

ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Proclaiming the Love of God for All People

5709 Wedgwood Drive
Fort Worth, Texas 76133
817-292-1338 office@stmatthews-elca.org

THE MESSENGER

KID'S EDITION

St. Matthew's Mission Statement:
Living in Christ through faith.
Living for neighbor through love.

SPRING 2024

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, organized in 1953, is a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

Sunday Worship
8:15 and 11:00 am

Children's Church is part of
11:00 am worship

Rev. Lesley M. Radius
Pastor
pastor@stmatthews-elca.org

Trent Ormsbee-Hale
Seminary Intern
intern@stmatthews-elca.org

Kelly Riddle
Community Engagement
Coordinator
community@stmatthews-elca.org

Adam Frame
Director of Music Ministries
music@stmatthews-elca.org

John Wolf
Organist / Pianist

Shirley Johnson
Director of the Sounds of
Exaltation Handbell Choir

Valerie Dyke, Erin Reigh
Nursery Attendants

Youth Commission Director
Adrienne Frame

Kid's Messenger Editor
Mary Nedde - Suggestions welcome!

LENT TO EASTER:

Lent begins February 14 with Ash Wednesday.



Ash Wednesday
— Lent Begins

St. Matthew's & St. Christopher will worship on February 14 when ashes will be placed on everyone's forehead.

Holy Week is the week before Easter. It is filled with many important worship services.

Palm Sunday is March 24.

We remember Jesus rode on a donkey into the city of Jerusalem and people cheered.



Maundy Thursday is March 28.

We remember Jesus ate the Last Supper with his disciples and washed their feet as a servant.

Good Friday is March 29.

We remember Jesus died on the cross to forgive all of our sins.



EASTER is March 31.

We joyfully celebrate that Jesus is alive again! There will be special music and happy hymns in worship, and we will shout "ALLELUIA!"

THE SEASON OF LENT



The cross is a very important symbol during Lent. When you come to church in Lent, please pick up a cross puzzle in the narthex for you to have at home. Make this puzzle often during Lent. If you aren't able to come to church, make your own cross puzzle by drawing an outline of a cross on purple paper. Cut out the cross and then cut the cross into 5-7 puzzle pieces.

Look for things that are purple in your house, including things you might wear, and remember that February 14 through March 30 is the season of Lent. Purple was a very expensive color when Jesus lived. The dye used to make the color was made from a shell fish that gave off a special fluid. Purple could only be afforded by the rich and was worn almost only by royalty (kings and queens).

People often give extra offerings in church during Lent to remind them of Jesus' sacrifice of dying on the cross. They might continue to give extra offerings through the rest of the year, or give extra time to people in need. Talk with your family about how you can help people.

During Lent we will have worship on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights. During the last week of Lent, Holy Week, we will look forward to Easter with worship services on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday.

You can watch Godly Play stories and animated videos about Lent, Holy Week, and Easter specially made for children on YouTube. They will help you get ready for Easter!

EASTER SUNDAY - ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN!

Our celebration of Jesus rising from the dead is heard and seen through our joyful hymns and use of bright colors on Easter Sunday. We will shout "Alleluia, Christ is Risen; He is risen indeed!" during worship! We use bright colors for decorating Easter eggs, for the things we might wear on Easter, and for the many flowers we will see in church. If you have a cross at home, put colorful flowers on it on Easter Sunday to remind you that Jesus is risen.



Empty Tomb Easter Biscuits

Ingredients:

1 Tube Refrigerated Crescent Roll Dough (8 or 10 rolls per tube)
8-10 Large Marshmallows
1/4 to 1/2 Cup Butter Melted and Cooled (still melted)
3/4 Cup Sugar
2 Tblsp. Cinnamon



Instructions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray a muffin tin with cooking spray and set aside. Melt the butter in a small bowl and set aside to cool slightly. In another small bowl mix cinnamon and sugar and set aside. Separate crescent roll dough into triangles. Dip a marshmallow into the melted butter and then into the sugar and cinnamon mixture. Then place onto a triangle of the dough and carefully roll the marshmallow inside, **making sure to seal all the edges tightly**. Then roll the dough-covered marshmallow in the melted butter and the cinnamon sugar mixture. Place in the muffin tin and repeat until all dough triangles are used. Bake at 350 for 15 minutes. Allow to cool slightly and then break open the rolls before eating to reveal the empty tomb!

SHAVING CREAM EGGS

An alternative to vinegar and water colored eggs

Hard boil a dozen eggs, dry and cool completely.

Spray shaving cream over a large baking sheet - high enough so the eggs can "rest" in it.

With liquid food coloring, make drops all over the shaving cream. Use colors that blend well together - different corners of the baking sheet can have different color combinations.

With a knife, straw, popsicle stick, swirl the shaving cream. It's ok for the colors to mix. Swirl as much or as little as you want.

Wearing plastic gloves, carefully set the dried and cooled eggs into the shaving cream and gently roll around or use a spoon to coat the entire egg.

Lift the eggs out of the shaving cream with a spoon or spatula and carefully wipe off all of the shaving cream with a paper towel and set the eggs aside. Note: The longer you let the eggs sit in the shaving cream, the brighter the colors become.

With the leftover shaving cream, take pieces of white paper or cardstock and place on top of the shaving cream. Gently push the paper down just enough to cover one side. Lift up, wipe the cream off the paper, and when dry, fold in half and make a card!



CHILDREN'S PRAYER

Dear God: Help me to get ready to celebrate Easter by learning about the season of Lent. Teach me to pray every day to love you, to ask you to forgive my sins, and to ask that you watch over me and my family. When Easter comes, help me to remember to shout "Alleluia!" to remind me that Jesus rose to life again. Amen.



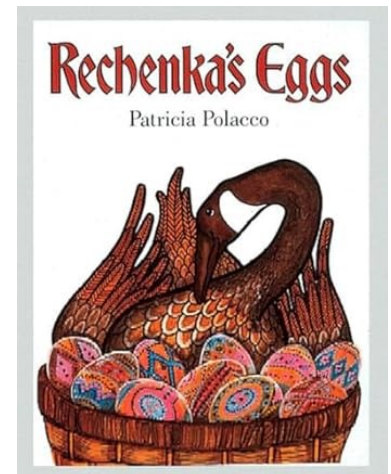
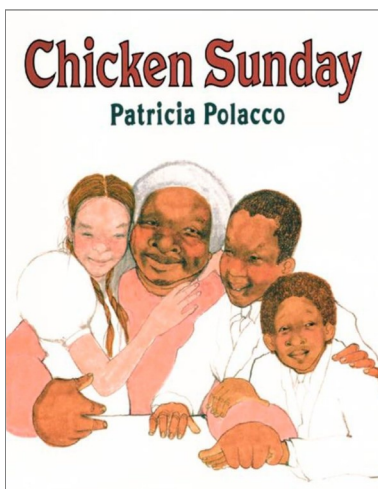
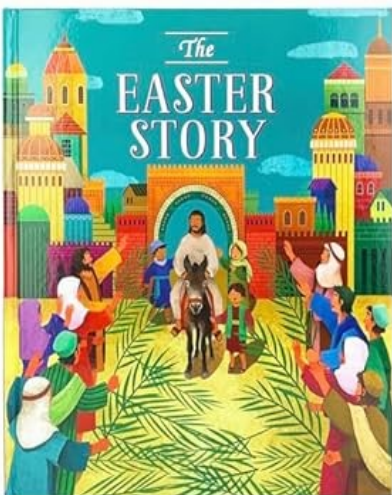
CHILDREN'S BOOKS

The Easter Story by Parragon Books / Rachel Elliott; for ages 2-8
This book introduces young children to the Easter story and the events leading up to Easter. Available on Amazon.

Chicken Sunday and Rechenka's Eggs by Patricia Polacco; for ages 6-9
Available on Amazon and Barnes and Noble.

Chicken Sunday is about some children who want to buy their grandma a beautiful Easter hat and how they discovered just the right way to pay for the special hat.

Rechenka's Eggs is a beloved story about a woman, Old Babushka, who is known for her beautifully painted Easter eggs in the Ukrainian style. Find out what happens when a basket of the beautiful eggs is overturned.





The Prophets, the Holy Family, the Shepherds and the Magi show us the way.

Hidden Pictures: The People Honored Jesus (Palm Sunday)

Find these objects hidden in the picture below: chain, pencil, book, magnet, fork, glass, fish, butterfly, shovel, canoe



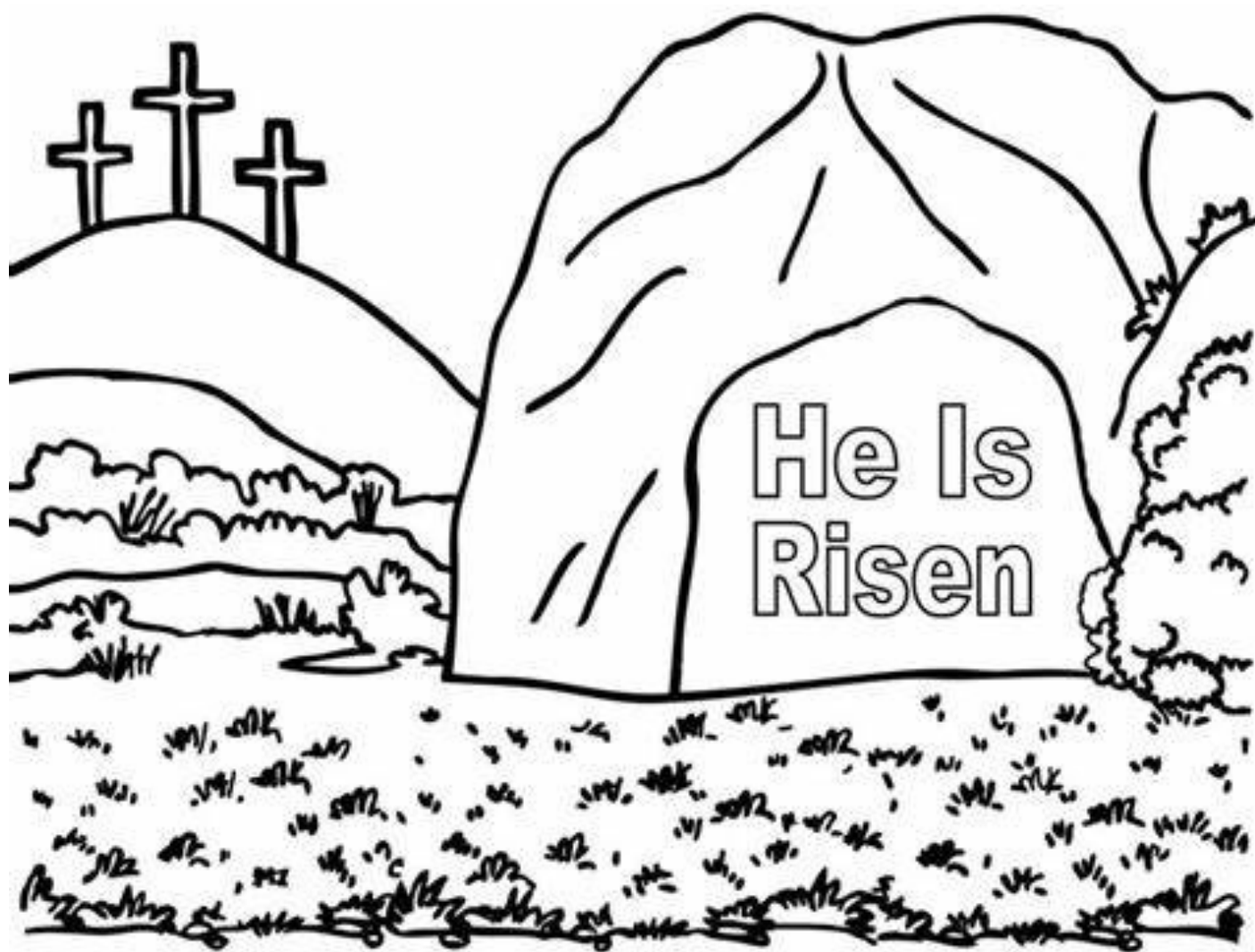
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December 14, 2023 Children's Church Godly Play Story - Who Will Show Us the Way to Bethlehem?



Coloring Page



EASTER SUNDAY - MARCH 31, 2024