

Nazareth Lutheran Church

April 2026 | Newsletter



History of Easter

Easter commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is the last day of Holy Week, consisting of several days – each with its significance. These include:

- Palm Sunday: Commemorating when Jesus entered Jerusalem
- Holy Thursday: Commemorating the Last Supper and washing of feet
- Good Friday: Commemorating Jesus' crucifixion and death
- Easter Sunday: Commemorating the resurrection of Jesus

Of the four canonical Gospels, each has a version of the Passion, or final period of Jesus' life. While the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke are similar in their accounts, the Gospel of John varies and strikes a more triumphant tone.

According to the text, Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus. Jesus was then put on trial and later sentenced to death by Pontius Pilate, ultimately leading to Jesus' crucifixion.

Jesus was then buried in a tomb. And on the final day (Easter Sunday), Jesus' tomb was found empty. The Bible proclaims he rose from the dead.

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From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky,
Lord I lift Your name on high!



History of Easter continued

Easter is celebrated to remember the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As a result, many Christians will go to Church services and pray in observance. Other aspects of the holiday, such as Easter eggs, also derive from Christian traditions.

Why do we celebrate Easter with eggs and the Easter bunny?

The colorful Easter eggs you might decorate with your family are symbols of new life and rebirth. Ancient Christian communities in Mesopotamia would stain eggs red to represent the blood of Christ, which was shed at the crucifixion. The eggs also signify the empty tomb of Jesus.

As for the Easter bunny, its origins are not necessarily rooted in Christianity. The exact origins of the anthropomorphic rabbit are unclear. However, since ancient times, the hare has been said to represent rebirth, according to the Smithsonian Magazine.

How is the date of Easter determined each year?

Easter Sunday always occurs on the first Sunday after the Paschal Full Moon, the full moon that occurs on or after the Spring equinox, March 20, 2026, according to the Old Farmer's Almanac. In the Gregorian calendar, it is always observed on a Sunday between March 22 and April 25. The first full moon after the spring equinox will happen on Wednesday, April 1, 2026, which the first Sunday after that would be April 5th.

From the Pastor



I love to tell stories. I admire Jesus so much for his story telling skills. In the 28 years of serving God's church and God's people at Nazareth I have loved sharing the many stories from the Bible and how we have lived in and around those stories.

On July 12, 1998 was the first time I was to step into the pulpit at Nazareth. The gospel lesson for that Sunday was the Parable of the Good Soil. What an amazing story and the last verse in that lesson seemed so appropriate for me beginning my ministry of preaching the Word, teaching and administering the Sacraments of Baptism and Communion. In Matthew 13: 23 it says " But as for what was sown on good soil, Continued on page 3

From the Pastor continued

this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty." I wanted with all my heart as I preached each and every time that I would become good soil. Jesus taught that our hearts are like soil, and the word of God is like seeds that grow differently depending on the heart.

I knew this was only the beginning and I continue to pray each and every time I prepare sermons and stories that I ask the Holy Spirit to provide meaningful stories of faith, love and grace.

And 28 years later I continue to share stories. This Easter we are in year A and the gospel lesson is of Mary and the other Mary who go to the tomb to find Jesus gone. An Angel shares with the women that Jesus is not there and he has risen from the dead. Everytime I read and hear this story I feel present with Mary and the other Mary. I can feel their anxiety, fear, and finally amazement. I never hear doubt in the story. They might have doubted but I believe that the story is true and the angel of the Lord assures all of us as we hear this story over and over. I have heard many people tell us this is the greatest story ever told and we can share it over and over filling us with the promise we hear each time we baptize. For by the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection God has set us free from the power of sin and death and raises us up to live in this heaven of earth. The women who went and shared with the disciples that Jesus was alive and would greet them soon in peace let us continue to share this story and the many stories from God's scripture.

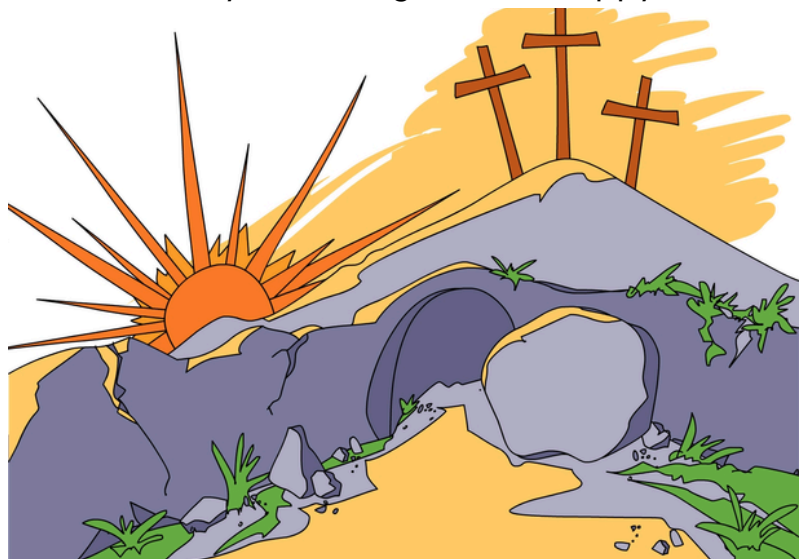
A personal story of a transformation, another word for resurrection. Three years ago my life was transformed due to my foot taken off because of diabetes. I know I shouldn't have but I felt this was my fault, my sin, in having to no longer have two feet. It has been a long journey of healing. I have heard through the word of God that I am loved. I have no problem in telling others they are forgiven but it has taken me over and over to forgive myself. I know that through forgiveness I am transformed. I can live through Christ's resurrection and be resurrected here now each and every day.

I hope and pray that each of you know that Christ's life, death and resurrection is for you. You can be and are transformed through Christ.

And also, continue to share your stories of how each of you live in good soil. Happy Easter my dear sisters-and-brothers in Christ.

P.S. Please join us on Sunday, April 5 to hear once again of the women going to the tomb and finding Jesus risen. He has risen. He has risen indeed!!

Pastor Marcia



NAZARETH LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2026

Nazareth Lutheran Church's council meeting was called to order at 11:21 AM following fellowship by President Mark Lewis. Present for the meeting were Mark Lewis, Vince Tomlinson, John Egeland, Nathan Hovland, Arlys Peterson, Pastor Marcia, Joyce Allen, and church administrator Eileen Lewis with nephews Ryerson and Griffin in tow. Minutes from the February 15 planning retreat meeting were approved as read.

Finance Report: Due to higher than normal utility costs, disbursements outweighed deposits, but our balance is still doing okay. Offering of \$4,537.00, along with \$9.51 for the summer meal program was deposited (\$4,815.51). Disbursements totaled \$6,067.75, which includes energy bills of \$609.42 and \$372.20 at the church and parsonage, respectively, and the water bill at the church of \$534.53 thanks to a leaky downstairs toilet. So, with the General Fund's opening balance of \$30,516.10, adding \$4,815.51, deducting \$6,067.75, the closing balance totals \$29,263.86. Savings has a total of \$1,631.06, Capital Improvement's balance is \$1,209.41, Mission Investment is \$20,121.93, and Missions is sitting at \$1,348.98. Thanks to a big load of bottles, \$1,800 was deposited to SCRIP's opening balance of \$2,690.05, \$875.00 was disbursed, leaving a total of \$3,615.05. Part of that will be going towards the snack program.

Pastor's Report: Confirmation classes are coming to a close. Studies now include the history of the church and our church, and will be meeting with Janet Thorson with a tour of her facilities. Hope to visit Pat Bartelson as well. Monthly Bible study has been going well. She has been volunteering at the library and working on baby blankets. Three have been made that will be donated to the silent auction. Joyce made two lap quilts and pastor made four that are being donated to the Bishop for the synod meeting. Work on the silent auction has been coming along, sending emails and letters to various businesses asking for monetary donations, and thanked all those who are helping. Two new hairdressers have come to Cambridge, and Arlys will take them a donation letter. Open to any suggestions!

Committee Report:

Property: John mounted smoke/ CO2 detectors in the parsonage. One of the downspouts at the church was plugged up, and John freed a starling that was trapped in it. Works fine now!

Christian Ed: AM Sunday School, Bible study, and confirmation going well.

Stewardship: Nothing to report

Inreach / outreach: Nothing to report

Music and Worship: Choir to sing "Ten Thousand Angels" on Good Friday; "We are Called" during worship

Old Business: Eileen shared that the future of Jubilee Days is questionable – people aren't showing up for the fundraising events. This year will be going as planned,

Church Council Minutes continued

but more fundraisers will definitely be needed. An on-line silent auction was suggested, which may be what the future holds. Pastor Marcia will look into Bingo parties (licenses, etc) and Joyce suggested Bunco parties. Hopefully Dinner Theatre will return. A new coffee shop opened in Huxley which may sell our Kringla.

New Business: Easter Breakfast will be at 9:30, and will include breakfast casserole, breakfast sliders, juice, fruit. Egg hunt will be at 9:45, depending on how many children (if any) show up. Cans will be sorted 9:00 AM on Thursday, March 19, for anyone who is able to show up, and boxes have been gathered for the glass bottles. Lastly, snacks were discussed for the puzzle party on Saturday, March 21. Pastor Marcia will bring Skinny Pop popcorn, someone is bringing Chex Mix, and Joyce will bring chips and dip. Everyone is asked to BYOB, non-alcoholic, please.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 12:07 by President Mark Lewis, and closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Joyce Allen, Council Secretary.



Music and Lectionary for April

Thursday Apr 2 – Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-14

Psalms 116:1-2, 12-19

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Prayer of the Day

Eternal God, in the sharing of a meal your Son established a new covenant for all people, and in the washing of feet he showed us the dignity of service. Grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these signs of our life in faith may speak again to our hearts, feed our spirits, and refresh our bodies, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Call to Worship: Sanctuary

Just a Closer Walk with Thee #697

Were You There #353

As the Grains of Wheat #465

Friday Apr 3 – Good Friday

Opening Hymn "Just a Closer Walk with Thee" #697

Hymn "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" #338

Mark 11:15-18; John 10:22-39

"What Wondrous Love" #666

Music and Lectionary for April continued

Matthew 26:20-29 A Hymn of Faithfulness "Go to Dark Gethsemane vs1-2 #347
 Matthew 26: 30-46 A Hymn of Pleading "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" #773
 Mark 14:53, 57-65; 15:1-5, Luke 23: 7, 11 A Hymn of Sorrow "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me" #623
 Mark 14: 66-72 A Hymn of Intercession "Take My Life, That I May Be" #685
 Luke 23: 13-24 A Hymn of Penitence "How Great Thou Art" #856
 Luke 23:33-34; 36-43, John 19:26-30; Matthew 27:45-46; Luke 23: 46-48 A Hymn of Contemplation "Were You There" #353

Sunday Apr 5 – Resurrection of Our Lord

Acts 10:34-43 Call to Worship: Sanctuary
 Christ the Lord is Risen Today #365
 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 Thine is the Glory #376
 Colossians 3:1-4 As the Grains of Wheat #465
 John 20:1-18 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee #836

O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Sunday Apr 12– Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 22-32 Call to Worship: Sanctuary
 Crown Him With Many Crowns #855
 Psalm 16 Amazing Grace #779
 1 Peter 1:3-9 As the Grains of Wheat #465
 John 20:19-31 God be with You #536

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Sunday Apr 19 – Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36-41 Call to Worship: Sanctuary
 Christ the Lord is Risen Today #373
 Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 The Strife Is Over #366
 1 Peter 1:17-23 As the Grains of Wheat #465
 Luke 24:13-35 Leaning on the Everlasting Arms #774

O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Sunday April 26 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:42-47 Call to Worship: Sanctuary
 Precious Lord, Take My Hand #773
 Psalm 23 He Leadeth Me (insert)
 1 Peter 2:19-25 As the Grains of Wheat #465
 John 10:1-10 I Love to Tell the Story #661

O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Recipes for Easter

Empty Tomb Easter Treat

Ingredients:

- Graham Crackers
- Peanut Butter (or icing)
- Small Chocolate Doughnuts
- Mini Oreo Cookies
- Shredded Coconut
- Green Food Coloring

Prep the Snack:

1. Take your shredded coconut and place it in a sandwich bag. Drip a few drops of green food coloring in, and shake the bag until your coconut turns green. Also, cut off the bottom of your chocolate doughnuts.

2. Spread peanut butter on the graham cracker, and stick the doughnut "tomb" on. Then, take one mini Oreo and twist it apart. Use the side with the icing on it to stick it to the front of the doughnut as the "rock" rolled away from the entrance of the tomb.

3. Sprinkle some coconut "grass" onto the remainder of the peanut butter.
 4. Enjoy



Lenten Soft Pretzel Recipe

Did you know that the pretzel is a traditional food for lent? In fact, the pretzel was actually invented in order to be a simple Lenten snack! Enjoy this simple soft pretzel recipe during Lent.

Ingredients

- 1 package yeast .25 oz
- 1 1/2 cups warm water
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 4 cups flour
- 1 egg
- large kosher salt for the top of the pretzels

Instructions

Preheat your oven to 425°F
 Mix yeast, water, sugar, and salt in a large bowl.
 Stir in the flour, and knead until the dough is smooth.
 Shape into the form of arms crossed in prayer and place it on a baking sheet.
 Brush the dough with a beaten egg to give it a shiny finish. (This is optional. I skipped the egg on mine.) Sprinkle the top with salt.
 Bake at 425°F for 15 minutes.



Catholic Tcing

Puzzles



Analogies

Complete each analogy by filling in the blank.

1. Fire is to hot as ice is to _____.
2. Pencil is to write as eraser is to _____.
3. Dog is to bark as cat is to _____.
4. Bird is to nest as bee is to _____.
5. Eye is to see as ear is to _____.
6. Leaf is to tree as petal is to _____.
7. Plane is to fly as boat is to _____.
8. Fish is to water as camel is to _____.
9. Teacher is to classroom as chef is to _____.
10. Duck is to quack as cow is to _____.
11. Apple is to fruit as carrot is to _____.
12. Clock is to time as thermometer is to _____.
13. Summer is to hot as winter is to _____.
14. Fork is to utensil as shirt is to _____.
15. Cup is to drink as plate is to _____.

BEGIN AND END

Each phrase below is a clue for an answer that begins and ends with the same letter.

1. A continent at the South Pole _____
2. Payment to stockholders _____
3. A brief advertisement _____
4. Handwriting skill _____
5. One television show in a series _____
6. A place for performers _____
7. One who reviews and gives judgments _____
8. Accepting of others _____
9. An amount over and above what is needed _____
10. An official list of names _____
11. A word used by magicians _____
12. An edible seed of a bean plant _____
13. Physical exertion done for fitness _____
14. Blue-green _____
15. A ray of moonlight _____

1. $834 = 28$

$675 = 47$

$918 = 17$

$527 = ?$

What is the missing number?

2. **You can throw me off a tall building and it won't hurt me. If you put me in water I break.**

What am I?

3. **F, K, O, R, ?**

What is the next letter?

4. **If John's son is my son's father, who am I?**

Guess who am I?

5. **Snug Live**
Dam Grid
Pans Rats
Keep Trap

Which word is the odd one out?