

Dear Faith Shapers,

Lent is drawing to a close, spring is finally starting to appear and Holy Week and Easter are almost here. It is a busy time. In a recent Bible study I was reminded about God's presence and busyness. The movement in our relationship to God is always from God to us. We can't in our own goodness or piety move closer to God. God is always coming near to us. The question for us is- Are we listening or paying attention? I am reminded of our need to slow down and pay attention to what God is doing in our world. A fellow youth worker reminded us to send our gratitude up to God in each moment- like arrows shooting up to God. I love that image. We are more open and aware of God's presence when we are sending God our gratitude during the day. May we all see God's movement in our lives, thank God, share it, and serve others with joy!

In service of our Risen Lord,  
Lisa Kammerer  
Associate in Ministry

## Walking with Jesus Through



## Holy Week

### **Palm Sunday**- Jesus enters Jerusalem

Read about it in Matthew 21:1-11

Activity to spark discussion- waving a palm branch

Question for discussion:

\*What would it have felt like to be a part of the crowd that welcomed Jesus?

### **Maundy Thursday**- Jesus celebrates the Passover with his disciples

Read about it in Matthew 26:17-30

Activity to spark discussion- foot washing

Questions for discussion:

\*Was it easier to wash feet or have them be washed? Why?

\*What are some things we can do today for others that would be similar to washing someone's feet in Jesus' day?

### **Good Friday**- Jesus is Crucified

Read about it in Matthew 27:27-66

Objects to spark discussion: hammer, nails, block of wood

Activity to spark discussion: hammer a nail into the wood

Questions for discussion:

\*What is sin? What are ways we sin?

\*Why did Jesus die on the cross?

\*What does Jesus' dying on the cross mean for us today?

### **Holy Saturday**- Jesus lies in the tomb

Read about Jesus' burial in Matthew 27:57-61.

The scripture says nothing about Jesus lying in the tomb, but talk about what the disciples, Jesus' mother, Mary Magdalene and the other followers must have been thinking or feeling.

This information is prepared for you by the  
**Northwestern Iowa Synod-Home Life Network**  
for use by families and local congregations.

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# Scrambled Egg Verses

Pick a resurrection story from the Bible. Put one phrase of the story in each egg. Hide the eggs. The kids will have to work together to put the verses in order. Once the verse is together, have them read the verses out loud. Together discuss the following questions: What would you have thought if you had been there? What do you think you would have done?

Here are some verses to try!

Matthew 28:1-6    Luke 24:1-5

John 20:11-13    John 20:9-21



## App Corner

Here are some cool faith filled apps.



**Bible for Kids App.** This app contains bible stories that are read to you. The stories are animated and read like a book. My kids love it. This app is free.



**Luther's Small Catechism App** from Concordia Publishing House. I especially enjoy using Luther's Morning and Evening prayer. This app is free.



**Children's Ministry Talk Starters App** by Group Publishing. A fun app with questions ranging from silly to thoughtful. Bible questions too. Shake it for the next question. This app is \$1.99.

## 10 WAYS TO CELEBRATE JESUS THIS EASTER

1. READ THE BOOK THE PARABLE OF THE LILY AND PLANT A LILY BULB.
2. WRITE MESSAGES OF JESUS' RESURRECTION WITH WHITE CRAYONS ON YOUR EASTER EGGS AND THEN DYE THEM. TRY THESE: JESUS IS RISEN; ALLELUIA; HE IS ALIVE; HE IS RISEN INDEED; REJOICE!
3. HIDE ONE EMPTY EGG IN YOUR EASTER EGG HUNT AND TALK ABOUT HOW JESUS' TOMB WAS EMPTY ON EASTER SUNDAY.
4. SHARE YOUR EASTER MEAL WITH SOMEONE WHO MIGHT BE ALONE.
5. MAKE A BUTTERFLY CRAFT AND TALK ABOUT HOW BUTTERFLIES REPRESENT NEW LIFE.
6. TAKE AN EASTER BASKET TO A CHILD IN THE HOSPITAL OR A NURSING HOME RESIDENT.
7. MAKE EASTER STORY COOKIES. YOU CAN FIND THE RECIPE ON GOOGLE OR PINTEREST.
8. MAKE AN EASTER BANNER OR POSTER FOR YOUR DOOR. ALLELUIA! JESUS IS RISEN!
9. MAKE RESURRECTION SURPRISE ROLLS. YOU CAN FIND THE RECIPE ON GOOGLE OR PINTEREST.
10. READ THE STORY OF JESUS' RESURRECTION AND ATTEND EASTER WORSHIP AS A FAMILY.

