it your all. The Beach Boys reunited for their 50th anniversary on the Grammy stage. And, they ruled. It was extra fun to see younger musicians (Maroon 5 and Foster the People) on stage, singing along with the legendary Beach Boys. The young guys' faces were full of awe. Some art transcends generations; a great Beach Boys song is as great today as it was 50 years ago. God always transcends generations, and is as great today as 50 trillion years ago. No matter your age, give God your all. That's really what Lent is about.

3. Be something greater than yourself. There's something huge about

watching the Grammys (or the Super Bowl, etc), when you know that there are millions of people doing the same thing that you are, at the same time—a common experience. There's also something extra-exciting when musicians ditch their own genre in order to work together with other artists to make something bigger than themselves. I never would have expected Coldplay (rock) and Rihanna (R&B/pop) to work together- but they did, and it worked! Lent is not just about you, it is about all Christians, together, getting ready for Easter. This Lent, be something greater than yourself.

4. You're in good company. In just the first 30 minutes of the Grammys, I heard one faithful prayer, saw one cross tattoo, one cross necklace and heard more than one song that expressed healthy theology. All that all from a room full of rock stars, folks we don't often look towards as role-models. So, this Lent, know that you're in good company. You're not the only one with big faith questions. You're not the only one who wonders about God. You're not the only one to occasionally be overcome by a deep feeling of joy that you can only describe as God's love. You're in good company. Don't forget it.

See? Lent can be relevant!

Your Church Staff

2/22/12

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. Does not meet March 7

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

March 4: John 6:1-21, Feeding the Five Thousand; Church School: Jesus Feeds 5000, page 426 of Spark Bible

March 11: John 8:12-20, Light of the World; Church School: The Transfiguration, page 358

March 18: John 8:31-38, Bondage to Sin; Church School: Serve & Follow, page 446

March 25: John 9:1-41, Healing the Blind Man; Church School: Pool of Siloam, page 432

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

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"

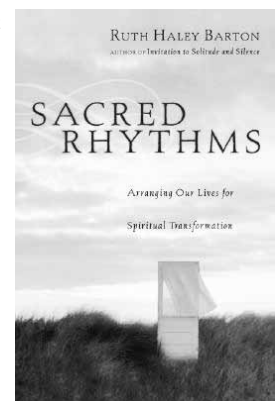
What it Means to be Lutheran (in 90 minutes or less)

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 learn some new things and be inspired by some familiar ones themes. Mark your calendar!

Lenten Book Studies

- **Sundays** after 5 p.m. Benediction, Easter on the Hill; led by Pastor Kris, Pastor Kevin and Pastor Sarah! Attend Benediction, enjoy a light dinner. Nursery open. (starting February 26)
- **Mondays**, 7-8:30 p.m., during Chick Talk, Easter on the Hill (starting February 20)
- **Tuesdays**, 9-10 a.m., Easter on the Hill (starting February 21)
- **Wednesdays** after noon worship (with soup lunch), Easter on the Hill (starting February 29)
- **Wednesdays**, 6-7 p.m., Easter on the Hill (bring the kids to Church School and participate in the book study while you wait!) Done in time for midweek 7 p.m. worship! (starting February 29)
- **Thursdays**, 9:30-11 a.m., during Chick Talk, Easter by the Lake (starting February 23)



Pick up a copy of the book "Sacred Rhythms" by Ruth Haley Barton for \$15 at the church office or Information/Welcome Centers on Sundays, or purchase from your favorite book seller. Join any study at any time!

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

March 6: "How to Find the Hidden Jobs," presented by Catherine Byers Breet. Tired of hearing what a waste of time the internet is? Fed up with networking and not having any luck? Are you an introvert and feel like you are never going to be able to find the hidden jobs? Wherever you are in your job search, if what you're doing is not working (you are not getting job offers yet), then this is the event for you.

March 13: Alumni Testimonials and Small Group Discussion: Paul Leidig

March 20: "The Power of Positive View," presented by Mike Wold. In coaching people during job transition, Mike has learned the importance of the psychological aspects of this difficult journey. This workshop allows the attendees to gain insights into the power of having a positive view and shows them specific language they can use to reinforce this view.

March 27: Breakout Bonanza

Are you LinkedIn?

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

Ways to Connect



Chick Talk is a women's ministry for all ages and stages. You can join us for discussion at any time! Julie McCarty, award winning freelance writer and spiritual guide, will walk us through 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. We look forward to seeing you there! The book is available for purchase for \$15 at the Welcome Centers on Sunday mornings and the church office throughout the week. Contact Deanna Heise at 651-452-3680 or dheise@easter.org for more information.

Chick Talk offers two meeting times: Mondays from 7-8:30 p.m. at Easter on the Hill or Thursdays from 9:30-11 a.m. at Easter by the Lake (childcare is available for a nominal fee on Thursday mornings).

Yogadevotion

Tuesdays, March 6-April 17, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Easter by the Lake

Cost: \$50 for 7 weeks

Transform your Tuesday nights by joining instructor Marie Baker for this faith-based yoga class. All levels of yoga experience welcome. For more information, contact Stacy Wollmuth, Parish Nurse, at 651-452-3680 or swollmuth@easter.org. Registration forms are available at the Information/Welcome center, or online at easter.org (Connect/recreational groups).



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 or 651-452-3680. She'll help you get it done!

Sip and Stitch

Saturday, March 17, 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 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, March 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.

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.

Thursday, March 1, 7-8:30 p.m.

"Bipolar Disorder:

A Life of Extremes"

Bob Bartlett, MA, Marriage and Family Speciality
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
133901 Fairview Drive, Burnsville
Contact Richard Erickson at 651-788-0275 with questions.

Small Group Corner

Connecting the hearts of people with others and God

March is historically a difficult month for Mid-westerners to get through. While this winter has been unseasonably mild and lacking in the white stuff, March will likely still be a month with an overall gray-ish, brown-ish cast to it. Why not add a little color to your life before that by joining a small group at Easter?

The Small Group Ministry Team is currently forming a Restaurant Dinner Small Group. We are looking for Easter couples in their 50's and 60's who would enjoy meeting other couples out for dinner once a month for good food and good conversation. Being part of a small group can provide an authentic, significant connection with others in the Easter Community and deepen your relationship with God. We invite you to consider adding this important "color" into your life this season.

If interested in the this or any other small group, please contact Deanna Heise at dheise@easter.org or 651-452-3680.



Adult Mixed Golf League

Tuesdays, May 1 - Aug. 28, Parkview Golf Course, Eagan
Organizational meeting Monday, April 16, 7 p.m. Easter on the Hill

The fee (to be announced) covers golf and an end-of-summer celebration. Register by April 2 by bringing a check to the office with "Easter golf" on the memo line. Contact Pastor Kevin with questions at revkev@easter.org or 651-452-3680.



Twins Game - Easter Family Night

Monday, June 25, 7:10 p.m., Twins vs. Chicago White Sox, \$19 per ticket

Join us for a fun night of ice cream, hotdogs, and Twins baseball! We'll meet at the stadium. To reserve tickets, contact Pastor Sarah at pastorsarah@easter.org or 651-452-3680.

Growing Through Loss

Thursdays, March 1-March 22, 6:30-9 p.m.

All Saints Catholic Church 19795 Holyoke Avenue Lakeville, 952-985-9983
Suggested Donation: \$3/session (All proceeds support the Growing Through Loss ministry.) Each session is complete in itself. Attend one or all meetings.

March 1

"Weaving in the Threads of Loss," Patricia Richardson, MSW, LICSW, LMFT Clinical Social Worker and Family Therapist in Northfield, MN

March 8

"Finding God in the Midst of Grief," Father Paul Jarvis, Pastor St. Joseph Catholic Church Rosemount, MN

March 15

"Loss, Grief & Forgiveness," Martha Alken, O.P., D. Min.
Speaker/Retreat Leader

March 22

"Growing Through Memory Loss"
Tom & Julie Allen Share their story of living with Alzheimers

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 (Connect/Encore!)

Learn

SALT (Senior Adults Learning Together)
Mondays, 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 either 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 with questions.

See the article on page 8 about the one-year anniversary of Encore!

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

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

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.

Concordia College Choir Concert
Benson Great Hall (on the campus of Bethel University), Arden Hills
Saturday, March 10, 7:30 p.m.
Meet at Benson Great Hall or car pool from Easter on the Hill, leaving at 6:15 p.m. (reservations were required by mid-February; this is a reminder notice only).

O.W.L.s (Older Wiser Lutherans)
Thursday, March 8, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
Feed My Starving Children
990 Lone Oak Rd, Suite 160
Car pool from Easter on Hill at 9 a.m.
Lunch at Culver's. RSVP to Diane Aga at 952-255-8040.



Assembling fleece blankets during an Encore! event

Serve

Feed My Starving Children
Wednesday, March 14, 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.

Dakota Woodlands
Monday, March 19
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 to volunteer.

Encore! Serves Easter (ESET) Team
Wed., April 4, 9 a.m.-noon
Easter by the Lake
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 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:
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 or 952-255-8040.

From a Council Member

Presented by Bev Hannon at the February 21 council meeting



This is Bev's 3rd year on Council. She serves as liaison to the Stewardship committee.

Last week I was in Big Sky, Montana visiting my son. I'm sorry to say it took me nearly 3 years to return there since my last visit in August of 2009, after which I fully intended to make regular visits as long as he was working and residing there.

Somehow "things" came up and I allowed them to get in the way of future trips until now.

As I spent my week in the magnificent Rocky mountains, with plenty of time to think, visit, and relax, I couldn't help but wonder how I let this much time pass before returning to share my son's world, even if briefly. This line of thought led me to a contemplation of other trips not taken, and things not done.

While in Big Sky, I had a conversation about life "regrets" with my travel companion. We both agreed that we carry few major regrets about our lives so far.

With plenty of time for more thought, I realized I do have regrets.

- I regret that I have not lived more in the present, and been less concerned with what will happen in the future.
- I regret that I did not spend more time with my mom the last few years of her life.
- I regret that I am not kinder to the people who are closest to me
- I regret that I have not been more generous with sharing the blessings that God has given me
- I regret that I allow my fears to keep me from taking risks
- I regret that I often allow my insecurities to close me off from people.

Regret is one of those words that is easily slipped past the lips. Sin is a word that likes to get caught behind the teeth.

I'm a born and raised Lutheran, of the Missouri Synod variety, and while we have plenty of natural guilt in our hearty German blood, we're still able to embrace grace and forgiveness with the best of the Evangelical Lutherans.

Even I, with my 100% German ancestry, have a bit of a struggle with Lent. From Wikipedia, the definition of Lent: The traditional purpose of Lent is the penitential preparation of the believer, through prayer, penance, repentance, almsgiving, and self-denial.

Penitence is not a comfortable word and self denial is a foreign concept in our modern society. We like to whitewash our sins into gray misdeeds. I can't help thinking that this diminishes the sacrifice that Jesus made for us.

Lent is the time for meditation, self-examination and honest acknowledgment of one's sins and sinful being. Simply put, without acknowledging our sins and without the penitence that follows, there is no forgiveness.

Among other things, Lent reminds us that the Church is not merely a good works club. There was a reason that Jesus walked on the earth that was deeper than feeding the starving and raising the dead. Jesus came to carry the weight of our sins and to suffer and die so that we would have eternal life in the kingdom of God.

This Lenten season, I urge you to take time regularly for honest self examination and reflection, and to prepare your heart to accept the ultimate sacrifice that Jesus made on the cross.

Heavenly Father, You see into the inner corners of our hearts and you know us for who we are. Thank you for loving us and sending your Son to free us from our sins and promising a life eternal in your presence. In your name we pray. Amen

Easter New Member Orientation

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.

Ways to Serve Generously

Feed My Starving Children

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



Food Drive for Eagan Resource Center

March 10 & 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.

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.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Friday, March 9, 12:30-5:30 p.m., Easter by the Lake

For more information about donating blood or for volunteer opportunities contact Kathie Poppen at KLpoppen@comcast.net or 651-688-7386. To sign up to give blood visit www.redcrossblood.org and enter zip code, 55122 (it is listed as Eagan Community)

Additional Upcoming Dates:

Friday, March 9 and Friday, April 20



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! Contact Sara Galligan at 651-454-0916 or sariegalligan@gmail.com with questions.

Celebrating ENCORE! – One Year and Going Strong!

Early last year, a group of 14 met to discuss a vision for a new ministry targeted at adults age 50+. The vision statement we adopted was, "to provide opportunities for adults to serve, learn and gather throughout all seasons of life." Encore! was officially launched on May 1, 2011, with 87 attending.

The Task Force planned events for the remainder of the year in each of the three areas of emphasis: serve, learn and gather. Since May 1, over 50 events have taken place with over 600 individuals participating.

There is no one Encore! group; each event stands alone, whether it is a service project, a learning opportunity or just a time to get together and have fun. We encourage adults 50+ to participate when they can and invite others to come along. Everyone is welcome!

A big thank you to the Encore! Task Force that is still meeting monthly to evaluate past events (we've learned a lot!) and plan future activities.

As we begin our second year of Encore! more help is needed to grow the ministry and keep it vibrant.

Our next step is to develop small groups or teams in each of the three areas. Teams meet 3-4 times a year to plan and support Encore! events. If you are interested in being on a team (serve or learn or gather), please let me know at 651-454-8540 or jpascoe@easter.org.

The spring/summer Encore! brochure will be available in April.

Encore! Blessings, Judy Pascoe, Encore! Coordinator



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[www.facebook.com/
EasterLutheranChurch](http://www.facebook.com/EasterLutheranChurch)

Ways to Serve Generously

Synod Assembly

Easter members are invited to serve as delegates to the 2012 St. Paul Area Synod Assembly, held at Prince of Peace Lutheran in Burnsville on Friday, May 18 and Saturday, May 19. This year's theme is "Living Lutheran." If you would like more information, or to be considered as a delegate from Easter, please contact Laurel Gaard at 651-452-3680 or lgaard@easter.org.

Did You Know...

Did you know...that if you have a passion for visual arts or an interest in Native American culture, Lutheran Social Service has a free event you may be interested in attending.

A community reception Monday, March 5, from 5:30-8 p.m. will kick off the new visual arts exhibit at The Center For Changing Lives. Entitled *Older Than America*, the exhibit highlights the stunning work of two emerging Native visual artists: Carolyn Lee Anderson and Bobby Wilson. Refreshments provided. Free on site parking available. Call 612-879-5335 for more information.

Youth Sponsorship for Summer Mission Trips

All worship services during Lent

It is the season at Easter Lutheran Church for Youth Sponsorships. During this time, teenagers who are registered for Summer 2012 Mission Trips will show off their new T-shirts, participate in worship as greeters or ushers, and answer any questions you may have about their experiences on past mission trips and hopes for this coming summer's trips. You are invited to consider sponsoring teenagers on their trips, financially and with prayers.

Easter Receives Servant of Christ Award

Great News! Easter is one of two churches in the Saint Paul Area Synod chosen to receive the 2012 Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota (LSS) Servant of Christ Award. Easter Lutheran Church of Eagan and Zion Lutheran of Cottage Grove will receive recognition as Servant of Christ winners at the Synod Assembly in May. A representative of LSS will visit Easter to present the award. "Thanks to Easter Lutheran for continually supporting LSS in our efforts to express the love of Christ for all people through service that inspires hope, changes lives, and builds community."

Staff Profile: Rachelle Gill

(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.)

Rachelle (pronounced Ra..shell) Gill is the Director of Children's Ministries at Easter. It is obvious to all Rachelle enjoys her role as she brings dynamic flair to this very important area Easter Church. Just watch her interact with children of all ages, and you will quickly see and feel her passion.

Rachelle's goal is articulated by Jesus in Matthew 28:19-20 ("making disciples and ... teaching them to observe all that I commanded...")



Rachelle has been a member of Easter for over 12 years. She started in 2000 as a Children's Ministry volunteer Church School teacher. She then accepted a part time position as Church School Coordinator and worked with all Church School volunteers for 8 years. Rachelle has been in her current position since 2010.

Listed below are just a few examples of the excitement and leadership that Rachelle is blessed to be a part of. Did you know?

- 500 children currently enjoy weekly Church School activities
- 100 sincerely dedicated teachers and coordinators support Church School
- 500 kids and volunteers participate in Vacation Bible School
- Over 1000 people experienced the joy of the Christmas Pageant in 2011
- Over 100 families experience the Easter Message and participate in an Egg Hunt in spring

The most important element of Rachelle's life is family: husband, Johnny; 3 girls Erin (22), Jenna (20) and Sarah (14); and a miniature Dachshund named Bullet. Rachelle enjoys golf, boating, and CHEERING LOUDLY at basketball and soccer games. Rachelle is also a part of a small group called Mom's of College Kids (MOCK).

Rachelle encourages all to become a meaningful participant of one or many of our vibrant ministries at Easter Lutheran Church.

To learn how you can make a positive difference in young hearts and minds, please contact Rachelle at rgill@easter.org or give her a call at 651-452-3680.

Children, Youth & Family

Faith Formation

Palm Sunday Procession

Saturday, March 31 and Sunday, April 1

All church school students are invited to join a procession with palms on Saturday, March 31 at 5 p.m. and Sunday, April 1 at the 8:30 a.m. or 10 a.m. services at the Hill, and at the 9:30 a.m. or 11 a.m. services at the Lake. Wednesday students are invited to join any of the services. Sunday students, please attend the time and place that coincides with your designated church school time. At Easter on the Hill, students meet in the Fellowship Hall. At Easter by the Lake, students meet in the Community Room. After the procession the Sunday Church School students will return to their scheduled classroom. Contact Rachelle with any questions at rgill@easter.org or 651-452-3680.



Plastic Easter Eggs and Candies Needed!

We are in need of over 3,000 plastic Easter eggs for the Easter Celebration and Egg Hunt on March 31. We would appreciate it if families or individuals could donate at least two dozen empty eggs and items for us to fill the eggs. Items we will accept to fill the eggs include: stickers, tattoos, pencil erasers or individually wrapped Starbursts, Skittles, Tootsie Rolls, and Smarties. Please bring plastic eggs and fillers to the Resource Room at Easter on the Hill by March 14. If you have any questions, email Rachelle Gill at rgill@easter.org.

Easter Celebration and Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 31, 9:30 a.m., Easter by the Lake

The morning will include a children's worship led by Pastor Kris and the Youth Band, an egg hunt for 3,000 eggs, and fellowship with donuts, coffee and juice. Suggested donation of \$10 a family or \$3 a person to cover cost will be accepted. No registration required.

Parent-Child Round-up (Age 3 or soon to be 3)

Sunday, April 15, 10 a.m., Easter on the Hill

Howdy! If you have a child who will be three by Sept. 1, 2012 you are invited to the Parent-Child Round-up. Gather with your child for a one-day experience of church school on Sun. April 15. Parent and child can saddle up for a Bible story, songs, and fun activities. Plus, learn what to expect when your child starts church school in the fall. Please RSVP what day and time you can attend to Rachelle Gill at rgill@easter.org.

Church School: The Big Story

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

**Calendar: No Church School
Sunday, March 25 & April 8 and
Wednesday, March 28**



Pray & Play - Warm & Dry & Lots of Fun!

Open Gym Time

(for ages birth - 5 years old)

Fridays, 9:30-11 a.m.

Easter by the Lake

Come play! There will balls, scooters and toys for the kids to play with... or bring toys to share! The weather is always fantastic in the Great Room for kids to run, be loud and let go of that energy! Come as often and as long as you can! No registration required! Bring your friends, it's FREE!

*No Pray & Play March 9, March 30
or April 6*

Family Faith Night for 2nd Graders & Families

Saturday, March 10

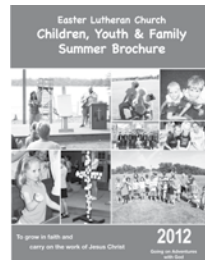
Easter on the Hill

5 p.m. Family Worship; 6 p.m. Enjoy pizza with 2nd grade families, then at 6:15 p.m. 2nd graders and their parents come together for activities. During this event we will also distribute the 3rd grade Bibles to the parents and talk more about how to make the 3rd grade Bible dedication a blessing to all. 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 to Rachelle Gill at rgill@easter.org if you will be coming for pizza and if sibling care is needed. Invite another 2nd grade family too!

Summer Youth Brochure!

Have you seen all the activities the kids can do this summer at Easter?

Invite friends and neighbors! Activities will be filling up, so please get your registrations in soon! Check out the Summer Children, Youth and Family Brochure on the website at easter.org (Learn/Elementary)



Children, Youth & Family

Faith Formation

Calendar: Youth Choir will not meet on March 25 due to Spring Break

Baby Welcome Wagon

God's blessing to expectant parents, and parent's of a new baby! If you are soon expecting a child, or have recently had a baby, please inform the church office at 651-452-3680 of the arrival of your new little one. Easter's Baby Welcome Wagon ministry would love to greet your new little one and provide your family with a meal and a gift from Easter.

Join the Baby Welcome Wagon Team!

What a great way to be part of the excitement of new parents! Welcome new babies in the Easter Church community by making a meal for the busy parents and bring a gift from Easter. Please email Erin Wolfe if interested at erinmark99@msn.com

Baby Blankets

If you love to sew or knit, you may be interested in making a baby blanket for the Baby Welcome Wagon Ministry. Blankets will be given to families of newborns in our congregation. Baby Welcome Wagon will accept blankets made of fleece or flannel, quilted, knit, or crocheted. A standard baby blanket size is 45" x 60". If you would like to contribute a blanket or materials to make a blanket, please contact Erin Wolfe at 651-454-5177 or erinmark99@msn.com.

New Bible Study for High School Youth

Wednesdays, March 7, 14 and 21, 6:30-8 p.m., Easter by the Lake

Join Hans Vigesaa - the new guy - for a Bible study geared to youth. We will unpack and challenge ourselves to the words of the Gospel of John. Our study will look at the upcoming Big Story lesson, following Lenten midweek worship. There will be food, there will be fellowship and there will be great conversation about this big book we call the Bible. Hope to see you there!

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 must be postmarked by April 1.

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. (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 Pelouquin at jpeloquin@easter.org or 651-452-3680.

March COGS - Meets at Easter Serves! Event Sunday, March 11, 12:30-2:30 p.m., Easter by the Lake \$5 for lunch.

This month, COGS is going to participate in the Easter Serves! event at Easter by the Lake. Mentor groups are invited to bring donated food items (to go to the Eagan Resource Center)- and the mentor group to turn in the most pounds of food will win a great prize!

All summer camp confirmation students and mentors are expected to attend- and Wednesday confirmation students and mentors are invited.

Mission Trip Scholarships Awarded

The Mission Partnership Development Fund, begun in 2004 and administered by the Easter Foundation, supports growing in faith by providing scholarships for mission trip participants. This year's award recipients, Ian Pugh and Adam Pugh, are traveling to Booneville, Arkansas on the Ozarks mission trip in early July.

The Youth Mission Trip Fund was established by the Schmeichel family in memory of their son, Scott. Each year scholarships are awarded to one or more youth taking an Easter-sponsored mission trip. This year's scholarship recipient is Karly Kaufman, participating in the Ozarks mission trip to Booneville, Arkansas in early July. Please contact Laurel Gaard if you have any questions on the Foundation. A brochure describing the Foundation endowment funds is also available at either site. Congratulations to all!

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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Godspell Tickets on Sale March 19

Get ready for Easter Community Theatre's first production! Directed by an incredible production team including Jason Hansen and Kathryn Kidwell, we've got a BIG show!

Performances:

Thurs. April 19, 7:30 p.m.

Fri. April 20, 7:30 p.m.

Sat. April 21, 7:30 p.m.

Sun. April 22, 1 p.m.

Ticket Prices:

\$8 for Adults

\$6 for Students (12 and under)
and Seniors (62 and older)

Purchase Tickets:

Tickets will be available between worship services (9:30-10 a.m. at Easter on the Hill and 10:30-11 a.m. at Easter by the Lake, and after Saturday worship each weekend March 24 & 25 through April 14 & 15.

Ticket forms available at easter.org/godspell and can be returned with payment, to reserve your tickets, to the church office. For more ways to get involved, contact Jason Hansen at jason@easter.org or 651-452-3680.

Help us spread the word! Please "Like" and "Share" this on Facebook!
(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

Easter Memorial Garden

Lilies and other blooming plants decorate worship spaces on Easter Sunday. To contribute financial support for flowers, please sign up online or on the pink Response Sheet at worship by Sunday, March 25. The suggested donation is \$27 per plant. Note "Easter plant" on the memo line of your check. Contact the church office at 651-452-3680.

