

March2024

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Elders: Mar. 3 John P 6 Doug 10 th John S 13 th Andy 17 th Doug 20 th Darryl 24 th Scott Mar.28 th John S Doug 29 th John P Mar. 31 st 7:00am Andy Darryl 9:00am Scott John P					1	2
3 8:45am Sunday School 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Bible Study 2:00pm LGP	4 10:00am Bible Study 4:00pm Altar Guild	5	6 6:30pm Lent Worship Service	7	8	9
10 8:45am Sunday School 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Bible Study 1:00pm Mellen	11 10:00am Bible Study Dartball 7pm	12 1:00pm Sewing Circle	13 5:00pm Soup & Sandwich Supper 6:30pm Lent Worship	14	15	16
17 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Bible Study 2:00pm LGP	18 10:00am Bible Study 5:30pm Council Mtg Dartball 7pm	19	20 6:30pm Lent Worship Service	21 9:00am Winkle	22	23
24 8:45am Sunday School 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Bible Study	25 10:00am Bible Study	26 1:00pm Sewing Circle	27	28 1:30pm Northern Lights Service 6:30pm Maundy Thursday	29 6:30pm Good Friday	30
31 EASTER 7:00am 9:00am	Offices Closed Monday April 1st	OFFICIAL ACTS Death Linda Dehnke 02-09-2924		March Altar Guild Becky Sapper 715-682-8867 Paula Pruss 715-292-1898		



The Mountain Top Messenger

MARCH 2024

Here we are Marching toward Spring! As most of you know June and I recently returned from our annual trek to Phoenix. This is one of those combined work/vacation trips. We had some wonderful down-time in the Arizona sun and spent three days attending the annual Best Practices Ministry (BPM) Conference at Christ Church Lutheran in Phoenix.

I will briefly touch on the relaxation part of the trip, we relaxed, the weather was the best we have experienced in our 8 years of making this pilgrimage, with temps being in the upper 60's to mid 70's pretty much every day and mostly sunshine. We spent some time exploring the desert, we visited our granddaughter and her husband in Benson, AZ about a 160 miles South East of Phoenix. She and her husband live and work at the largest exotic bird sanctuary in the US. The visit with them and the tour of the sanctuary with its over 800 exotic birds were both really great. We are going to try and extend our visit with them next year because of there being so much to see in and around that area. We experienced a lot of good food and made a number of new friends and I even snuck in a round of golf. All and all it was very rejuvenating.



However, the most rejuvenating part was truly the BPM conference. Christ Church has been putting on this conference for 12 years now, it started with just a couple hundred people and this year there were over 3,000 attendees for all walks of church life; pastor, vicars, DCE's, lay leaders, and regular church members. The entire conference is free, the entire cost is covered by Christ Church and everything is put together by the 300-400 church volunteers. Even all of the presenters donate their time and cover their own expenses. The church and volunteers even provide all of the meals and snacks as well, and there where lots of snacks. And that is just the beginning, there are literally hundreds of breakout sessions that you can attend, one of the biggest challenges is what to go too, there are so many options.

In years past I focused a lot on media presentation, how to steam, and how to make all of the online stuff work, and I believe we have been very successful in our online presence because of a lot of that training.

This year, I changed course. See if you can pick my focus from the names of a few of the sessions I attended; Grow your Church through the power of storytelling, Sing Unto Him a New Song-Adapting Traditional Hymns to Contemporary Music, 2 Kingdom Citizenship, Engaging the culture for effective Mission, What Yoda and Luke Skywalker can teach us about making disciples, Big Outreach for Small Towns, Attachment, mirroring, and the neuroscience of disciple making. Well, that was most of them, there were a couple others and the theme still applies. So to sum up, Growing the Church, Making Disciples, and Effective Missioning. All things that are near and dear to my heart, and all things that you might see sliding into focus right here at Zion as we continue to move into the new year, nothing drastic, the change will be slow, intentional, and directed, so I will count on those of you who have read this far down to let me know how I’m doing. Oh, June attended a number of different sessions, on a number of different subjects, and actually she and I only attended one breakout session in common the whole 3 days, and I think those of you on the evangelism committee might be seeing some new ideas coming your way, so if you want to hear about those, maybe pop into the next evangelism committee meet.

I think that is just about enough for now, I want to thank everyone who covered for me and made it possible for us to experience this wonderful time of rest and recuperation. I also want to thank everyone for showing up for the wonderful soup and sandwich dinner on the 28th, I believe it is our first one in over 3 years and it was great and I hope to see you all at the next one on March 13th. Thank you again for everything and God Bless!

The Lord Bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you, the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
Pastor Rick



- Sunday March 3rd John 2:13-22
- March 6th Midweek Lent Three “Strike the Rock!” (Exodus 17:1–7)
- Sunday March 10th John 3:14-21
- March 13th Midweek Lent Four “Mine!” (Exodus 20:1–17)
- Sunday, March 17th Mark 10:35-45
- March 20th Midweek Lent Five “Digging Ourselves into a Hole” (Exodus 32:1–14)

Holy Week:

March 24th Palm Sunday “A New Beginning!” (Exodus 34:1–8)



*The Lord is my strength and song,
And He has become
my salvation.*
- Exodus 15:2

- March 28th Maundy Thursday “Access!” (Exodus 24:1–11)
- March 29th Good Friday “Agnus Dei” (Exodus 12:1–13)
- March 31st Easter “Against all Odds!” (Exodus 15:1–18)

**Wednesday, March 13th, 5:00pm
Soup and Sandwich Supper**

Exodus 34:1
King James Version

And the LORD said unto Moses, Hew thee two tables of stone like unto the first: and I will write upon these tables the words that were in the first tables, which thou brakest.

Easter Word Search

G	S	N	O	I	T	P	M	E	D	E	R	Y	M
J	J	U	Y	K	W	E	C	I	O	F	X	O	L
R	L	K	F	Q	N	U	W	V	U	J	E	C	K
X	Y	N	G	S	R	H	R	E	D	P	C	C	E
R	C	R	O	A	V	Q	U	I	R	G	H	N	S
I	F	Q	Z	M	I	H	E	R	A	C	Y	T	U
S	A	O	P	I	R	C	A	R	O	H	S	V	E
E	I	A	S	O	C	D	U	B	C	I	E	R	L
N	T	H	R	O	G	T	E	S	F	J	P	G	K
W	O	T	N	C	U	F	D	K	A	L	S	M	I
H	P	V	O	S	B	Z	W	M	Y	S	H	F	U
P	M	E	S	B	Z	W	E	M	L	S	D	R	
E	T	G	L	M	E	G	K	B	S	L	R		

CROSS
JESUS
MIRACLE
REJOICE
SAVIOR
TOMB

CHURCH
FAITH
MARY
REDEMPTION
RISEN
SUNDAY

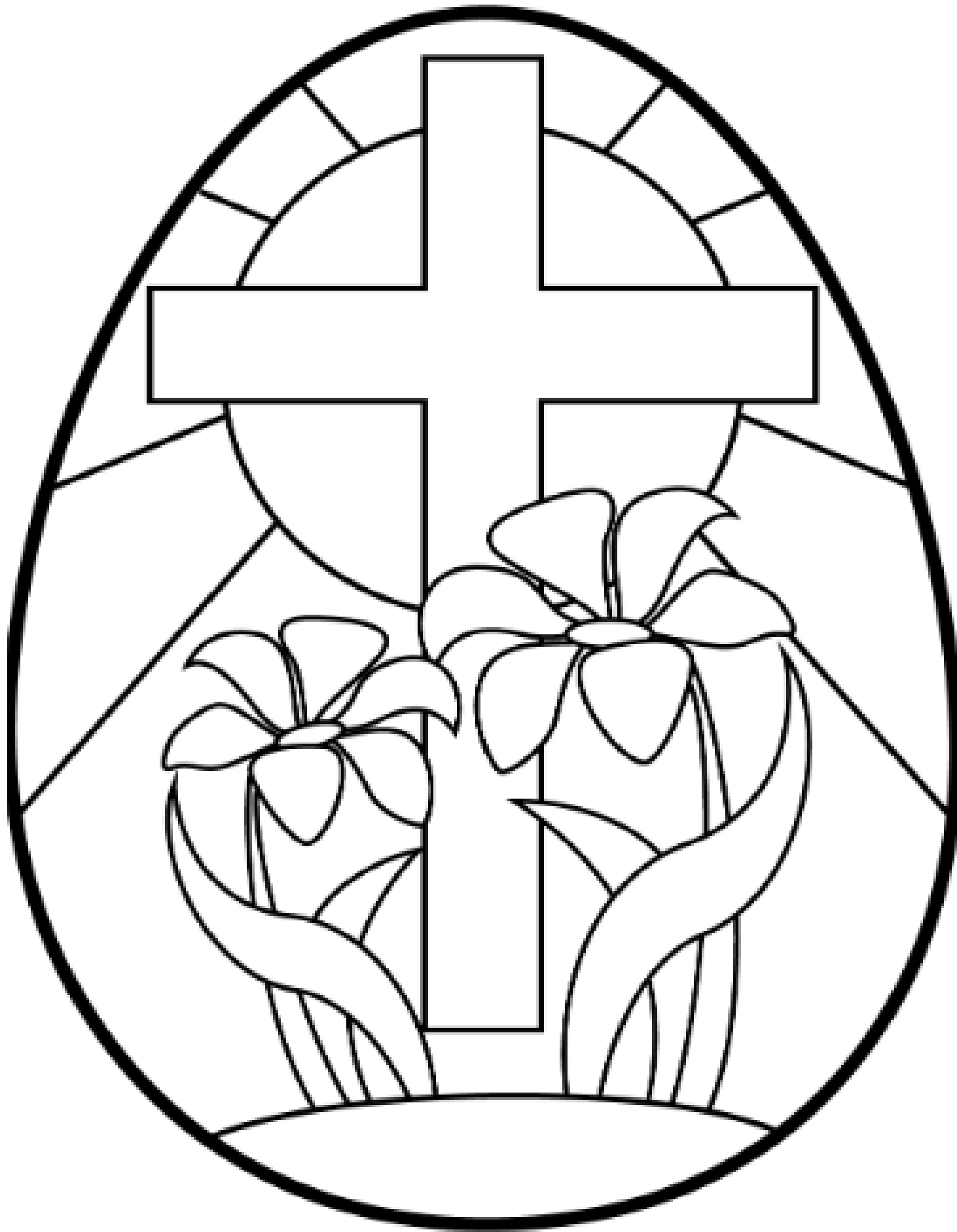
APOSTLES
CROWN
LAMB
PRAYER
RESURRECTION
SON

He is not here. He has risen!

Words taken from John 20:1-18 (NIV)

EARTH
DARK
ANGELS
WOMAN
GARDENER
TOMB
RISE

WEEK
STONE
WHITE
CRY
MARY
FATHER
DEAD



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday Worship Service 9:00am live streamed
Wednesday Service 6:30pm worship service
Sunday School - 8:45am 1st - 7th grade
Bible Studies— Sundays 10:15am Mondays 10:00am

Pastor Rick Williams - 715-209-0479

Office Hours: M /T/Th 9-5 Wed. 12-8 Fri. off

Please call ahead if you need to speak with Pastor.

Office Secretary Lynn Ladd 715-682-6075 Office Hours M/T/W 8:30-2:30

Days and times may change.

Church President: John Pruss 715-292-4825 **Head Elder:** Darryl Warren 715-492-0488

Little Friends of Jesus Child Care Center: 715-682-5185

LFOJ Administrator: JoAnn 715-682-6075

Website www.zionashland.org **E-mail** secretary@zionlutheranashland.com

PRAYERS for Home-bound, Assisted Living, Nursing Home

Those who aren't able to attend common worship that they would find comfort knowing that the Lord is with them.

*Ingrid Pocernich
Arlene Zimmerman
Violet Basina*

PRAYERS FOR PROTECTION

For our full-time troops and public servants, for travel, missionaries, and for peace and protection for families.

*David Wright
Jordan Thimm
Andrew Pruss*

PRAYERS FOR HEALTH AND HEALING

For good test results, treatment, positive thinking, healing, and comfort during cancer treatments, for those suffering from addiction, mental illness and for healing, strength, comfort, and peace for family we pray for:



Brad Prill
Vi Basina
James Fletcher
Sheryl Hildebrandt
Harold Larson
Diane Beiersdorff
Linda Stenroos
Steve Key
Tim Erickson
Patty Hmielewski
Stephanie Pruss
Denise Krueger
Abby Mertig
Gary Jensen

Riley Bretting
Mike Trimble
Jamie Klema
Mike Ariens
Karen Piff
Molly Colgrove
Chuck Sandor
John Belany
Ingrid Pocernich
Jim Gucinski
and those in our hearts

Little Girls Point Immanuel and Mellen
Immanuel as they search for a new Pastor.

Please let us know if there are any names that can be removed



Dear Lord, "We come to You today with heavy hearts, as we lift up those who are in need of prayer. We ask that You would bring healing and restoration to their body, mind, and spirit" Amen.

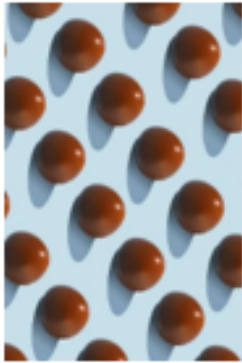


Amazing Easter trivia!

Easter trivia is a fantastic way to learn more about this joyous holiday. This fun Easter trivia will make for good table talk over Easter brunch or at an Easter party.

Reese's Peanut Butter Eggs are the most popular Easter candy

Move aside Lindt Chocolate Bunny and Brach's Jelly Bird Eggs — Reese's is the king of Easter. Instacart reports that Reese's Peanut Butter Eggs are America's favorite Easter candy by volume.



Easter is the most popular day to attend church

People take Sunday service to heart on Easter. Forty-three percent of Americans plan to attend church in celebration. Easter closely outnumbers Christmas Eve and Palm Sunday for the title of "most church attendees."



People spend \$4 billion on clothing for Easter

Easter Sunday is a time to dress up in pastel button-ups, khakis, and floral dresses. Many people buy a new outfit for this celebratory holiday. In total, people spend a whopping \$4 billion on clothing for Easter.

84% of Americans give or share candy on Easter

From chocolate bunnies to [jelly beans](#), candy is a huge part of Easter celebrations, and perhaps, bigger than we thought. Eighty-four percent of Americans give or share candy in celebration of the holiday.

Americans prefer filled chocolate eggs over solid or hollow ones

The disappointment of a hollow chocolate egg seems to be a universal feeling across the U.S. People want a little something extra when they bite into their chocolate egg, and that 'something extra' is a cream or caramel filling. Fifty-two percent of Americans prefer a filled chocolate egg, 32% prefer a solid chocolate egg, and 16% prefer a hollow egg.

An egg hunt is the most popular way to celebrate Easter

Easter dinner, egg dyeing, family photos, and Easter service are all popular events on Easter Sunday. However, the beloved Easter egg hunt snags the number one spot for the top Easter activity with 83% of people participating.

In Hungary, young girls are soaked with water on Easter

The tradition dates back to A.D. times when tribes inhabited Hungary. The act is still prevalent today.

Girls dress in traditional clothing, and boys throw a bucket of water at them. The practice is called the "watering of the girls." It's thought to promote fertility.



New York City hosts the oldest Easter parade in the U.S.

While many cities across the U.S. celebrate Easter with a parade, New York City's parade is the biggest, oldest, and most famous of them all.

The tradition dates back to the 1870s. Attendees wear their Sunday best and watch as floats



make their way from St. Patrick's Cathedral up to 57th Street.

60% of parents plan to give their kids Easter baskets

Children are never too old for Easter baskets. Sixty percent of parents plan to give their kids a basket of goodies on Easter, no matter if they live at home or have a home of their own.

Easter is the oldest Christian holiday

While this may not come as a surprise to some, Easter is the oldest of the Christian holidays (Christmas included!) Before Easter became the designated celebration of Jesus's resurrection, many Christians would celebrate this miracle every Sunday.

Zion Lutheran Church Annual Meeting February 18, 2024

Called to order by John Pruss, President

Opening prayer by Pastor Scott Holoubek

Attendance – 22 No new members attending

2023 Minutes as printed. Motion to accept 1- Carol Key 2- Nick Jarvela MMC

2023 Financial Report as printed. Motion to accept 1- Nick Jarvela 2- Rick Nutt MMC

New Business:

Nick Jarvela reviewed the process of the roof repair. Will inform congregation of timeline of repairs as soon as he is informed by the contractor.

Tami Thimm has assumed the position of Financial Secretary and Andy Pruss has assumed the position of Treasurer. Motion made by Nick Jarvela and seconded by Paula Pruss to accept the changes. MMC Thanks to Lisa Guski and Chuck Chronis for years served.

Zion in need of new Sexton. Rate of pay is \$15.00/hr.

A motion was made by Sandy Frisco, seconded by Judy Nevala and carried to begin a campaign to defray the cost of the roof repair. A donation box will be placed in the Narthex and any ideas for other money raising events can be brought to John Pruss.

Adjournment. 1- Randy Spangle 2- Paula Pruss MMC

Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer

Zion Lutheran Church Council February 12, 2024

Call to Order John Pruss, President

Opening Devotion, Darryl Warren, Head Elder

Roll Call - John Pruss, President Darryl Warren, Elder & Education

Nick Jarvela, Trustee Jule Jarvela, Secretary

Lori Anderson, Evangelism Tami Thimm, Financial Secretary

JoAnn Martikonis, LFOJ

Approval of Minutes - 1- Lori Anderson 2- Darryl Warren MMC

Pastor's Report – None, on vacation.

Treasurer's Report – As Printed

Approval of Agenda – 1- Lori Anderson 2- Tami Thimm MMC

Board Reports

Elders – None Trustees - None Financial Secretary – None

LFOJ – Chad Lipske resigning from Board, needs to be replaced by Zion member, Fundraiser for Easter, Angel Fund working well, begun to reimburse Zion

Evangelism – Directories being distributed, Lenten Soup & Sandwich suppers on Feb. 28 & March 13. New Member Dinner on April 21st, Church Picnic August 4, 2024

Education - Sunday School ending in May

Official Acts

Baptisms - Nate Steven Beiersdorff 01-31-2024

Theo John Beiersdorff 01-31-2024

Jacob Trace Coverston 01-31-2024

Old Business

Budget – Motion to approve as printed Nick Jarvela 2- Lori Anderson MMC

Memorial Committee – to be discussed on Pastor's return

New Business

Janitor resigned as of February 19, 2024. Will begin the search to fill the job

Agenda for Annual Meeting to include

Budget for 2024

New Treasurer, Andy Pruss New Financial Secretary, Tami Thimm

Update on roof repairs

Next meeting March 18, 2024

Adjournment 1 – Nick Jarvela 2- Lori Anderson MMC

Closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Jule Jarvela, Secretary

FEBRUARY LFOJ NEWSLETTER

Dear parents and guardians,

I hope your year is off to a great start!

We are so excited for what is in store at the center this year!



TOTVILLE NEWS: Greetings from the Infant room!

This month, our Bible stories were: A good Heart, The Children, A Hole in the Roof, and The Man who was too little. We made footprint hearts for the bulletin board, played with playdough, and had fun with shaving cream! The older children did some coloring and made Valentines. We would like to welcome our newest friends, Lovell and Grayson. We are happy to have them join us!

"We love because He first loved us."

-Denise and Nikki

TODDLER TIDBITS/LEARNER LANE: Happy February from our 2 through 4 year olds! We have had a mixed age group for a few weeks, so the kids have been enjoying being together! The weather has been absolutely beautiful and almost all the snow is gone from our outdoor play area! The kids recently decorated snowflakes to add to the bulletin board. They have loved playing with playdough, puzzles and babies lately, and their favorite songs right now are Peace like a River and Freeze Dance!

- Tressa and JoAnn



UPDATES:

Our first fundraiser is coming up soon! I will begin handing out order forms in the next week. The fundraiser is through Saykly's Confectionery and Gifts, and we will be selling chocolates and sweets for Easter! The Fundraiser will run from February 26th through March 11th. The orders will be here just in time for Easter around March 22nd! If you have any questions beforehand, please let us know. This will be a great way to make some money for the center and get some sweet treats, too!

Cameras, the security pad for the door, and the new dutch door should be in by the second week of March! We have been simply waiting for the door we ordered to come in. We are looking forward to having some extra precautionary measures for the center as well as much needed updates.

Emily Collis will be starting at the center beginning the end of February! She will be working mostly in our Learner room ages 3-5. We are looking forward to having her working with us and know that she will be an asset to the center!

We are still in the process of looking for a part-time float position. We are currently interviewing potential candidates and hope to have someone soon!

God Bless,

Tressa Groom
LFOJ Director

JoAnn Martikonis
LFOJ Administrator

Good Friday is recognized as a holiday in only 12 states

Good Friday, the commemoration of Jesus's crucifixion, is not a federally recognized holiday, so it is up to each state to decide whether they want to acknowledge the day or not. The 12 states that recognize Good Friday as a holiday are Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Tennessee, and Texas.

Germany banned dancing on Good Friday
Since 1919, Germany has banned dance celebrations on religious holidays, including Good Friday, so holidays may be recognized in peace. The ban dates back to the Middle Ages but was not officially instituted until 1919.

Each American household is expected to spend \$192 on Easter celebrations
From gifts and decorations to candy and clothes, the average American household is expected to spend \$192 in celebration of Easter. This total average spending increases nearly every year.

People buy more candy for Easter than Halloween

Shockingly, Halloween is not the most popular holiday to buy candy, nor is Valentine's Day or Christmas. Instead, people buy the most candy for Easter with over \$800 million dollars in candy sales the week before the big day.

180 million eggs are purchased for Easter every year

Eggs are a big part of Easter celebrations. People dye, paint, hide, and eat them — not to mention the many other Easter crafts where eggs are used. All of those eggs add up to 180 million that are purchased each year for Easter.

Cherry is the most popular Jelly Belly flavor

Despite the hundreds of flavors Jelly Belly has created over the years, "Very Cherry," one of their original eight flavors is the most popular. It launched in 1976 and has held the title of 'favorite flavor' since 1998.

The Easter Bunny hopped into the United States in the 1700s

For kids and adults alike, the Easter Bunny has long been a symbol of the holiday. Though the exact origins of the fluffy, long-eared mammal are unknown, Americans first started making

nests for a mythical rabbit in the 1700s. The tradition started when German immigrants settled in the United States, bringing with them their tradition of an egg-laying hare called "Osterhase."

The largest chocolate Easter egg was over 34 feet tall

Though most Easter eggs will fit easily within your palm, that isn't the case with all of them. In 2011, the largest Easter egg ever created was made in Italy, measuring over 34 feet tall and weighing 7,200 kilograms. The best part? Aside from an internal steel frame to keep it in place, the giant egg was made out of pure chocolate and marshmallow.



Dyeing eggs began in Ukraine

The art of dyeing eggs began in Ukraine. We have Ukrainians to thank for the art of egg dyeing, which originated in ancient Ukraine and is called pysanka. Painted pysanka eggs were even

believed to have powers that would bring fertility and good harvests in the new season.

It used to take more than a day to make a single Peep

Believe it or not, it used to take 27 hours to make a single Peep back in 1953. Back then, Rodda Candy Company made the marshmallow chicks with a pastry tube, and the Peeps took over a day to set. Today, you can have a fresh Peep ready for eating in just six minutes.

Most people go for the ears first on a chocolate bunny

Chocolate bunnies almost always find their way into Easter baskets around the world, but not everyone can agree on how to eat them. According to a 2021 survey conducted by WalletHub, 78% of people go for the ears first when enjoying the treat while the remaining 22% are evenly split between going for the tail or feet first.

The largest chocolate Easter bunny took eight days to make

In 2017, nine professional chocolatiers in Brazil set the record for the largest-ever chocolate Easter bunny, which took eight days to create. The finished rabbit stood nearly 15 feet tall and weighed over 9,000 pounds.





In Switzerland, a cuckoo bird delivers Easter eggs to kids

Rather than looking forward to a visit from the Easter Bunny, children in Switzerland are raised to believe a cuckoo bird is the animal that delivers

their Easter eggs and treats.

The world's largest Easter egg hunt had over half a million eggs

Also in 2007, Florida's Cypress Gardens Adventure Park hosted the world's largest Easter egg hunt, which included a record-breaking 501,000 hidden eggs. Nearly 10,000 people joined in on the epic search.

The most expensive Easter egg ever sold at auction went for \$18.5 million

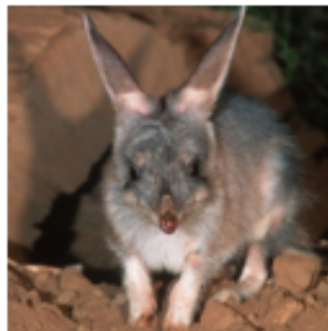
A gold-and-pink Fabergé egg covered in diamonds was once created by the Romanov family as an engagement gift for French aristocrat Baron Edouard de Rothschild. Over 100 years later in 2007, that egg sold for \$18.5 million.

Every year, the White House hosts a special Easter celebration

The White House is known for throwing a good holiday party, and Easter is no exception. For over 130 years, the president has hosted an Easter Egg Roll on the South Lawn, where children roll pastel hard-boiled eggs with a spoon. The tradition began during Rutherford B. Hayes' administration in 1878 after Congress banned children from rolling eggs on Capitol Hill.

In Australia, the Easter mascot is a bilby

Children in Australia also don't expect a visit from the Easter Bunny. Instead, the traditional Easter mascot in Australia is the bilby, an endangered burrowing marsupial, which is also known as the rabbit-eared bandicoot.



People used to throw eggs instead of hiding them

In medieval Britain, people used to participate in an egg-throwing festival at church rather than an egg hunt. To start, the priest would throw a hard-boiled egg to one of the choir boys. That egg would then get tossed from one choir boy to the

next. When the clock struck 12, whoever had the egg was declared the winner.

The official flower of Easter is the White Lily

All spring flowers have a place during Easter, but the White Lily holds a special title as the official flower of Easter. This tradition began when an American florist imported the flower to the United States



from Bermuda in the 1880s, and they've remained popular ever since, symbolizing new life and purity.

The tradition of wearing new clothes on Easter goes back centuries

Buying a festive Easter outfit is not only a great excuse to go shopping but is also in keeping with one of the holiday's oldest traditions. Christians began wearing new clothes on Easter in Medieval times to symbolize the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Easter bonnets are a relatively new tradition

While dressing up for Easter is nothing new, bonnets didn't become fashionable until 1933. It was during this year that the composer Irving Berlin popularized them with his song, "Easter Parade," which has lyrics about elite New Yorkers showing off their Easter outfits.



Americans consume 16 billion jelly beans for Easter

Jelly beans first became a traditional Easter candy in the 1930s, and they're still wildly popular today. According to a survey by WalletHub in 2021, candy eaters in the United States consume 16 billion jelly beans each Easter, which is enough candy to circle the globe three times.



as parsley, chives, broccoli, bell peppers, and lettuce to help provide for the family. But, she had been seeking a way to supplement their income and cover basic expenses.

That's when Lilian's father heard about a local Samaritan's Purse project that would be teaching women, particularly single mothers struggling to support their families, how to raise hens and profit from their eggs.

The prospect of starting a small business gave Lilian hope for her family's economic future. She also was excited for the additional source of protein that the eggs would offer, helping her daughter grow healthy and strong.



ZION'S MISSION OF THE MONTH (MARCH/APRIL) "BABY CHICKS"

GOD USED A LIVELIHOODS PROGRAM IN BOLIVIA TO RESTORE A WOMAN'S FAITH IN CHRIST.

Lilian and her 4-year-old daughter live with her parents in a rural community at the base of the snow-capped Illimani mountains in Bolivia. She grows a variety of vegetables, such

- For a **donation of \$14**, you can supply a dozen baby chicks to a family in need. (Or whatever amount you can give.)
- Additionally, your contribution can help set up a chicken coop or provide basic veterinary care for these chicks. These baby chicks become a powerful symbol of God's provision, offering hope and sustenance to families struggling with poverty. By supporting this project, you're making a tangible impact on their lives.

Information is on the mission table by the Sanctuary doors.

