

Living Faith @



Happy Easter! Christ is Risen - Alleluia!

How are you celebrating Easter this year? Easter Egg Hunt? Easter Baskets? Chocolate Bunnies? All of this is so much fun, especially when kids are involved! But don't forget the real reason for the season! Here are some facts about Easter that you might want to share with others – young and old alike, as a reminder of why we celebrate Easter:

- **Easter** is the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus from the tomb on the third day after his crucifixion. That's why we also call it Resurrection Sunday.
- **Easter** is the foundation of the Christian faith. Jesus, the Son of God, fulfilled prophecy and through his death, has given to us the gift of eternal life in heaven. Easter highlights the resurrection – but we also celebrate Christ's resurrection every Sunday!
- **Easter** is celebrated on a different date each year - unlike Christmas. It is always on Sunday, but the actual date is set to coincide with the first Sunday after the Paschal Full Moon, the first full moon after the vernal (spring) equinox. Easter Sunday always falls somewhere from March 22nd to April 25th. This year it falls on April 4th.
- **Easter** next year (2022) will be celebrated on April 17th in case you are wondering! 😊

Here is an idea I've seen pop up lately on social media sites. It is a great way to let people know the importance of Easter and a fun way to invite them to your church (In-person or Online.) You will need a bunch of plastic eggs and some pre-packaged candy to put in 11 of the 12 eggs. Pick some homes to visit and sneak the eggs into their front yard. Make sure to put a door hanger on their front door so they will know what you are doing! It would be a fun project for Sunday school kids! The door hanger can say something like:



You've Been Egged!

**There are 12 eggs
hidden in your yard!**

**Enjoy the Hunt! But don't be discouraged when you find the empty egg. It is a simple reminder of Jesus' empty tomb... for HE IS RISEN! We would love to have you join us for our worship services at:
(Church, Address, Time of services, Name of website, Face Book page, etc.)**

Earth Day is celebrated on April 22nd. It is a wonderful way to involve ALL of God's children in learning about and caring for God's creation. It's also the perfect time of the year to get everyone outside (after a long winter) to appreciate the beauty of springtime and the great outdoors!

Here are some easy and fun ways to observe Earth Day:

Turn the Faucet Off: Did you know you can save up to eight gallons of water a day just by shutting off the faucet when brushing your teeth? You can also conserve a lot of water while washing your hands — just turn off the tap for those 20 seconds you're scrubbing with soap.

Use only reusable products for the day: Use cloth towels and napkins; regular plates, bowls, cups, and utensils instead of paper or throw away plastic; take reusable bags to the store with you; and be mindful of anything you do throw into the trash can! How can you eliminate all the extra trash and garbage every day? What can be recycled? Discuss if this is something you might be able to do regularly.

Adopt a plant! Bringing some greenery into your home can help regulate the temperature through the moisture they release into the air. This also helps reduce the energy required to heat and cool your home. And plants make any room look fresh and inviting!

Create art from recycled materials. Locate extra buttons, used jars and cans, fabric scraps, pieces of yarn, etc., and get creative! Make necklaces, pretty containers, key chains, refrigerator magnets – let your imagination go wild! Even small children can have fun with these types of recyclable projects.

Pick up trash in your yard, or on your block – or around your church! Plan a fun spring cleanup day – have contests to see who can come up with the strangest looking piece of trash – or the most colorful, or the biggest or the smallest! Celebrate with a potluck lunch afterwards. Thank everyone by giving them a new plastic water bottle (find them at the dollar store!)

Make an Earth Day Jar. On scraps of paper, write down simple, easily executable ideas and reminders that you and your family can do to be good stewards of our earth. Put the jar in a central location, and periodically draw a piece of paper and follow the instructions.

Read the Creation Story in Genesis 1 – take turns reading the different verses about what God created and reflect on ways we are either harming or helping God's creation. Talk about what it means to be a good steward of our earth and its resources.



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