

Dear Friends,

Our Lenten journey has prepared us to celebrate Easter! Alleluia. Christ is Risen! We rejoice in the joy of Easter. Our Easter joy does not end on Easter day. The church season of Easter lasts for fifty days until Pentecost. Celebrating the whole season of Easter can be very meaningful for your family. At our house, we celebrate by leaving up our Easter butterflies or other decorations for the whole fifty days of Easter. The color for Easter is white so we use white place-mats and napkins. We also have a cross in our house where we place a big beautiful butterfly in the center for the season of Easter. Butterflies represent rebirth and new life. Celebrating the seasons of the church year gives a sense of rhythm to our spiritual life. We invite you to use the ideas and recipes in this handout to tell of God's Easter joy. May God richly bless you as we celebrate the joy of Christ's resurrection.

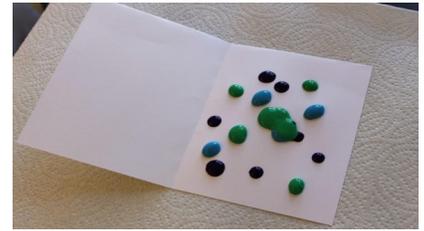
Lisa Kammerer
Associate in Ministry

Symmetrical Painted Easter Butterflies

Supplies: All you need for this fun and colorful craft is **cardstock, tempera paints, pipe cleaners, and scissors.**

Instructions

- 1. Fold the cardstock in half. Using the tempera paints, splatter drops of paint onto one side of the cardstock.**
- 2. Refold the cardstock and press it so that the paint inside the cardstock spreads. Open the cardstock and admire your beautiful symmetrical design. Allow the paint to dry.**
- 3. Once the paint is dry, refold the cardstock and cut it into a butterfly shape. Open the cardstock and enjoy your bright and colorful butterfly. Attach a pipe cleaner for the butterfly body and antennae.**



Share your butterflies with friends and neighbors and don't forget to keep them up for the whole season of Easter.

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

For more ideas about how you can pass on faith in your homes go to:
http://www.neiasynod.org/synod_resources/YouthFamilyResources.asp

Easter Egg Hunt

As you hide eggs for an Easter egg hunt, add eggs with these resurrection symbols in them. Once all the eggs are found, discuss the meaning of each resurrection symbol and the true meaning of Easter.



Sunshine Cookies

Celebrate the sun! It's life-giving power makes spring rebirth possible, just as the Son of God showed His power over death in His resurrection.

What you need:

- Sugar cookies. Make your own or buy premade cookies.
- Sprinkles, chocolate chips, tubes of icings, canned frosting or other decorative goodies.

What you do:

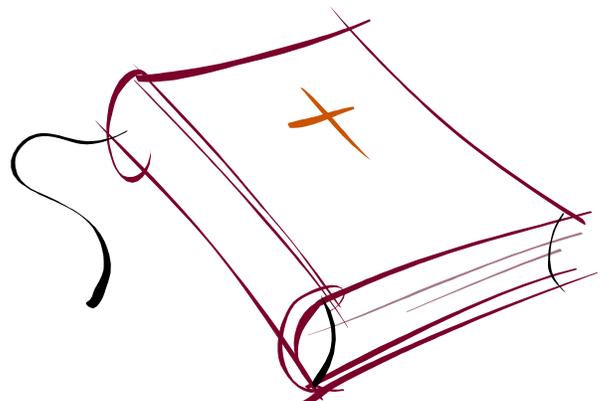
Decorate the cookies with images of the sun. Here are some design ideas.



Read the Bible together

The accounts of Jesus' Resurrection
Matthew 28:1-8. Mark 16:1-8.
Luke 24:1-12. John 20: 1-10.

Each week during the Easter season, read about Jesus' resurrection appearances. You can find them at the end of the gospels and also in the book of Acts.



Small piece of a green plant
To honor Jesus, the people placed palm branches on the road as he entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.



Silver Coin
Jesus was betrayed by Judas for money.



Thorn or piece of grapevine
Jesus was beaten before he was killed.



Piece of purple fabric
The Roman soldiers dressed Jesus in a purple robe and mocked him before they crucified him.



Nail
Jesus was nailed to the cross.



Small Cross
Jesus was crucified on a cross and died.



An empty egg
Jesus' tomb was empty on Easter morning because he rose from the dead.



Plastic communion cup or bread
With the Lord's Supper, Jesus showed his people how to remember his death and resurrection.