



## So When Is Easter this Year?

PASTOR JEFF BROWNING

As many of you have noticed and pointed out, Easter Sunday seems unusually “early” in 2024. This year, Easter Sunday will happen on March 31. Last year it was on April 9. Next year the grand celebration will fall on April 20. Back in 2008, we celebrated Easter Sunday even earlier, as the big day fell on March 23. Every year, a handful of people will ask the obvious question: Why does the date of Easter vary so much from year to year?


We actually know quite a lot about that very first Easter. As we read in Mark’s Gospel account:

*When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome brought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us to the entrance to the tomb?” When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. Mark 16:1-4*

We know that Jesus rose from the dead on a Sunday: As Mark details, “the Sabbath was over...and [it was] very early on the first day of the week.” We also know it was the Spring season, because God’s people celebrated the Passover Meal the week before. The Bible includes some well-known names and events that have led historians to conclude that it probably happened between the years 30 and 33 AD. Yet, even with all that is known about that first Easter, it is simply impossible to identify a precise date.

About 1700 years ago, leaders in the church created a plan to mark the official commemoration of Christ’s resurrection. Every year going forward, Easter would always take place following the Vernal Equinox (the start of the Spring season in the Northern hemisphere) on March 20. Easter would be celebrated on the first Sunday, after the first full moon, of the Spring Season. This means Easter could fall anywhere between March 22 and April 25.

If you’re anything like me, your first response to that last paragraph was “what?” The formula for determining the official date of Easter Sunday is not easy to understand and even more difficult to explain.

But whenever we “officially commemorate the observance of Christ’s resurrection,” we are celebrating something that transcends calendars, time, and even life as we know it. We are celebrating Christ’s victory over death for all time, something that God has made a part of our lives 365 days a year. As we journey through the somber days of Lent and Good Friday, and contemplate the fact that Christ paid with his life to take away our sin, we also get to always know the story eventually and ultimately brings us to an empty tomb. As we face struggles, disappointments, and grief in this world, we do so knowing that CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED, ALLELUIA! Jesus is alive, and sharing his victory over death with us every single moment into eternity. The joy and reality of Easter is not just ours on one big Sunday that takes place sometime between late March and late April. Easter is celebrated every Sunday, every single day for the rest of forever. 

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## Message from the President

LAURA BAUER

The Lenten season is already here, and Holy Week will conclude with Easter by the end of March. I suspect you all knew that already.

In case you haven't heard, or are relatively new to Resurrection, Soup Suppers are available every Wednesday after the 4:30 p.m. service during Lent. This is a wonderful way to keep things simple, to share some nourishing food with one another, and to catch up with people.

If you haven't made it to a Soup Supper yet, I encourage you to plan to attend at least one in March and to sign up to bring bread, a dessert, or some homemade soup. I have a new favorite soup I plan to bring in early March. Thanks to turmeric, it has a lovely yellow color, so it should be easy to spot.

While Lent is a time of contemplation concluding with the somber events of Good Friday, I look forward to the joy of Easter services at Resurrection.

Thoughts of the altar overflowing with lilies, the lovely decorations made by our Sunday School students, and the exuberant music from our organ and piano accompanied by choir, trumpet and timpani are already lifting my spirits.

As we contemplate the great sacrifice Jesus made on our behalf, I also ask you to contemplate how you can best serve Resurrection and its many missions, near and far.

I expect to share more in the coming months about ways you can become more involved in the life of the church—to be the hands and feet of Jesus here on earth—and to share the Gospel message through word and deed.

I am grateful for every one of you and grateful for the opportunity to serve.

# Holy Week at Resurrection



**Palm Sunday Services**  
March 24 at 8:30, 9:45, 11:00am

**Maundy Thursday**  
March 28 at 7:00pm

**Good Friday**  
March 29 at 12:00pm and 7:00pm

**Easter Saturday**  
March 30 at 10:00am

**Easter Services**  
Sunday, March 31 at 8:00, 9:30, 11:15am  
Saturday, March 30 at 5:30pm

## Resurrection Women's Ministries

**W**omen's Ministries" is not just the monthly Friday night gatherings of the ladies of Resurrection.

It is so much more, and it is being revamped in 2024. A new year, a new look, new and revisited programs, are on the docket.

Resurrection is filled with a diverse and eclectic mix of women. Participation in any of the Women's Ministries events includes all ages and maybe some specific age groups for certain activities. Plant sales (three times a year), movie nights, Bible studies, book studies, craft days and nights, dinners, and games, are just a few of the activities in which our ladies can participate.

You may notice some changes in the days of events and the types of programs. We are currently moving away from the Friday night monthly gatherings to larger events and will be seeking leaders for these and new events. To keep things interesting, interactive, and ongoing, we need volunteers to participate, plan, and execute events.

Mark your calendars for these next big events:

**March 1, Friday 7:00 p.m.** – Movie Night – check the Items of Interest

**March 1-19** – Soles4Souls Shoe Drive


**April 6, Saturday 9:00 a.m.** – Men's & Women's Communion Breakfast (a resurrected event)

**May 3-4-5** – Annual Spring Plant Sale

**May 19, Sunday 12:30 p.m.** – The Ladies Tea (back by popular demand)

Ladies, if there is a project that is dear to your heart, let's get together and make it happen. Don't forget about the crafters group – every Monday 10 a.m. -12 noon in the Fellowship room.

And look for information on a new evening Bible Study led by our Parish Nurse, Linda Wardley.

Feel free to reach out with ideas or questions: [ellen@resgc.org](mailto:ellen@resgc.org). 



**Ellen Farber**  
Serves as a Deacon at Resurrection.



## Musical Theatre March Madness



These talented students from Resurrection will be in local school musicals this month. (l-r) Anastasia, Lila, Madison, Ruby, and Keiran.

It's school musical theatre month, and some of Resurrection's Youth Group members will be on stage performing in Middle and High School productions. You are all invited to come out to see one—or more—of these classic shows:

### GREASE

at Garden City Middle School  
Starring Anastasia Browning (6<sup>th</sup> grade) as a Soda Pop Girl, and Lila Minarcik (7<sup>th</sup> grade) as a Featured Dancer / Angel Choir. Show dates: March 14, 15, 16 at 7pm, and March 16 at 1pm. For ticket info, phone the church or email [connect@resgc.org](mailto:connect@resgc.org).

### THE LION KING

at George Washington Intermediate School, West Hempstead  
Starring Madison-Adaora Reynolds (6<sup>th</sup> grade) as Shenzi, Leader of the Hyenas. Thursday, March 21 at 6pm. For ticket info, phone the church or email [connect@resgc.org](mailto:connect@resgc.org).

### GUYS AND DOLLS

at Chaminade High School  
Starring Ruby Murphy (8<sup>th</sup> grade) as a Hot Box Girl and Havana Dancer, and Keiran Cook (11<sup>th</sup> grade) as a Hot Box Girl. Show dates: March 8, 9, and 15 at 7:30pm; and March 10 and 16 at 2pm. Tickets on sale at <https://Chaminade-11501.ticketleap.com>

Three fun and lively shows that are sure to have you tapping your feet as you sing along to tunes you know and love. Enjoy this month of great theatre in all our local schools.

Review by Kimberly Murphy

## En Garde, Parry, Thrust

When one thinks of swashbucklers, one thinks of Scaramouche, Zorro, the Three Musketeers, even Captain Jack Sparrow. Now add to that group, Resurrection's own Eileen Peers.

Eileen, longtime congregation member, handbell ringer, church choir singer, Altar Guild member and likely candidate for almost any group looking for volunteers, is one of six members (plus coach) of the Long Island Swordsmen Fencing Club.

Since last September, the club has been meeting in Resurrection's basement on Thursdays from 7 to 10 p.m. The club had been meeting for many years in schools in the East Williston District, but, as Ian Weitz, leader and administrator of the club explained, fees for use of the schools rose dramatically last year and the search began for another venue.

Said Mr. Weitz, "Resurrection and the pastor were nice enough to let us use this space."

Eileen has been fencing for 26 years. She began studying at Garden City Adult Education after seeing a character in a television sitcom dressed for a fencing competition. Charles Oliver was Eileen's first adult ed instructor; today his son, Kevin, is the club's coach.

Club members must have insurance and discounted rates are arranged through membership in the USA Fencing Association, an organization founded in 1891 with a "vision" to "inspire a lifetime enriched by fencing."



The group practices their moves.




All but one of the club members.



Eileen in a classic lunge with Kevin Oliver, coach.

All current members are experienced fencers, but Mr. Weitz indicated the club was not averse to new members and beginners.

For Eileen, "It's a fun club, just a nice place to fence."

So, be nice to Eileen: she has an épée, and she knows how to use it. 

### Kenneth Meyn

Director of Music and Handbell Choir  
Director. He retired after 38 years at  
*The New York Times.*



## Emerging Readers

PATTI NOLAN, Transition Pre-K Teacher

In preschool, reading lays the cornerstone for a child's cognitive development and literacy skills. Introducing reading at this early age fosters a lifelong love for learning and exploration. Preschoolers are at a crucial stage where their brains are rapidly developing, making it an ideal time to expose them to the wonders of books and storytelling.

Reading in preschool serves as a gateway to language acquisition and comprehension. Through colorful illustrations and engaging narratives, children begin to grasp fundamental concepts such as letters, sounds, and vocabulary. They learn to associate written words with spoken language, enhancing their communication skills and expanding their imaginations.



Transition Pre-K students explore books during independent reading time.

Reading in preschool nurtures essential cognitive abilities such as concentration, memory, and critical thinking. As children follow along with stories, they learn to sequence events, predict outcomes, and make connections between ideas. These cognitive processes lay the groundwork for problem-solving and analytical thinking later in life.

Beyond academic benefits, reading in preschool also promotes emotional development and social interaction. Sharing stories with peers and caregivers cultivates empathy, fosters relationships, and encourages collaboration. Additionally, books provide a safe space for children to explore complex emotions, understand diverse perspectives, and navigate the world around them.

Reading in preschool is not just about teaching letters and words—it's about igniting a passion for learning, nurturing curiosity, and empowering children to become confident, lifelong readers and learners.

## It's All An Illusion

One of my guilty pleasures in life is watching magic shows on TV. I am a big fan of Penn & Teller, Criss Angel and Dan Sperry, and I regularly watch a show called "Masters of Illusion." These performers have figured out how to trick your eye, confuse your senses, and make you believe that you are seeing something that your brain knows isn't possible. As the show suggests, they are masters of illusions.

While I may not be able to make your Queen of Hearts appear inside a birthday cake or make it look like I am

floating across the Grand Canyon, I feel like I know a thing or two about illusions, specifically, the illusion of control.

One of my favorite authors, Kate Bowler, speaks so strongly on this topic. Kate is a professor at Duke Divinity school and was unexpectedly diagnosed with stage IV cancer at age 35. Fortunately, after years of being told she was incurable, she was declared cancer-free, but she speaks profoundly about the conflict between life being beautiful and life being incredibly, unimaginably hard and how desperately we cling to any sense of control we believe we might have.

She recently posted a video in which she said, "Life happens to us... we don't live with control... so let us settle in and *not* know in the presence of the God who *already* knows." If only,

right? If only it were that easy to peel my fingers off the proverbial steering wheel and let someone else navigate. The irony remains that we are so desperate to remain in control, while simultaneously knowing, through both empirical knowledge and first-hand experience, that we absolutely have no control.

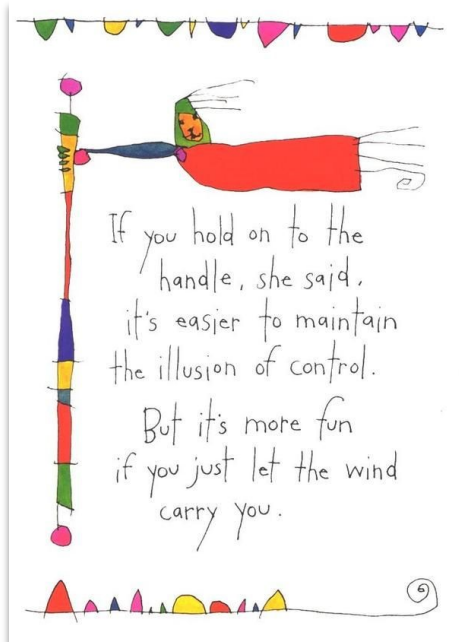
But Kate is right. Once we allow ourselves to swallow this impossibly bitter pill, we can begin to realize that just because *we* don't have control doesn't mean that we are out-of-control, because we aren't alone. We hear this in Isaiah 41:10: "[s]o do not fear, for I

am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." God is with us, and He has it all under control.

In thinking about this topic, I was reminded of one of my favorite poet/illustrators, Brian Andreas, who wrote: "If you hold on to the handles, she said, it's easier to maintain the illusion of control. But it's more fun if you just let the wind carry you." During this Lenten season, let us challenge ourselves to let go of the handles, and let the wind of the Spirit carry us, hold us, and comfort us in our times of uncertainty. 



**Diana Auer**  
is Director of Youth & Family Ministry. She loves to sing, bake and spend time with her husband, Matt and their miniature schnauzer, Ollie.



If you hold on to the handle, she said,  
it's easier to maintain  
the illusion of control.  
But it's more fun  
if you just let the wind  
carry you.



# Feed My Lambs

ELIZABETH BEZRUTCZYK



(top row, left) Meal-a-Month volunteers, Heng Quinn, Elizabeth Bezrutczyk, Gisela Muller, Jackie Reinhard, and Deb Wolk work together to assemble the food trays.

(top row, right) The recipe loved by guests of the Soup to Nuts Kitchen calls for a layer of instant mashed potatoes.

(second row, left) After the peas and carrots, the next layer will be the browned ground beef.

(second row, right) *Ta-da!* The volunteers will now cover the trays with aluminum foil, add their blessing, and refrigerate for next-day delivery to hungry families in Freeport.

One of the lesser-known ministries of our church is the Meal-A-Month program. Once a month on a Tuesday afternoon, a group of volunteers gather in our kitchen to prepare shepherd's pie for 120+ people. It's delivered the next morning to the Soup to Nuts Kitchen, located at Christ Lutheran Church in Freeport. The mission is a tangible way to show God's love to our neighbors.

This mouth-watering endeavor has been going on in one form or another since 1996. It began when Marie Meyer, wife of Pastor Bill Meyer, was inspired to have our congregation join the efforts of the Interfaith Nutrition Network (INN) to feed the hungry on Long Island. With the help of seed money donated by member Dorothy Rupp, volunteers and other donations soon followed, and a legacy was begun.

People ask, "Where did you get this recipe?" Its origins remain a mystery, but

according to Mela Massaro, co-president of the Soup to Nuts Kitchen, it is probably the most popular of the entrees they serve. "The guests look forward to every third Wednesday of the month for your delicious shepherd's pie," she said recently.


Resurrection is one of 13 religious organizations that has committed to provide meals to the soup kitchen on a monthly basis. As Mela noted, our slot is the third Wednesday of every month.

The process starts with shopping: A few days before our cooking date, the ingredients are purchased at nearby Restaurant Depot and placed in our church's refrigerator. When Tuesday afternoon comes, a group of 3-4 volunteers meet for about 90 minutes to chop onions, brown ground beef, and mix mashed potatoes—and have fun while doing it.

"It is such a worthwhile activity," says Su-

san LiCalzi. "I get to meet and work alongside other members of the church in a very relaxed and fun manner." The next day other volunteers deliver the six trays to the Freeport location.

We have a small band of faithful helpers, but we need more! Our most pressing need is for a person to do the shopping every month. In less than an hour, and on your own schedule, you can shop and deliver the ingredients to the church. We also need to build up our corps of cooks.

Does Meal-A-Month sound like something you could be part of? No prior experience is necessary: we will train you! Email [elizabeth.bez@resgc.org](mailto:elizabeth.bez@resgc.org) if you can help. If you would like to support this mission you can also make a donation to Meal-A-Month in the white pew envelopes. As Mela says, "Our Meal-A-Month volunteers have been called by Scripture to feed the hungry." 



## Fabulous February in Full Force



(above) Youth Night with the Long Island Nets;

(right) Shout out to Resurrection!

**T**he youth of Resurrection have had another fun and exciting month! We kicked off (or should I say tipped off) another wonderful month of ministry with a youth outing to see our very own Long Island Nets basketball team face off against the formidable Wisconsin Herd at the Nassau Coliseum.

We were thrilled to be invited to the Nets “Faith Night” where we joined with other local faith-based group to watch a great basketball game, and see a special halftime show by Christian hip-hop artist MTM Isaiah.

Our group had courtside seats and were able to chat with some of the players during the game, and certainly were able to see all of the action, up close and personal. After the game, our group was invited to go onto the court and get a great picture together to commemorate this fun night!



### Youth-Volunteer Service

We give thanks for all our amazing youth participants who helped to serve at our first youth-volunteer 9:45am service on February 4. It was so wonderful to see our middle and high schoolers stepping up as our greeters, ushers, readers, Communion assistants and acolytes. We look forward to continuing this great opportunity for our youth to become more integrally involved in the

worship life at Resurrection each month! If your child is interested in participating, please email our Director of Christian Education, Michelle Kollmeier.

### Palm Sunday Brunch; Easter EGGstravaganza

Easter is right around the corner, which means that we will be bringing back two of my favorite Resurrection traditions: our Palm Sunday potluck brunch and our Easter EGGstravaganza! We look forward to hosting our annual Palm Sunday brunch on Sunday, March 24, 9:30-11am, with all monetary donations going to support our annual meal packing event! A sign-up sheet will be available within the next week or so to sign up to bring a brunch item and/or dessert for the potluck!

In addition, we will host our Easter Egg-stravaganza on Saturday, March 30, 10am. This fabulous event is perfect for families with small children! We will meet in the sanctuary at 10am for our Easter message before heading outside for our Easter egg hunt. Rumor has it, this year we will have over 6,000 eggs for the finding! As always, we need a lot of helping hands to make both of these events a success, so if you or your child are interested in helping, please reach out to me ([Diana@resgc.org](mailto:Diana@resgc.org))!

With so many wonderful events and opportunities coming up, just as a reminder that our doors are always open. It doesn't matter if an event will be your first, or your fiftieth, we are excited to have you join us! Christ's love is abounding, and here at Resurrection, truly, the more, the merrier. 🏡

# LCMS-AD: Part 2

ELLEN FARBER

This is the second in our series on The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Atlantic District, and this month we will look at Task Forces.

Joining a Task Force is an excellent way to learn more and experience the opportunities in our district. Taken from the website: “The Task Force concept provides an innovative, action-oriented, ongoing plan to guide the work of the district in more effectively proclaiming the Gospel.

This organizational structure is comprised of seven task forces, designed to specifically impact the issues of greatest importance to congregations and organizations.”

**Task Force 1:** Church Planting

**Task Force 2:** Revitalization and Leadership Development

**Task Force 3:** Parish Support & Financial Management

**Task Force 4:** Education

**Task Force 5:** Youth

**Task Force 6:** Communications

**Task Force 7:** Health & Human Care

**Task Force 8:** Disaster Relief

**Task Force 9:** Evangelism”

## Festival of Workshops

A big informational event, Festival of Workshops, is being held Saturday, March 16. Please refer to <https://ad-lcms.org/> for details.

## Fun Facts:

“The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) has had notable individuals associated with it. Here are some famous members:

**Johann Sebastian Bach:** The famous composer and musician was a Lutheran<sup>1</sup>.

**Kirsten Dunst:** The talented actress, known for her roles in movies like “Fargo,” attended and graduated from Catholic schools but was reportedly raised Lutheran<sup>1</sup>.

**David Letterman:** The renowned talk show host humorously referred to himself as “a tower of Midwestern Lutheran guilt” when faced with personal challenges<sup>1</sup>.

**Ann-Margret:** The '60s icon attended a Lutheran church throughout her life<sup>1</sup>.

**William Hurt:** The Academy Award-winning actor has Lutheran roots<sup>1</sup>.

**Dana Carvey:** The beloved comedian and “Saturday Night Live” alum is also part of the Lutheran community<sup>1</sup>.

Remember, faith is deeply personal, and these individuals have diverse perspectives within the Lutheran tradition.

If you’d like to explore more about LCMS history and its impact, check out or Google: [Sketches of Faith and Life in the 175-Year History of the LCMS](#) . “

<sup>1</sup> ranker.com



## EDITORIAL & CREATIVE

GINNY RAFFA, JENNY FORT

## CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Pastor Jeff Browning,  
Laura Bauer, Ellen Farber  
Kimberly Murphy, Ken Meyn  
Diana Auer, Patti Nolan  
Elizabeth Bezruczyk, Carolyn Orlik,  
Armia Bajit, Ginny Raffa

## PHOTOGRAPHY

Christine Zimmerman,  
Ken Meyn, Kimberly Murphy,  
Ginny Raffa, et. al.

## MAILING VOLUNTEERS

Linda Wardley, Elizabeth Bezruczyk  
Rolf Lohse, Eileen Peers  
Helen Smith

## OFFICIAL ACTS

### Baptisms

Juliette Magny O’Mullan 2/11/24  
Savannah Love Mongone 2/17/24



**Lutheran Church of the Resurrection**  
420 Stewart Avenue  
Garden City, NY 11530  
516.746.4426  
[www.resgc.org](http://www.resgc.org) | [office@resgc.org](mailto:office@resgc.org)  
Preschool 516.741.6447

The views and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily held by the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection. If you have questions or comments about any content, please contact Pastor Browning.

**REMINDER!**  
Spring Plant Sale  
Saturday, May 4  
Order forms available Easter weekend.

*Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.*

*I John 5:24*

**OPENING:**

Can you always believe everything you hear? Think about all the ways you are persuaded to make a decision or a choice. Can you trust every review for any item you shop for online? Are they telling the truth? Or, while watching a television show, a celebrity appears in a commercial to convince the viewer about a service or product. Can you believe them? Maybe one friend tries to sway you toward one idea, and another is adamantly trying to convince you of the opposite. Is there doubt? Are you unsure? How do you know what to believe?

**THINK:**

Who can we believe? We believe in God Almighty, who sacrificed His Son Jesus for our sins. We believe the Holy Spirit who gives us the ability to understand God's word and strengthens our faith. We believe, without a doubt, that we are brought from death to eternal life because we hear, confess, and live this promise every day.

**PRAY:**

Dear Heavenly Father,  
You wonderfully provide all things for us, especially the gift of your Son,

Jesus. Help us to hear your words, understand your promise, and to share the message of eternal life with others. Rejoicing in your name, we pray,  
Amen.

**DO:**

During Lent, let us reflect on the gift of everlasting life God has given us through Jesus. Read and listen to God's Word proclaimed. Know that our faith comes from hearing scripture. Live, knowing that because of Jesus, we have eternal life.

ARMIA BAJIT

## WORSHIP WITH US

## COMING NEXT ISSUE

**Sundays, Traditional Worship**

In-Person — 8:30, 9:45 & 11am  
Online — 9:45am

**Saturdays, Contemporary Service**

In-Person — 5:30pm

The next *Lamplighter* newsletter will be your combined April/May 2024 publication, bringing timely features on Resurrection's people and ministries, as well as news of upcoming opportunities to encourage you on your faith journey.