

THE RESURRECTION

Jesus said to him, "Thomas because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." John 20:29 NKJV

The following is taken from "Why The Resurrection?" by Greg Laurie.

"Because the resurrection of Jesus Christ is essential to the Christian faith, it's easy to see why people have attempted to explain it away. Throughout time, numerous arguments have arisen against the validity of the Resurrection."

THE SWOON THEORY

"One of the most commonly held theories against the Resurrection is the 'swoon theory.' This theory proposes that Jesus did not rise from the dead at all, because He actually did not die on the cross. Instead, Jesus went into a deep coma or swooned from the severe pain and trauma of the Crucifixion. Then, in the cool temperature of the tomb, Christ revived, somehow was able to get out of the strips of cloths that were wrapped tightly around Him, and then appeared to His disciples.

The Roman guards were experts at execution and would be put to death if they allowed a condemned man to escape death. The guards were so certain Jesus was dead, that they did not even bother to break His legs. And when the spear they thrust into Jesus' side brought forth blood and water, they had the final proof of His death, for this occurs when the heart stops beating (see John 19:33-34).

The swoon theory is even less believable when you take into account that Jesus would have had to survive massive blood loss from the scourging, the nail wounds, and the spear thrust from the Roman guard. In addition, Jesus would have had to endure approximately three days without food and drink in His weakened condition. Then in His emaciated state, Jesus would have had to unwrap Himself from His grave clothes (which were glued together hard and fast by the myrrh He was buried with) and then, single-handedly, roll away the massive stone of the tomb. Finally, He would have had to convince His followers that He had risen from the dead - despite His weakened appearance - and travel countless miles in that condition to make many appearances to His disciples over the next forty days."

Jesus said, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

*Thanking the Lord for the blessing
this precious Easter season,
Pastor Mason*



*God
raised him
on the
third day
and allowed
him to
appear....
Acts 10:40, NRSV*

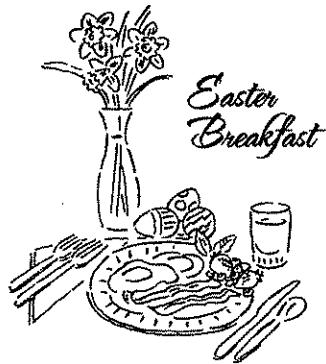
EASTER SUNDAY SCHEDULE

April 12

Breakfast at 9:30 AM

The menu will include quiche, strata, fruit cocktail, sweet breads and orange juice. There is no charge, however, donations of food would be appreciated. A sign-up sheet is available in the foyer. All are welcome - invite family and friends.

We want everyone to come and join us for this special time of fellowship. If you are unable to bring something (or if all food items have been taken) please sign up in the space provided so we can adequately prepare for everyone.)



Please Note:

There will be **NO Sunday School classes**, however, activities will be provided to occupy the children following breakfast.

The **Easter Celebration will be held at 11:00 AM**. Child care for newborn thru age two and Children's Church for ages three thru Second Grade and Third Grade thru Sixth Grade will be available.




GOOD FRIDAY Community Service

April 5 at 7:00 PM
Trinity Lutheran Church

Women's Spring Dinner • May 8

A Women's Spring Dinner will be held on Friday, May 8. The evening will begin at 6:00 p.m. with a dish-to-pass meal. Be sure to reserve the date now. Ladies of all ages are welcome - invite your mother, daughter(s) and friends for a special evening of fellowship and ministry. A sign-up sheet will be available soon.



April 26

Each year we honor our high school and post high school graduates with a special service. The date for the event this year is Sunday, April 26, at 7:00 p.m. You are invited to come and rejoice with the graduates and their families. Please bring a finger snack to share for the fellowship that will follow.

Congratulations to the following graduates:

Jeff Jacobson - Fillmore Central
Han Young Kim - Houghton Academy
Abigail Kornhaus - Houghton College
Susannah Kornhaus - Home School
Zachary Waasdorp - Houghton Academy

If there are any errors or omissions, please notify the church office as soon as possible.

Operation Christmas Child Update

Once again, this year our church was privileged to participate in Operation Christmas Child. Our 80 boxes were a part of nearly "8 million" boxes collected and distributed to children in over 100 countries. Right now, tens of thousands of children are involved in evangelistic Bible lessons that began with a shoe box gift and may soon lead to their salvation.

Jesus told His disciples that global evangelism will be one of the surest signs of His return: "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come" (Matthew 24:14, NIV).

This could happen in our lifetime. In just 16 years, Operation Christmas Child has reached nearly 70 million children in over 140 countries in the world. The ends of the earth are within sight.

Thank you for your faithful prayers and generous support for Operation Christmas Child. May God richly bless you in the coming year.

Kathi Dunham

Coming Up . . .

May 2..... Men's Breakfast at 7:30 a.m.
Spring Clean-up Day, 9:00 a.m.