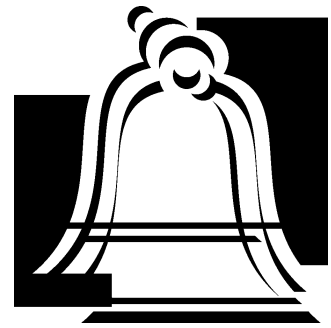


The Bell



Bergstrasse Evangelical Lutheran Church

April 2018



Sunday, March 25 10:30 AM - Palm/Passion Sunday
Blessing of the Palms, Interactive Reading of the Passion Narrative, Celebration of Holy Communion

Wednesday, March 28 7:00 PM –Lenten Cluster Worship
Refreshments and Conversation to follow the service

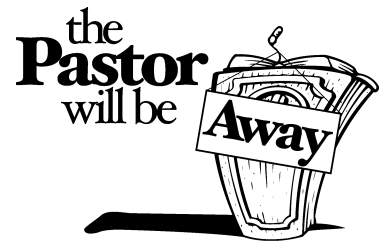
Thursday, March 29 7:00 PM - Maundy Thursday Table Communion
Covered Dish meal at 6:00 PM.
Worship liturgy follows the format of a Seder Meal.
Stripping of the Altar to follow the Table Communion

Friday, March 30 7:00 PM - Good Friday Tenebrae Service
Spoken Readings and Prayers

Sunday, April 1 6:45 AM—Easter Sunrise Worship
Lighting of the Fire, Singing led with a Soprano Sax
Held outdoors in the cemetery. You are invited bring lawn chairs or folding chairs will be available, if you care to not stand for the worship.

Breakfast following the Sunrise Worship

Sunday, April 1 10:30 AM—The Resurrection of Our Lord
Special Music, Celebration of Holy Communion



PASTOR BOB WILL BE ON VACATION from April 10 through April 15. If you need urgent pastoral care during this period, please contact the church office or Council President Cathy Feather. Pastor Jeffrey Goodman will be providing care.





FROM THE PASTOR

The Pastor's Thoughts...

Harry Pritchett, Jr. many years ago shared this story in an issue of Christianity Today.

Once upon a time I had a young friend named Philip. Philip was born with Downs Syndrome. He was a pleasant child — happy, it seemed — but increasingly aware of the difference between himself and other children. Philip went to Sunday school at the Methodist church. His teacher, also a friend of mine, taught the third-grade class with Philip and nine other eight-year-old boys and girls.

You know eight-year-olds. And Philip, with his differences, was not readily accepted. But my teacher friend was creative, and he helped the group of eight-year-olds. They learned, they laughed, they played together. And they really cared about one another, even though eight-year-olds don't say they care about one another out loud. My teacher friend could see it. He knew it. He also knew that Philip was not really a part of that group. Philip did not choose nor did he want to be different. He just was. And that was just the

way things were.

My friend had a marvelous idea for his class the Sunday after Easter last year. You know those things that pantyhose come in — the containers that look like great big eggs — my friend had collected ten of them. The children loved it when he brought them into the room. Each child was to get one. It was a beautiful spring day, and the assignment was for each child to go outside, find a symbol for new life, put it into the egg, and bring it back to the classroom. They would then open and share their new life symbols and surprises one by one.

It was glorious. It was confusing. It was wild. They ran all around the church grounds, gathered their symbols, and returned to the classroom. They put all the eggs on a table, and then the teacher began to open them. All the children stood around the table.

He opened one, and there was a flower, and they ooh-ed and aah-ed. He opened another, and there was a little butterfly. "Beautiful," the girls all said, since it is hard for eight-year-old boys to say "beautiful." He opened another, and there was a rock. And as third graders will, some laughed, and some said, "That's crazy! How's a rock supposed to be like new life?" But the smart little boy who'd found it spoke up: "That's mine. And I knew all of you would get flowers and buds and leaves and butterflies and stuff like that. So I got a rock because I wanted to be different. And for me, that's new life." They all laughed.

My teacher friend said something to himself about the profundity of eight-year-olds and opened the next one. There was nothing there. The other children, as eight-year-olds will, said,

"That's not fair — that's stupid! — somebody didn't do right."

Then my teacher friend felt a tug on his shirt, and he looked down. Philip was standing beside him. "It's mine," Philip said. "It's mine." And the children said, "You don't ever do things right, Philip. There's nothing there!" "I did so do it," Philip said. "I did do it. It's empty. The tomb is empty!"

There was silence, a very full silence. And for you people who don't believe in miracles, I want to tell you that one happened that day last spring. From that time on, it was different. Philip suddenly became a part of that group of eight-year-old children. They took him in. He was set free from the tomb of his differentness.

Philip died last summer. His family had known since the time he was born that he wouldn't live out a full life span. Many other things had been wrong with his tiny body. And so, late last July, with an infection that most normal children could have quickly shrugged off, Philip died. The mystery simply enveloped him. At the funeral, nine eight-year-old children marched up to the altar, not with flowers to cover over the stark reality of death. Nine eight-year-olds, with their Sunday school teacher, marched right up to that altar, and laid on it an empty egg — an empty, old, discarded pantyhose egg.

The empty tomb does make a difference in our lives. Love wins out over hatred. Death does not have the final say. There is hope in the midst of all the fearful rhetoric we hear each day. I invite you to come to worship each Easter morn for the next seven weeks and hear the news that Christ is Risen. He is risen indeed.

Pastor Bob

The Bell is published monthly (except a combined July-August edition) by Bergstrasse Lutheran Church
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Worship - 10:30 AM

The Rev. Robert Kramer, Interim Pastor
717-405-0044 (cell)

Due date for the **May** newsletter is
April 15.

Worship With Us

April, 2018

Sunday, 1st – The Resurrection of our Lord

Sunrise Service – 6:45 AM

Texts: Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 118; Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-18

John's account of the Easter story finds one of Jesus' faithful disciples, Mary Magdalene, at the tomb. It concludes with her meeting the risen Jesus face-to-face followed by what some have said is the shortest sermon in the Gospels – "I have seen the Lord."

10:30 AM Service

Texts: Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118; I Corinthians 1: 18-25; Mark 16:1-8

Mark's gospel ends so abruptly, with astonishment and fear rather than joyful proclamation. Yet Mark may speak to our experience more directly than the other gospels. On this the day when April's Fools Day is celebrated in our society, Paul begins the second reading by contrasting the foolishness of those who are perishing with the wisdom of those who recognize the power of God.

Sunday, 8th – Second Sunday of Easter

Texts: Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1:1--2:2; John 20:19-31

The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.

Sunday, 15th – Third Sunday of Easter - Pastor Thomas McKee Presiding

Texts: Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48

The gospel for the third Sunday of Easter is always one in which the risen Christ shares food with the disciples, meals that are the Easter template for the meal we share each Lord's day. In today's gospel, Jesus both shares the disciples' food and shows them the meaning of his suffering, death, and resurrection through the scriptures: the two main elements of our Sunday worship.

Sunday, 22th – Fourth Sunday of Easter

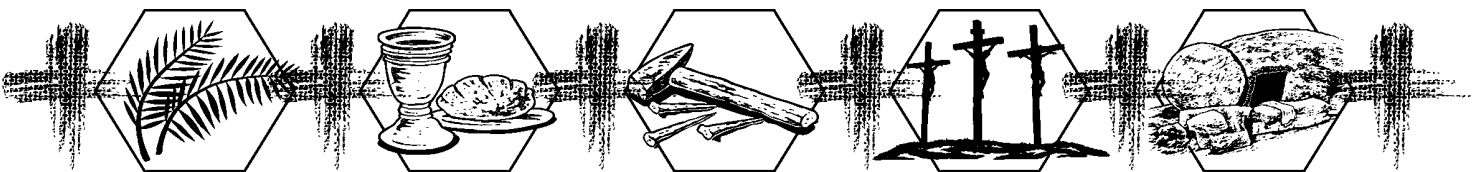
Texts: Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

The image of the Good Shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sister or brother in need.

Sunday, 29th – Fifth Sunday of Easter

Texts: Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding that we read of in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.



A Day of Feeding

Saturday, June 2, (during the Synod Assembly) has been designated as **A Day of Feeding**. A food packing event will be held on the campus of Messiah College in cooperation with Messiah College, Kids Against Hunger, and Orphan Grain Train. The food that is packaged will go to the Caribbean where hurricanes have caused great destruction. It is estimated that \$75,000.00 will be needed for supplies and shipping. Each congregation is asked to contribute. Here at Bergstrasse we ask that during the month of April only, money be given to support this project rather than purchase food items for the food bank. Please place your donations in the can in the shopping cart or indicate "Day of Feeding" for contributions made through the offering envelope system.

Also, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board to indicate if you would like to volunteer to work a shift packaging food on June 2. Carpooling to Messiah will be available. 128 workers are needed for each of four different shifts. Pastor Bob has reserved 8 spots for workers from Bergstrasse—leaving the church at 8:15 AM; shift runs from 10:00 AM to Noon; returning to the church by approximately 1:30 PM. Please respond by using the sign up sheet on the bulletin board.



VOTING MEMBERS FOR THE SYNOD ASSEMBLY are needed. The Synod Assembly will be held on Thursday, May 31 and Friday, June 1 beginning at 8:30 AM each day, at Messiah College in Grantville, PA. A detailed description of the Assembly appeared in the March Newsletter. You can stay overnight or commute each day with Pastor Bob. Registration deadline is April 30; there is a \$30.00 discount if registered by April 15. Expenses will be paid by Bergstrasse. Contact Pastor Bob for more details.

Heavenly showers



All God's blessings go together, like links in a golden chain. If he gives converting grace, he will also give comforting grace. He will send "showers of blessing." Look up today, O parched plant, and open thy leaves and flowers for a heavenly watering.

—Charles H. Spurgeon

The Paschal Candle

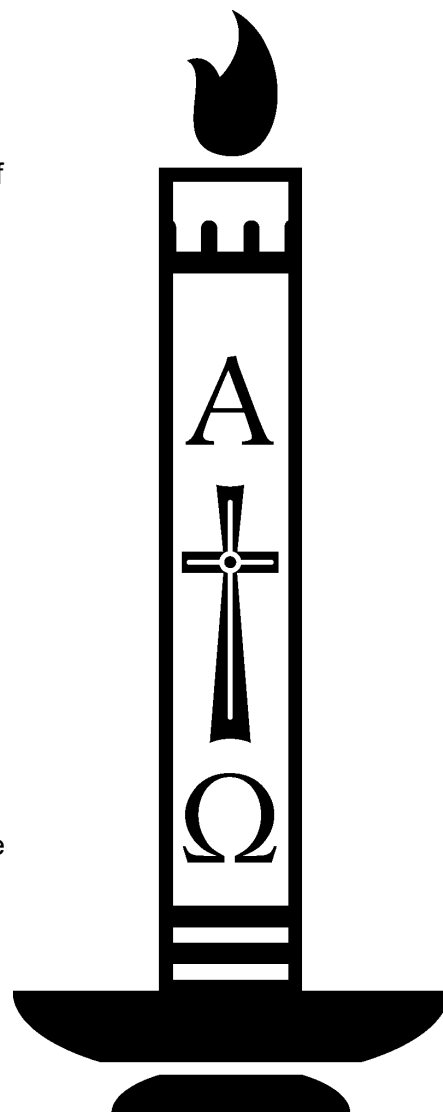
Fire has long been a sign of God's presence. The Old Testament is full of examples: the burning bush on Mount Sinai, the pillar of fire in the desert, the tabernacle lamps, and the sacrificial fires on the altar of the temple in Jerusalem. Early Christians rather naturally viewed the kindling of new fire as a symbol of the presence of their resurrected Lord, the new pillar of fire.

For Christians today, the symbolism of Christ's triumph over the darkness of sin and death is preeminent. This symbolism is most apparent with the use of a paschal candle. At Easter each year a new fire is kindled, and the paschal candle is lighted, representing the Risen Christ, the Light of the world.

Throughout the fifty days of Easter, the paschal candle traditionally stands near the altar as a symbol of the resurrection. It is lighted for each liturgy during the great fifty days of Easter. (Easter is not over until Pentecost, the fiftieth day!) Ideally, the candle burns continuously from the Vigil of Easter through Pentecost. Since this is usually not practical, the paschal candle will be lighted well before the arrival of worshipers and remain lit until after all have departed.

After the Day of Pentecost, the paschal candle is placed on its stand near the baptismal font as a visual reminder that in our baptism, we are crucified and resurrected with Christ. The candle is lighted at each celebration of Baptism, at which time small baptismal candles are lighted from it for presentation to the baptized. This act is a visual reminder of the integral connection between Baptism and Easter. For funerals, the paschal candle is lighted and placed in its stand at the head of the casket during the funeral rite. In a visual way, the paschal candle visually proclaims the message of Romans 6:3-5 (used at the beginning of the burial liturgy): "In our Baptism we have already died and been raised with Christ."

Thanks be to God for a memorial gift from the family of Neil and Vera Strickler that has been used to purchase a paschal candle for worship at Bergstrasse. The candle will be lighted for the first time on Easter morning from the fire started during the Sunrise service.



Thanks from:

Dear Pastor Bob and Bergstrasse members,

Thank you so much for the beautiful floral arrangements you sent for Mom and Dad's funeral services. It was so thoughtful and very much appreciated.

We also wanted to thank the kitchen staff for the wonderful food and attentive service at the funeral luncheons. It was comforting to spend some time remembering Mom and Dad with our family and friends.

Mom and Dad loved being members at Bergstrasse and received so much fellowship and friendship from Bergstrasse church members. Thank you for always keeping them in your thoughts and prayers.

With sincere thanks

Neil and Vera Strickler's family

Thank you for your thoughtful donation of \$50 in support of our mission. With the generosity of friends like you, we can help more families build and repair decent, affordable homes in our community.

Bill Dewan

Director of Development

Habitat for Humanity

Pre-Yard Sale Shopping

Items that have been accumulated over the years here at Bergstrasse will be offered during a gigantic Fundraiser Yard Sale on May 5. Per a Congregational policy that has been in effect for years, members are invited to take whatever items are useful for them prior to the Fundraiser sale beginning on April 29. So please visit the display and take what you need. Items that remain after May 5 will be discarded. Here is a partial listing of what is available.

- 1 – Dell PC Computer, Model Dimension 2400, with keyboard, mouse, and 15" monitor
- Over 30 VCR Tapes on various church themes
- 1 – Set VCR Tapes of the Alpha Course
- Over 30 Cassette Tapes of various church-theme music
- Various Resource Books with religious Themes
- Over 50 various religious books for Children with copyright dates in the 1960's and 70's
- Copies of History of Bergstrasse Evangelical Lutheran Church by Henry Snyder Gehman © 1978
- 4 – *Old Testament for Us* books published by the LCA, copyright 1965
- 10 – *Lutherans and Other Denominations* books published by the LCA, © 1964
- 20 – *The Gospel Story of Jesus* books published by the LCA, © 1965
- At Least 50 each Pamphlets *What Every Lutheran Should Know about the Sacrament of Baptism and about the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper* published by Channing Bete Co. © 1984
- A Set (14 volumes) entitled Little Journeys authored by Elbert Hubbard, © 1928
- 12 *Sunday School* devotional books published by the General Council Evangelical Lutheran Church in North America © 1896
- A Set (27 volumes) entitled *The Fatherland Series* authored by J. Fredk. Smith published by Lutheran Board of Publication © 1872
- 1 Book *Silas Marner* authored by George Eliot © 1903 by the American Book Company
- 1 North End Church League Bowling Championship Trophy 1973-74
- 1 Dutch Lanes Women Church League Championship Trophy – Bergstrasse 1976-77
- 6 Panasonic Cassette Tape Players Model # RQ2102
- Student chairs, arts & crafts, many other items.

Contact a member of the church council if you have any questions.

Easter is eternal

If Easter means anything to modern man, it means that eternal truth is eternal. You may nail it to the tree, wrap it up in grave clothes and seal it in a tomb. But truth crushed to earth shall rise again.

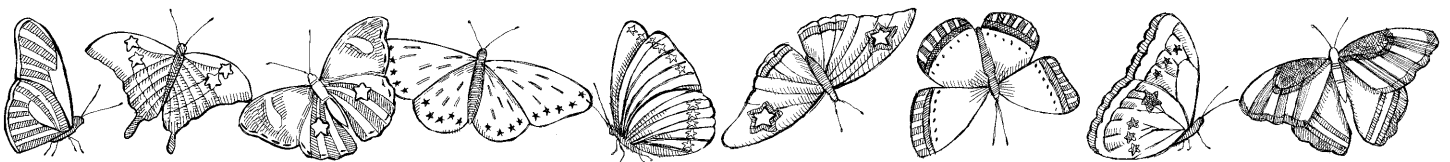
Truth does not perish. It cannot be destroyed. It may be distorted. It has been silenced temporarily. It has been compelled to carry its cross to Calvary's brow ... but with an inevitable certainty, after every Black Friday dawns truth's Easter morn.

—Donald H. Tippet

Worship participants for April

April	1	8	15	22	29
Greeters	Jane Pittman	Darlene Kreider	Cleone Rudisill	Mabel Bolar	Mary Keisling
Lector	Sunrise Bonnie Grater 10:30 Selma Hainley	Cathy Feather	Bonnie Grater	Peggy Rushton-Witmyer	Lisa Conway
Acolyte	Jaidyn Feather	Bishop Villarreal	Deb Burkholder	Jaidyn Feather	Bishop Villarreal
Counters	Bonnie Grater Mary Duing	Bonnie Grater Mary Duing	Selma Hainley Cathy Feather	Selma Hainley Cathy Feather	Earl and Sandy Eshleman
Flowers	Nevin Rutt Gladys Horvath	Jean Fryberger	Deb Burkholder		
Bulletin	Rudisill/Landis	Jean Fryberger			

	Ushers	Communion Ushers April 1, 8,15,22, 29	Altar Guild
April	Curt Hare Nevin Rutt Jane Pittman Darlene Kreider	Cathy Feather Dave Heisey	Jane Pittman Betty Evans



Mabel Bolar
 Harold and Evelyn Coldren
 Earl and Sandy Eshleman
 Betty Evans
 Polly Gunzenhauser
 Donna Hebert
 Carolyn Hibshman
 Bill Irvine
 Howard Jorgensen
 Darlene Kreider
 Larry Lausch
 Pastor Herb Lohr
 Shirley Martin
 Lawrence and Mitzi Rice
 Randy Rice
 Polly Schmuck
 Erma Snader
 Noah and Joan Stahl
 Nancy Sweigart
 Ruth Troutman
 Kaye Biermann
 Halley Bittle
 Evanna Estes (friend of Mary Duing)
 David Evans
 Kevin Ferguson (friend of Ben and Polly Gunzenhauser)
 Rick Gerhart
 Elmer and Sheila Gockley
 Harold and Norma Good
 Earl Goshert (Jane Pittman's step-father)
 Naomi Goshert (Jane Pittman's mother)
 Alissa Groff (member of the community)
 Nancy Heiser (Jane Pittman's cousin)
 Donna Hollinger (friend of Nancy Sweigart)
 Chris Horbey
 Robert L. Hornberger (Polly Schmuck's brother)
 Carolyn Houck (friend of Betty Evans)
 Caitlyn Mertz (family of Jane Pittman)
 Mark Mertz (Jane Pittman's cousin)
 Sheila Patrick (friend of Nancy Sweigart)
 Michael Rudisill (Cleone Rudisill's grandson)
 Weston Rudisill (Cleone Rudisill's grandson)
 Jennifer Sikie (family of Jane Pittman)
 Jared Snyder (Gail Smith's grandson)
 Tom Stuber (Jane Pittman's brother-in-law)
 Joe Suprik (friend of Jane Pittman)
 Cosette Sweigart (Polly Gunzenhauser's niece)
 Vernon Sweigart (Kathryn Sweigart's son)
 Randy Walker (friend of Chad and Kathy Landis)
 Harry Werner (friend of Sylvia Smith-Garman)
 Miriam Wolf



Congratulations to those with April birthdays:

- 10 Charlotte Weaver
- 12 Cathy Feather
- 16 Carolyn Hibshman
- 25 Ron Daub

Anniversaries

- 2 Nevin Rutt and Gladys Horvath
- 15 Glenn and Almanara Buffenmyer
- 22 Jeff and Lisa Stover
- 24 Dave and Donna Hebert
- 27 Curt and Inez Hare



Yard sale May 5

It's that time of year for spring house cleaning! Looking for items you would be willing to donate for a fundraising yard sale. Bring them to the church any time and we will store them, then it will be out of your way.

Fundraising yard sale and fundraising baskets will take place Friday, May 4 to set up and Saturday, May 5 is the day of the fundraiser.

The proceeds go to 4 Our Kids, Power Pak Program and classmate Randy Walker who has ALS. It's always a lot of fun and donations, help, etc. are all accepted with a smile and a hug.

Thanks so much!
The Landis Family



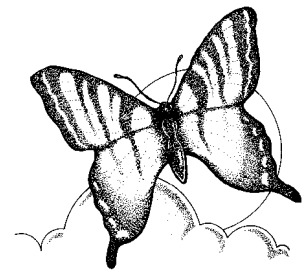
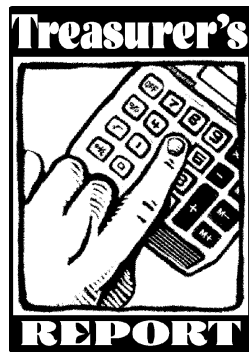
Seed Money Received for Projects

	Seed Money Collected	20% Congregation	Funds Still Needed	Project Cost
Doors	\$ 949	\$5,532	\$4,583	\$27,660
Paving Parking Lot (Church)	\$10,237	\$14,545	\$4,308	\$72,727

Funds still needed for projects \$8,891

Balance as of 2/28/18

General Fund	\$ 6,474.26
Improvement Fund	\$ 2,651.75
Mission Plus	\$ 74,240.33
Mission Plus 2	\$ 2,721.94
Parsonage Secty Dep/ Memorial Fund	\$ 5,759.89



"What the caterpillar calls the end of the world, the Master calls a butterfly."

Richard Bach

Thank God for our food

God said [to Adam and Eve], 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. -**Genesis 1:29**

There's an old joke about the first-grade teacher who asks her class, "Where do apples come from?" Little Jenny speaks up: "From the supermarket!"

We laugh, but the sad truth is that many of us are so far removed from farms that we forget that our food -- every bite -- comes from life, life that God alone created. Yes, farmers sow seeds and care for the plants and trees, but it's God's miracle of life that makes them grow.

As stewards and disciples, we desire to cultivate in ourselves and our communities a deep appreciation for all God provides us, particularly what we need to live. With every mouthful at every meal we thank God for our daily bread, and for the soil, air and water that sustains life.

Easter and springtime are perfect occasions to celebrate God's miracle of life that gives us fruit, vegetables, grains, meat, fish and dairy foods. Here are some ideas:

- In saying mealtime grace, thank God not only for food, but also for the cycles of seedtime, growth and harvest. Thank God for life-nourishing soil, water and air.
- While eating discuss or ponder the origins of the variety of food on your plate. How and where are the plants grown or animals raised? How do they get to your kitchen?
- As a church or family, celebrate Earth Day (Sunday, April 22) by learning about food production and how climate change, pollution and economics impact our food supply.
- Celebrate Earth Day by planting a garden in your yard or community garden on church grounds.
- Learn about nutrition -- what foods are the best and worst for us, and why. Promote healthy eating.
- Learn about food waste in our culture and take steps to reduce it in your home.
- At church, reserve a Sunday for a special service highlighting creation and food. Maybe "Blessing of the Seeds," or the ancient "Rogation Sunday" ritual.

We live in a culture where food is all around us all the time. As steward-disciples, we want to be sure not to take even a mouthful for granted.

--Rob Blezard

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Why we need Easter

No one is exempt from tragedy or disappointment — even God was not exempt. Jesus offered no immunity, no way *out* of the unfairness, but rather a way *through* it to the other side. Just as Good Friday demolished the instinctive belief that this life is supposed to be fair, Easter Sunday followed with its startling clue to the riddle of the universe. Out of the darkness, a bright light shone. ...

The cross of Christ may have overcome evil, but it did not overcome unfairness. For that, Easter is required, a bright clue that someday God will restore all physical reality to its proper place.

—Philip Yancey, *Disappointment With God*