



Faith in Action

Faith United Methodist Church
1530 Oakdale Avenue
West St. Paul MN 55118
(651) 457-5686
Faihumc@usfamily.net

"Grounded in Christ, open to make a difference – together"

April 2014

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 20

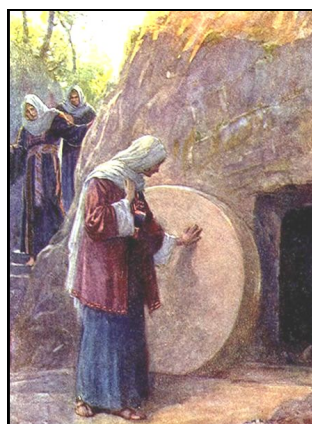
We celebrate the resurrection of our Lord!

8:00 a.m. Breakfast

Pancakes, bacon & sausage;
milk, juice, and coffee will be served
in the Fellowship Hall until 9:00 a.m.

9:30 a.m. Worship

We will celebrate the resurrection in the
sanctuary with the choir singing, and
worship concluding with the singing of the
"Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's Messiah



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It's THAT Time!

Our 10th annual
Live & Silent Auction
Saturday, April 5, 2014



4:30 pm — Preview auction items

5:00 pm — Dinner

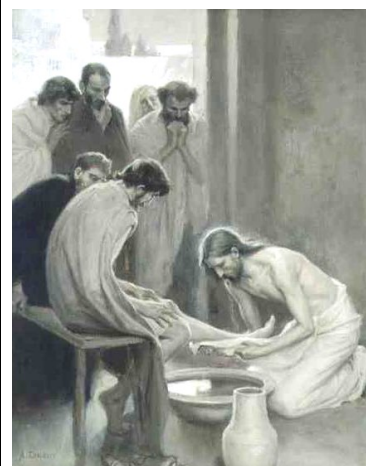
(homemade beef stew)

6:00 pm — Live Auction

7:00 pm — Silent Auction closes

Tickets: 12-adult \$7.00

Ages 4-11 \$5.00



April Birthdays

- 2 -

4/2 — Jan Kostner	4/15 — Ross Kropp	4/25 — Clayton Short
4/7 — Patricia Giorgini	4/16 — Collette Peterson	4/25 — Madison Worden
4/9 — Savannah Buse	4/18 — Kayla Rebischke	4/26 — Kathryn Peterson
4/10 — Donald Seaquist	4/19 — Brandon Adams	4/27 — Leona Opp
4/10 — Nicholas Sielski	4/20 — Melinda Suchecki	4/29 — Noah DeNardo
4/13 — Willmer Binder	4/21 — Bev Nielsen	4/30 — Christina Eberly
4/13 — Liz Chun	4/25 — Joan Ryan	4/30 — Ava Spatafore
4/14 — Evan Emery		

- If your birthday is missing or listed incorrectly, contact the church office for additions/corrections. Happy Birthday, everyone! •

Thank you to and for during March...

- **Greeters:** Taffy Storck, Laurel Venhuizen, Gil & Dawn Kinnunen, Judy Pfenning, and Carol Schuldt
- **Liturgists:** Tim Pippert, Bill Bonkowske, Ann Beardshear, Bruce Opp, and Lucy Schwendinger
- **Serving refreshments:** Judy Turk, Claudia & Ava Spatafore, Judy Pfenning, and Bonnie Dick
- **Communion Steward:** Gloria Gurtin
- **Thank you** to Linda Cox, Jeff Cox, and Carol Schuldt for helping assemble the March newsletter.
- **Thank you** to Doug Van Siclen & Pat Williams for helping prepare the sanctuary for Lent.
- **Thank you** to the Board of Trustees, the Sanctuary Choir, Karen Cohoes and the Men's Group for providing supper for the Wednesday evening suppers.
- **Thank you** to the actors in the Wednesday evening dramas: Marsha Spatafore, Claudia Spatafore, Judy Pfenning, Gil Kinnunen, Dawn Kinnunen, Barbara Schroeder, Sharon Yekaldo, Bill Bonkowske, Liz Chun, Taffy Storck, and George Brown
- **Thank you!** For the March food drive, Faith church had set a goal of 800 lbs. for the food shelf. We broke that in two weeks! Then the kids set the goal at 1,200 lbs, and we had passed that in the 3rd week. The final poundage will be announced after the beginning of April. We want to thank everyone for their great help for Neighbors, Inc. food shelf.



- To the congregation of Faith UMC, "Thank you very much for your commitment to raise funds for the ministry of Imagine No Malaria. We would like to see this ministry fulfilled so that African families can protect their children from malaria. Our records show that you have contributed \$3,022.38, through the conference office, to Imagine No Malaria as of December 31, 2013. Your contribution showcases your commitment to our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. You will make an unquantifiable impact not only on children in Africa, but their families and communities. Thank you for imagining a world without malaria, a world where parents have the chance to watch all of their children grow into adulthood."

— Rev. Judy Zabel, Dist. Superintendent
122 W. Franklin Ave., Suite 400, Minneapolis 55404



Steps on the Journey

It has been a long, tiring winter. Most of us are ready to see the snow gone and feel the warmth of the sun. I don't know about you, but every time the weather forecaster says something about snow I cringe. What keeps my hopes alive is the fact that it is April and the snow won't last very long. But there are days it feels like it goes on forever.

One of the exciting things that comes into my life about this time is the order forms from some of the kids in my life asking me to buy flowers and plants. It gives me renewed hope, something to look forward toward. I know in a few months I will be putting my hands in the warm soil. The other thing that happens is the daffodils arrive at the store. I usually pick up a bunch or two and the bright yellow flowers brighten the day.

Sometimes I feel about Lent the way I have felt about this winter. I am ready for it to be gone. I have had enough time to think about my faith journey. I have confessed enough sin (and I know that it hardly scratches the surface). It seems like it goes on forever.

But then before I can turn around it is Easter. The brightness of the day, the promise of the resurrection, the new possibilities of what God can do seem to flood my world. It reminds me that God is always up to something special, something I can't even dream of. It renews my soul, the world seems brighter and I want to get my hands into something warm and exciting.

God offers us the hope of resurrection and new life each and every day but especially in this season as we look forward to Easter.

Open your eyes and see what is doing around you. Open your hearts and feel what God is doing in you. And continue on the journey of faith.

*Peace in Christ,
Gail*

Faith to Host United Methodist Foundation

On Thursday, April 10 Faith UMC will host a workshop sponsored by the Minnesota United Methodist Foundation. We are in need of people willing to be hosts—making sure there is coffee, tea, and water available; helping with registration; helping set up for lunch (lunch is provided) and cleaning up. Help is needed between 8:15 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. You do not have to be here the whole time. If you can help for any of the day, please let Pastor Gail know. Also, we are in need of cookies and bars for 100 people. If you would be willing to provide a pan or a recipe, please let Pastor Gail know as well.

River Bend Mission Team will be hosting a Chili cook-off & silent auction at First Covenant Church (1280 Arcade) on Saturday, April 12 starting at 5:00pm. Cost is \$10 to get in. (Kids are negotiable) The doors open at 5:00. There will be music, chili, and silent auction items (LOTS of neat things!) Come for a great time and good chili! OR..... If you think your chili is the BEST, and you would like to enter it, give Rod Scofield a call (651-248-8495) or an email (rodscofield@gmail.com) for more info about entering a chili. Come support Barbara Schroeder and the rest of the River Bend Mission Team. Eat great chili, then bid on some fun auction items, listen to some good music, hang out with some fun people. (Also: Gil Kinnunen is entering a chili!)

Congregational Care Concerns:

- ♦ **Henry Hovey** had back surgery and is recovering at Good Samaritan Home in St. Croix Falls.

Ongoing Concerns: *(these will be listed for 3 months and then removed. If you wish for them to remain on the list longer, please contact the church office.)*

- ♦ **Benjamin Brummund**, son of Ron Brummund, Jr., continues to struggle with health problems.
- ♦ **Vi Rabe**, Marianne Young's mother, in hospice.

Concerns beyond our doors:

- ♦ Those separated from family
- ♦ Those living with degenerative conditions
- ♦ Those who are hungry
- ♦ Those who have lost jobs or their homes
- ♦ Those who struggle due to natural disasters
- ♦ Those who grieve
- ♦ Those who are uncertain about the future

The Money Pot welcomes your change at any time to help support the offering of the month.

Your Money Pot contributions during April will support One Great Hour of Sharing. Money raised for One Great Hour of Sharing goes to support the work of the United Methodist Committee on Relief.



www.UMCmarket.org

Do you shop online? Did you know you that you could help support Faith Church each time you shop online? How, you might ask. By using the UMCmarket. The United Methodist Church has partnered with hundreds of online stores that are donating a portion of your purchase back to your home church, anywhere from a 1% to 9% sales commission.

At UMCmarket you can choose to shop for merchandise and from stores in many different categories: books, movies, fashion, sports equipment or food for your pet. This includes an online travel agency with guaranteed lowest rates on flights, hotels, and car rentals. Best of all, every booking will generate a donation to our church. There are no hidden fees or increased costs.

Here is what you do:

Visit www.UMCmarket.org and create an account. During the account setup, you will be asked to designate a United Methodist Church to which the commission for the purchase will go.

To shop, you can log into UMmarket or use a free downloadable add-on for your Web browser and shop at the partner retailer. The commission will come to the church on a regular basis. A simple way to support Faith Church!



The Prayer Chain is active. If you have a prayer concern, contact Esther Craine at 651-457-6959. Please also contact the pastor so she knows what is going out over the prayer chain. If you wish to be involved in this ministry please speak with Pastor Gail.

Hospital Calls: If you learn someone is hospitalized, please contact the church office or Pastor Gail. With new privacy laws, hospitals no longer call when a member is admitted. We would rather have several calls telling us of someone's hospitalization than not to know. Thank you.

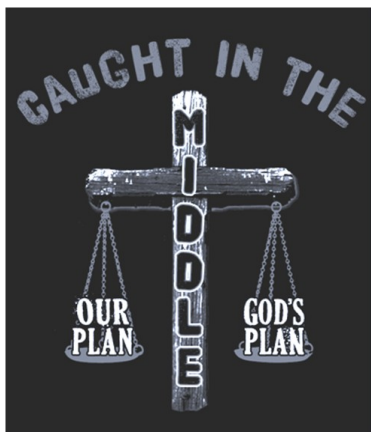
For your times of devotion this month:

Remember to pick up the **NEWEST issues** of devotional publications The Upper Room (daily readings in regular or large print), or Alive Now. These booklets are found on the table by the parking lot door.

Coon Rapids United Methodist Church's

Solid Rock Singers

Proudly Presents



**Sunday, April 6, 2014
9:30 a.m. worship**



Solid Rock Singers is a youth choir from Coon Rapids United Methodist Church consisting of approximately 40-50 youth in grades 6-12.

Garage Sale COMING!

There will be a garage sale in August! Linda will have room for storing donated items for this event at the end of the Sunday school hall — the door will be marked. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Cox at 651-778-8090.

Camping

With the long winter, it's hard to believe summer is actually coming! Now is the time to begin thinking about summer camp.

Brochures for the many camps sponsored by the Minnesota United Methodist Church are available on the table in the Narthex.



MAKE A DIFFERENCE

difference /'diferəns / [dif-er-uhns]

One Great of Sharing

United Methodist Committee on Relief, (UMCOR) is a humanitarian arm of The United Methodist Church. One Great of Sharing (OGHS) gifts underwrite UMCOR's "costs of doing business." That means every penny of every gift you make to a specific UMCOR project will be spent on that project—not on home office administrative costs.

Offering gifts over and above those used to cover administrative costs are channeled where they're most needed. UMCOR's specialized ministries—responding in disaster, fighting hunger, alleviating poverty, providing relief supplies around the world, and offering hospitality to immigrants and refugees—assist the most vulnerable people whose need is greatest.

UMCOR receives no World Service funds or any other apportionments. Your gifts mean we're right there with hardworking families, people affected by storms or war, disaster or disease. Self-sufficiency is the goal.

Through OGHS, we share the goodness of life with those who hurt:

- On the Gulf Coast of the United States, where Hurricane Katrina and other storms devastated families from Florida to Texas;
 - In Sudan, where hardworking families persist despite war and displacement;
 - In Sierra Leone, where we're fighting the spread of malaria; and
- In Georgia, Eastern Europe, where a cold winter tests endurance.

In 81 countries in all, you assure your church is in the lead to alleviate suffering through One Great Hour of Sharing.

The **One Great Hour of Sharing** offering supports the administrative costs that underwrite the United Methodist Committee on Relief. This means that by giving faithfully to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering, all contributions to UMCOR go to the specific project and not administrative costs.



PRAYER WORKSHOP

Listening and Praying with Beads

Just before bedtime one night, my son, Matthew, and I were reading a children's devotional book that encourages children to find time when they can slow down, turn off computers and digital music, and hear what God is saying to them. This topic was well-timed for our household. All three of us — my son, my husband, and I — love to spend time surfing the Internet or watching TV. With the added “noise” of our jobs and school, our church life, and our other activities, we often fail to hear each other.

The same can be true in our relationship with God. We can stay so busy that we fail to listen to God. Even when I slow down, turn off the electronics, and take time to pray, I may not be able to turn off the noise that comes from within me. Although I may start by praising God, soon my mind turns to my grocery list or a problem at work. Or I find myself instead planning my son's next class party or thinking of some other project. Even when I remain focused during my prayer time, I spend most of it talking and little time listening.

As a result, I miss hearing what God is trying to say to me and who God is calling me to be. That's why I identify with the Bible story about Martha who, despite her best efforts and good intentions, forgot to listen. (See Luke 10:38-42.) Martha wanted to be with Jesus, inviting him into her home. But she got so caught up in the details of preparing that she missed out on listening to him.

Finding ways to help us listen can be important spiritually. For more than 20 years I've collected rosaries, icons, crosses and similar prayer tools from around the world. I love knowing these beautiful objects were used to help people connect with God — but I didn't use them to pray. In fact, I wasn't praying much at all. I had always struggled with prayer; I felt awkward and didn't know what to say. All of that changed three years ago when I learned about Protestant (or Anglican) prayer beads. The format for these prayer beads was created in the 1980s by a group of people who wanted to recapture some of the prayer practices of the early church. Made up of a cross and four sets of seven beads, the design carries wonderful symbolism. I was captivated.

I began praying with the beads and quickly discovered many benefits. Holding them during my morning prayer or in times of great stress, I found the weight of the beads a tangible reminder of God's presence. When my mind began to wander, fingering the beads helped me refocus. Seeing the beads became a cue to pray, a reminder that God calls to me and wants to spend time with me. But there was more. The beads provided structure to my prayer time. I didn't have to worry about what to say. The first seven beads reminded me to praise God for seven specific Traits or actions; the second set of seven, to confess seven places where I had failed or needed God's help; the next, to intercede for seven persons

or situations; and the last, seven gifts or graces for which to thank God. Over time, I experimented with other ways of using the beads, such as praying with scripture. My favorite was to choose a short verse such as “Be still and know that I am God,” and repeat it as I fingered each bead in turn. This allowed me to listen to God in a way I had not before.

Then my son, Matthew, became curious about the beads. I explained how he might use beads to pray, too. Together, we made a chaplet — a mini set of prayer beads made up of two sets of seven beads — for him. Immediately, he “got it.” Matthew used the first set of seven beads to pray for people. “God bless Grandma,” he said as he touched the first bead. “Please be with Aunt Mary,” he said for the second. And so on. The second set he used to talk to God. “I got two cats today,” was one bead. “My best friend, Nolan, came over to play,” for another. Using the small, colorful beads, Matthew was able to connect to a God we cannot see. From then on, it was not uncommon for Matthew to say, “I need to tell God about that.” The beads were helping him to grow comfortable with prayer.

Using tools in prayer goes back to the Old Testament. God instructed the Israelites to make knots on the fringes of their garments to help them remember the commandments and “do them.” (See Num. 15:37-41.) God understands how easily we get distracted and lose sight of who we are called to be. These knots were small, tangible, and handy — similar to beads. Building on this tradition, early Christians held pebbles or stones to keep them focused as they listened to God. Each new year can be a time to find new ways of listening to God. Whether we experiment with prayer beads or some other aid, finding ways to block out noise can help us focus on who God is calling us to be!

Questions for Reflection:

1. Where is the noise in your life? What helps you silence the noise and hear God?
2. When have you heard from God? What do you remember about these times? What did you hear? How did you respond?
3. Do you ever struggle with prayer? If so, what makes it difficult for you? What prayer tools or practices might make prayer easier for you?
4. How much of your prayer time is spent listening to God? How do you feel about being still and quiet? What can make you feel safer or more comfortable about listening?
5. The psalmist said, “Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts” (Ps. 85:8, NRSV). What does this verse mean to you?
6. In what direction is God leading you?

— Kristen Vincent

Kristen Vincent has a Master of Theological Studies degree from Duke Divinity School and lives in Oxford, Georgia, with her husband, a United Methodist pastor; her son; two cats; and a dog. Kristen has been designing prayer beads, leading retreats, and blogging about prayer and prayer beads for four years. To learn more about Protestant prayer beads visit her blog at: www.abeadnprayer.wordpress.com.
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April 6 — Fifth Sunday in Lent

Scripture Readings: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-21; John 11:1-45

★ Special Musical Presentation by Solid Rock from Coon Rapids UMC

Greeter: Karen Cohoes

Lay Reader: Marsha Spatafore

Fellowship Time host: Judy Turk

April 13 — Passion/Palm Sunday

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 50:4-9; Psalm 118; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 21:1-11, 26:14-27:66

Sermon Title: "When the Parade Ends"

Greeter: Taffy Storck

Lay Reader: Mike Schwendinger

Fellowship Time host: Linda Cox

† April 17 — Maundy Thursday — Sacrament of the Last Supper and Time of Tenebrae

Scripture Readings: Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14; Psalm 116; I Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31-35, John 18:1—19:43

† April 20 — EASTER Sunday

Scripture Readings: Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118; Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-18

Resurrection Worship: "Setting Your Mind on the Impossible"

Greeter: Maryanne Maurer

Lay Reader: Barbara Schroeder

Fellowship Time host: Linda Cox

April 27 — Second Sunday of Easter

Scripture Readings: Acts 2:14, 22-32; Psalm 16; I Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

Sermon Title: "Genuineness of our Faith"

Greeters: the Pippert family

Lay Reader: Gil Kinnunen

Fellowship Time host: Linda Cox



April 2014 Calendar

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Wed. 4/2	5:15 p.m.	Supper	9:45 a.m.	Youth & Children's
	6:15 p.m.	Worship		Sunday School
	7:00 p.m.	Confirmation	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time
Thur. 4/3	6:30 p.m.	Balcony Team	10:45 a.m.	Confirmation Trip
Sat. 4/5	4:30 p.m.	Auction	10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
Sun. 4/6	9:30 a.m.	Worship	10:50 a.m.	Outreach Committee
	9:45 a.m.	Youth & Children's	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group
		Sunday School	Wed. 4/30	6:00 p.m.
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time		Worship Committee
	10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School		7:00 p.m.
Mon. 4/7	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group		Choir Rehearsal
Wed. 4/9	5:15 p.m.	Supper	7:00 p.m.	Confirmation
	6:15 p.m.	Worship	Thur. 5/1	6:00 p.m.
	7:00 p.m.	Confirmation		Finance Committee
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal		7:00 p.m.
Thur. 4/10	8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.	MN United	Sun. 5/4	9:30 a.m.
		Methodist Foundation Gathering		Worship
	6:30 p.m.	Balcony Team		9:45 a.m.
Sat. 4/12	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast		Youth & Children's
Sun. 4/13	9:30 a.m.	Worship		Sunday School
	9:45 a.m.	Youth & Children's		Sunday School
		Sunday School		Fellowship Time
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time		10:30 a.m.
	10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School		10:50 a.m.
Mon. 4/14	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group	Mon. 5/5	10:00 a.m.
Tue. 4/15	3:00 p.m.	Inviting Team	Wed. 5/7	6:00 p.m.
Wed. 4/16	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal		Board of Trustees
Thur. 4/17	7:00 p.m.	Maundy Thursday		7:00 p.m.
		Worship Service		Choir Rehearsal
Sun. 4/20	8:00 a.m.	Easter Breakfast		7:00 p.m.
	9:30 a.m.	Easter Worship		Confirmation
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time	Sat. 5/10	8:00 a.m.
Mon. 4/21	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group	Sun. 5/11	9:30 a.m.
Wed. 4/23	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal		Worship
	7:00 p.m.	Confirmation		9:45 a.m.
Thur. 4/24	1:00 p.m.	Visitors Corp		Youth & Children's
Sat. 4/26	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast		Sunday School
Sat. 4/26 – Sun. 5/3		NOLA Mission Trip		10:30 a.m.
Sun. 4/27	9:30 a.m.	Worship		Fellowship Time
				10:50 a.m.
			Mon. 5/12	10:00 a.m.
			Wed. 5/14	4:30 p.m.
				Craft Group
				United Methodist Women
				5:30 p.m.
				Confirmation
				7:00 p.m.
				Choir Rehearsal

Men's Breakfast Group will meet on the Saturdays of **4/12 and 4/26** at the Fireside Lounge, 1288 South Robert Street starting at 8:00am. All men are welcome to join us! For more info., please contact Bill Short at bill.short@ci.white-bear-township.mn.us or 651-552-0736.

KIDS IN SEARCH

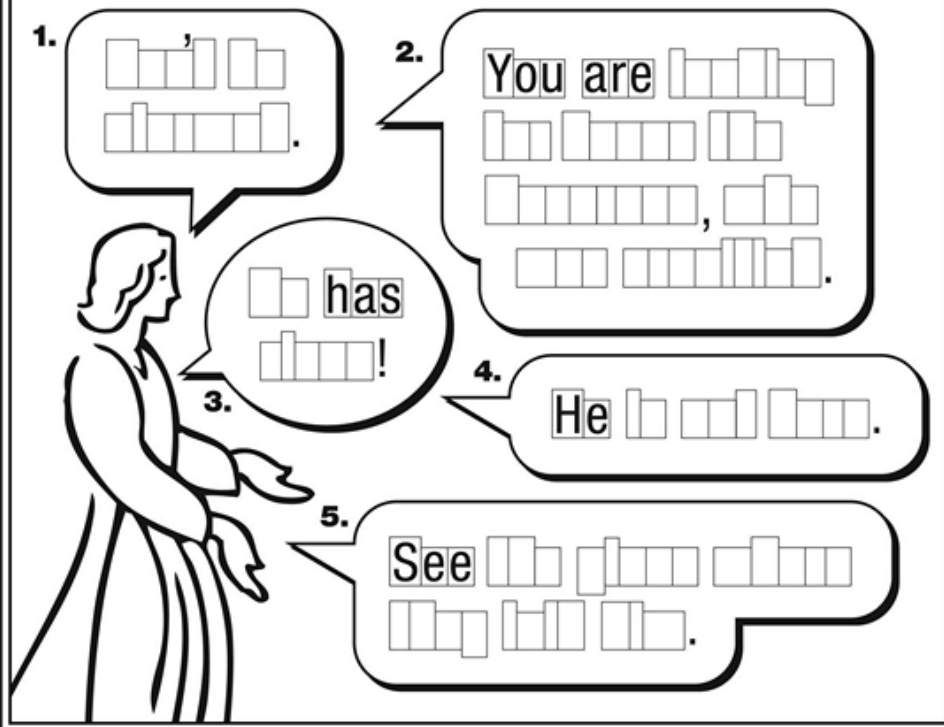


HE HAS RISEN!

On Easter morning, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome were surprised to meet an angel at Jesus' empty tomb.

Directions: Use the word shapes to complete the angel's message, in Mark 16:6 (NIV).

for be crucified risen Don't is Jesus He
looking where not the place who here
the laid alarmed Nazarene they was him



Answer: 1. Don't be alarmed. 2. You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. 3. He has risen! 4. He is not here. 5. See the place where they laid him.

Easter Cake

Celebrate our risen Lord with this uniquely decorated cake.

What you need:

- Adult help
- Box of cake mix (any flavor)
- Tub of brown frosting
- Shredded coconut
- Green food coloring
- Chocolate Hostess Ding Dong cupcake
- Donut hole
- Pretzel sticks
- M&M's candies

What you do:

1. Bake cake in rectangular pan. When cool, frost it.
2. Pour coconut into bowl. Add drops of green food coloring. Mix until coconut resembles grass.
3. In one corner of cake, set Ding Dong upright to resemble a tomb. Place donut hole in front of it, to one side.
4. Make three crosses with six pretzel sticks and some frosting. Arrange on opposite corner from tomb.
5. Use brown M&M's to make a path from the crosses to the tomb.
6. Use other colors of M&M's to spell out "Jesus lives!"



FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1530 Oakdale Ave.
West St. Paul MN 55118

April 2014

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TWIN CITIES MN
PERMIT NO. 774

Worship Schedule

*Please join us this Sunday
for worship, study and fellowship:*

- Worship: 9:30 a.m.
- Youth & Children's Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
- Fellowship time: 10:30 a.m.
- Adult Sunday School: 10:50 a.m.
- **Easter Schedule on front page**



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

LENTEN MIDWEEK WORSHIP CONTINUES

For the final two Wednesdays during Lent (April 2 & 9) we will gather at 6:15 p.m. for worship together. Each week our worship series will use a familiar game to help us look at how we live our lives in light of the week of the Passion. There will be music, prayer, Scripture and a skit geared for all age groups with the theme "The Games People Play."

•
*Supper will be served each Wednesday evening in Lent from 5:15 p.m. - 6:10 p.m.
The cost is a free-will offering.*



HOLY WEEK

Worship Service

MAUNDY THURSDAY
April 17 • 7:00 p.m.

We remember the last supper of Jesus and the disciples as we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion and a time of Tenebrae.