



Sandy Run Lutheran Church

# April Tidings

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**The next few weeks will take us** from the darkness of Lent and Holy Week to the light of the Easter Resurrection.

These next few weeks also will remind us of the heart of the Christian faith: the Gospel message that points us to the saving grace of Jesus' life – his ministry and sacrifice on the cross and God's resurrection of Jesus to new life.

Whatever we read in scripture, we come back to the Gospels and the story of Jesus as God's story for us and God's story for his creation.

Jesus was sent to earth as one of us to be the savior of all of us.

Nothing else in scripture is more important than that message.

When I was a pre-teen, my dad looked at me one spring and said: "Easter is really your favorite holiday." "Yes," I said.

At the time, I could not explain why. Now I would say I love Easter because of the joy it brings and because of the promises it brings.

My childhood Easters were not particularly big "gift-giving days."

Easter was not a major party day. Easter consisted of:

- A new dress (often handmade by my mother – especially when I was young and money was tight),
- A simple Easter basket.
- A meal with close family.
- And, of course, Sunday worship.

Even then, I think I recognized that the central event of the day is the celebration of God's act of resurrection. Even then, I knew that Easter was the celebration of new life – the new life of Jesus and the promise of our new life to come.

That is the Good News – *euangelion* in biblical Greek – the Good News that Jesus has come to bring.

We have been created by God, called and claimed by God, and promised new life by God through Jesus Christ. God knows who we are – his children by baptism – and will never let us go.

Because of Easter, I know that God loves me. I know that I am saved by God's grace and will spend eternity with God. I know that Jesus is not just "my savior" but is the savior for the whole world.

I read recently the statement: "Our hope is in the God of the gospel and in no other." (Thank you, Dr. Walter Brueggemann.)

God promises us everything – eternity – and we can trust that he delivers on those promises. Amen.

*Pastor Pam*



## SANDY RUN COMMUNITY HYMN SING APRIL 23 AT BEULAH UNITED METHODIST

Sandy Run, Beulah United Methodist and Mt. Zion United Methodist are co-sponsoring a hymn sing April 23 at Beulah.

We have invited other congregations to participate and our choirs and congregations will be there.

The choirs will sing – and the joint congregation will sing.

No preaching – just singing (hopefully, some old favorites).

Everyone is asked to bring a finger food to share at 5 p.m.

The hymn sing begins at 6 p.m.

### HOLY WEEK/EASTER:

▪ **Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion:** 10:30 a.m. April 2. *With Holy Communion.*

▪ **Maundy Thursday Worship:** 7 p.m. April 6. *With Holy Communion.*

▪ **Good Friday Worship:** 7 p.m. April 7. *Tenebrae.*

▪ **Easter Resurrection:** 8 a.m. April 9. *With Holy Communion.* Congregational breakfast following.



### EASTER EGG HUNT 11 a.m.-1 p.m. April 8

Join us for crafts, games, a Bible story, lunch – and, of course, the egg hunt.