



Some Thoughts on Easter

Easter is the greatest Christian feast. As you well know, it celebrates the resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the event on which hangs our entire faith (1Co 15:17). Without His being raised from the dead by the Father, nothing Jesus did—His virgin birth, miracles, teaching, and crucifixion—would matter one bit. The resurrection of the crucified One is the central linchpin of the faith and our hope. This can't be overstated.

Easter is also the oldest Christian feast. Because of the first Easter's greatness, it was the first feast established in the Church. It became known as the "feast of feasts," the "solemnity of solemnities," and the "Great Sunday." The New Testament refers to all Sundays after the resurrection as the "Lord's Day" because of what happened that first Easter. Even in the Acts of the Apostles (Ac 2:42), we see the apostles and the other disciples gathering together on Sundays (the first day of the week). In fact, each Sunday is a mini-Easter because each Sunday the people of God are gathered in the sacred assembly around the Word and sharing in the Divine Meal.

So Easter became a day of great and holy events in the Church's life. Catechumens, those individuals learning the faith, usually received the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper on Easter (during the Vigil service). They could then

fully participate in the Feast of the Church the next morning.

What do you think of when you hear the word "feast"? I think about food and eating a lot. I also think celebration. The word "festival" is a series of feasts, sometimes lasting a period of days, all in celebration. And what do we do at the Feast of Easter? We feast on the Word and eat and drink

the celebratory meal of Christ's atoning death and resurrection, don't we? It's no coincidence that Jesus established the Lord's Supper just a few days before the first Easter.

But the feast wasn't originally called Easter. Rather, it was called "Pascha" (meaning, you guessed it, "festival"). But "Pascha" was the Aramaic word the Jews used to translate "Passover." So Easter and the Passover have a direct connection. Indeed, consider the first Passover in Exodus 12. It was the tenth plague God

brought upon the Egyptians. The firstborn of both man and animal was killed, excepting those in the houses which were marked by lamb's blood on their doorposts and lintels. Instead of visiting death upon them, the angel of death passed over when he saw that blood had already been shed. And isn't that what has happened with Christ? He is the firstborn of the Father, isn't He? And He



shed His blood so that death might pass over us, right? And what do you have if death passes you by? Life—you have life! (See 1Co 5:17 to note where St. Paul makes the direct connection of Christ's death and resurrection to the Passover.)

Still, where do we get the name Easter? The Venerable Bede, a 7th-century English monk and considered the greatest Anglo-Saxon scholar, says that it's derived from the name *Ēostre*, which is the name of a goddess associated with spring. Does this make Easter pagan? Let me ask another question: Is Ash Wednesday pagan? How about Good Friday? What about Holy Saturday? Or any day of the week or month of the year? Wednesday was originally Wodensday, after Woden or Odin, the one-eyed Norse god (Thor's dad, played by Anthony Hopkins, for you Marvel Studios fans). Friday: Frigga's day (Odin's wife). And we could go on. While the Eastern Churches still call the holy day Pascha, we began calling it Easter because it fell during the month of *Ēostre*, or early spring. It's as simple as that.

And what's the significance of spring? New life, right? Martin Luther is quoted as once saying, "Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime." That's just beautiful, I think. I also think it says my point better than I could. Easter lasts 50 days—from the first Sunday of the season and to Pentecost (which, coincidentally, means 50 days). Now, Easter doesn't always start the same time—I'm sure you've notice the day moves around a bit on our calendar. That's because it's dating is based on a different calendar, a lunisolar one, established by the Council of Nicaea in A.D. 325. That makes it a movable feast on our calendars, and it's reckoned as the Sunday after the first full moon following the vernal (or spring) equinox (on about March 20). Now you know how to calculate the date. Of course, you could do like I do and just Google it.

The last things I want to mention before I end this ramblingly newsletter article are some Bible verses about Easter. There's plenty more, obviously, but these'll have to suffice. Happy Easter, my dear saints at Grace! Christ's

resurrection give to you confidence in the faith and a sure hope for what awaits you!

Oh, yeah. The Bible verses:

"Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen" (Lk 24:5-6a).

[Jesus our Lord,] who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification (Rm 4:25).

We were buried therefore with [Jesus] by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life (Rm 6:4).

"This Jesus God raised up, and of that we are all witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing" (Ac 2:32-33).

In Jesus' name,

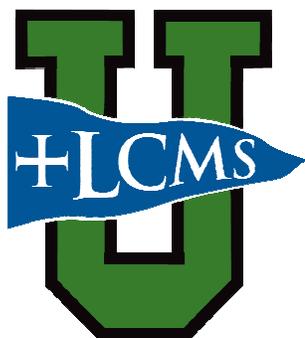
Pastor Mackey



Second Harvest / Thrivent Fundraiser

Members near Muncie, Indiana -Join the Thrivent Member Network - Mid-America Region at Scotty's Brewhouse Muncie in support of the Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Indiana April 4 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Buy dinner for you and your family - or friends and Scotty's will donate 15 percent of the meal's proceeds (excluding food or drink specials) back to this great cause. Plus Thrivent representatives will be on hand to share how you can [#livegenerously](#) using your member resources to provide further assistance to Second Harvest.

Be sure to bring the flyer (on the back table in the Sanctuary and in the weekly email) along to give to your server.



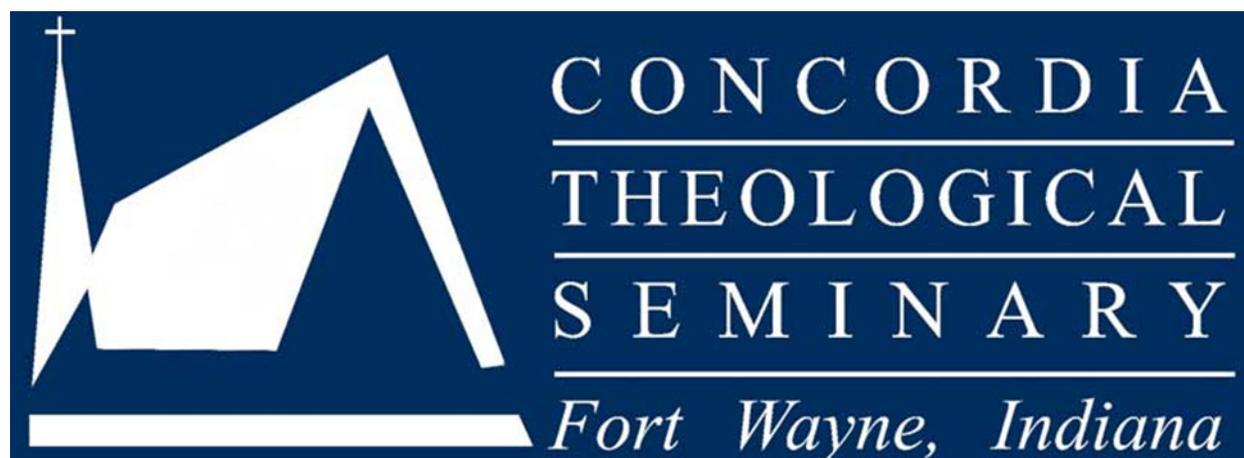
The Case for Miracles and the Resurrection

Students of LCMS U and members of Grace are invited to attend this presentation at Butler University on Saturday, April 14 in the Pharmacy Building. The day begins at 9:00 a.m. with Matins. There is a full day of learning, with Dr. Joshua A. Pagan presenting. The event should end around 4:00 p.m. See Pastor Mackey for more details and to sign up. Flyers are posted on the back table in the Sanctuary and in the office hallway at Grace.

Find out Who the Vicar Will Be

The Vicarage and Deaconess Internship Assignment Service at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne will be April 24 at 7 p.m. More than likely, Grace congregation will find out who will be our first vicar. The vicar will serve both the campus ministry at Ball State University on behalf of the Indiana District and our congregation. We will serve the vicar by providing hands-on experience and training in the parish. It should be a time of excitement and blessing for us all.

You can attend the service (Pastor Mackey is planning to do so) or possibly watch online at www.ctsfw.edu. A link will probably be on the main page April 24.



Announcements

Mites

LWML Mite Box Sunday is April 1. Be sure to gather all that loose change and drop it in the big offering box on the back table in the Sanctuary.

Easter Festivities

Easter Breakfast will be served by the Board of Elders, beginning at 7:30 a.m.

The **Children's Easter Egg Hunt** will begin Easter morning at 9:30 a.m. Please be sure to bring your Easter basket or bag to collect the eggs.

TLC Bible Study

Our Monday morning TLC Bible Study will meet April 9 and 23 at 9:30 a.m. in the library. Our current study is "Death...What then?"

Food Pantry

Pantry needs are: Paper products, dish soap, canned fruit, boxed potatoes, pancake mix & syrup, chicken & tuna helper, pasta sauce. Items may be placed in baskets by the office, bell tower and pantry doors. Items may be placed in baskets by the office, bell tower and pantry doors.

Grace Crafters

Grace Crafters meet the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. We will meet April 9 and 23, questions, contact Cathy Branscome at (765) 759-5285.

Chat n Chew

Come out and join us at Geno's Pizza on Bethel Ave. on April 16 at 11:30a.m. Please RSVP to Diana James or the church email.

Free for Lunch Bunch

Free for Lunch Bunch will be on April 27 at 12:30 p.m. Please RSVP by Sunday, April 22 to Diana James (765) 358-4446.

New Idea for Recycling

Did you know that plastic bags of any kind can be made into sleeping mats? An article in the recent Orphan Grain Train magazine gave information on how to make mats from recyclable plastic bags.

These mats are shipped to countries where

children and individuals sleep on dirt floors, to those without a home, and to locations after natural disasters. We are now collecting plastics bags and making mats! Simply drop your plastic bags in the box downstairs by the mural. We plan on sending them to Orphan Grain Train in Jonesville, Indiana for shipment. If you would like to learn to make the mats contact Janet Walker (765) 744-2657.

Ladies Aid Rummage Sale

Rummage may be brought in and placed in the Sunday school room marked "Rummage." beginning April 15. Please have all rummage at church **before** 1 p.m. Sun., April 29.

April 29 Rummage sorting after 2nd service

April 30 Rummage sorting 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

May 1 Rummage sale 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

May 2 Rummage sale 8:30 a.m.- 11a.m.

Clean up from 11 am - 1 pm.

Volunteers are needed to help sort and on the days of the sale, please contact Diana James if you would like to help. (765) 358-4446.

Community Assistance Day

October is a ways off, but we would like to keep CAD on everyone's radar. Our plan is to continue to give bags of groceries, coats, gloves, hats, scarves and blankets again this year. Please look for the collection boxes in the basement in the next month. The first organization meeting is Thursday, May 3 at 7 p.m. Any questions please contact John and Jane Harman (765) 284-9248.

Neighborhood Clean-Up

Saturday, May 12 we will host the Riverside/Normal City Neighborhood Association for area wide clean-up. We will be picking up litter and tree limbs around the church and in the BSU area. The hours will be 8:00 -11:00 a.m. Coffee and donuts will be provided starting at 7:45 a.m. and a light lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Any questions contact Jane Harman (765) 284-9248. We can use lots of help!

April 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>17 <i>Easter Sunday/Resurrection of Our Lord</i></p> <p>6:30 a.m. Sunrise Divine Service 7:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast 9:20 a.m. Christian Education Hour 9:30 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt 10:30 a.m. Easter Day Divine Service</p>	<p>2 No Choirs Practice Office Closed</p>	<p>3 7:00 p.m. Planning Council</p>	<p>4 4:30—5:45 p.m. LCMS U Bible Study @ Rm 308 7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer/ Confessions Study</p>	<p>5 9:00 a.m. Constitution Committee</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 1:00 p.m. LCMS U Archery Event</p>
<p>8 <i>Second Sunday of Easter</i></p> <p>8 a.m. Divine Service 9:20 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Divine Service 12:00 p.m. Jr. Confirmation</p>	<p>9 9:30 a.m. TLC Bible Study 1:30 p.m. Grace Crafters 6:15 p.m. Hand Bells 7:15 p.m. Choir</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 4:30—5:45 p.m. LCMS U Bible Study @ Rm 308 7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer/ Confessions Study</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 <i>Third Sunday of Easter</i></p> <p>9:20 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Divine Service 12:00 p.m. Jr. Confirmation</p>	<p>16 11:30 a.m. Chat n Chew@ Geno's 6:15 p.m. Hand Bells 7:15 p.m. Choir</p>	<p>17 9 a.m. Pastor @ Winkel Redeemer, Kokomo</p>	<p>18 4:30—5:45 p.m. LCMS U Bible Study @ Rm 308 7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer/ Confessions Study</p>	<p>19 9:00 a.m. Constitution Committee</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 <i>Fourth Sunday of Easter</i></p> <p>8 a.m. Divine Service 9:20 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Divine Service 12:00 p.m. Jr. Confirmation</p>	<p>23 9:30 a.m. TLC Bible Study 1:30 p.m. Grace Crafters 6:15 p.m. Hand Bells 7:15 p.m. Choir</p>	<p>24 1:00 p.m. Parish Services 7:00 p.m. Boards of Elders, Stewardship, and Ed. 7:00 p.m. Vicarage & Deacons Intern Assign Service</p>	<p>25 4:30—5:45 p.m. LCMS U Bible Study @ Rm 308 7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer/ Confessions Study</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 12:30 p.m. Free for Lunch Bunch</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 <i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i></p> <p>8 a.m. Divine Service 9:20 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Divine Service 12:00 p.m. Jr. Confirmation After 2nd Service Rummage Sorting</p>	<p>30 9:30 a.m. Rummage Sorting 6:15 p.m. Hand Bells 7:15 p.m. Choir</p>		<p>Rummage Sale May 1 & 2</p>			

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR APRIL

Acolytes

1st Tony Ruiz
 8th Colton McCoy
 15th Jacob Ludwig
 22nd Emilee Smith
 29th Elise Boyd

Greeters

1st Jim & Laura Shaeffer
 8th Larry & Carol Koss
 15th Robyn & Sherri Clamme
 22nd Linda Cook
 29th Larry & CJ Clingler

Assisting Elder

8:00 a.m. Jack Elsesser
 10:30 a.m. Randy Willman & Dave Price

Ushers

8:00 a.m. Dave Heinkel
 10:30 a.m. Henry Miller & Marvin Addison

Camera Operator

1st Devon Hill
 8th Eric McCoy
 15th Glenn Branscome
 22nd Shea Hill
 29th Devon Hill

Altar Guild

Jane Harman
 Ann Willmann
 Renee Hughes
 Amy Miller

Birthdays

4/1 Britteny Price
 4/2 Kathi Gilland
 Randy Willmann
 4/3 Jane Harman
 Devon Hill
 4/4 Gary Parks Jr.
 4/5 Doug Branscome
 4/7 Nancy Crowe
 4/8 Ann Willmann
 4/11 Conner Ryan
 4/14 Mary Karner
 4/15 Steve Anderson
 4/16 Debbie Haddock
 Greta Krenzke
 4/ 17 Marvin Addison
 4/18 Viveka Melo
 4/20 Travis Overfield
 4/ 21 Doug Fant
 Dan Sears
 4/25 Rebecca Crowe
 4/26 Christina Hill
 Cory Hill
 Jim McCoy
 4/28 Linda Cook
 4/29 Zach Myers
 Larry Temple

Anniversaries

4/9 Shirley & Bill Berger
 4/16 Jeff & Lenore Crone

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E-mail: gracelutheran2@sbcglobal.net

Website: www.gracemuncielcms.com

By Grace through Faith



April 1, The Resurrection of Our Lord

"The Climactic Event" - Mark 16:1-8

Rev. Dr. Daniel Brege

Every human being is under the curse of death. To overcome this curse, God's prophets predicted the Savior would come and die for sin and rise from the dead. His resurrection is a (if not THE) climactic event in mankind's history. Through this climactic event God's people are given resurrection and eternal life. Consistent with His ways, God conveys this wondrous victory through His Word and Sacraments.

April 8, Second Sunday of Easter

"Complete Easter Joy?" - 1 John 1:4

Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer

Need a little more joy in your life? Jesus' resurrection shows us Truth and connects us with others. That's Complete Easter Joy!

April 15, Third Sunday of Easter

"Easter's Good News" - Luke 24:36-49

Rev. James Elsner

We now live in an age of information. News of events locally, nationally, and from around the world are brought to us as they happen. But, is there any "good" news? The resurrection of Jesus is GOOD News – and more!

April 22, Fourth Sunday of Easter

"Jesus, the Good Shepherd" - John 10:11-18

Rev. William Mueller

We treasure the picture of Jesus the Good Shepherd. He's holding little lambs in His arms protecting and caring for them. We are those lambs. In John 10 Jesus gives us the reasons why we can be so sure and certain about His "Good Shepherd" status. He has authority to do what He does and He cares for us – even to give His life for us.

April 29, Fifth Sunday of Easter

"Love by God" - John 4:15-19

Rev. Dr. Walter Maier III

God loves us! It is amazing that He does, since we are sinful human beings, and were by nature His enemies. More than that, God's love for us has a wonderful multi-faceted goal.