



The Connection

A Word from Pastor Dave

*"... all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus
were baptized into his death?"*

*We were therefore buried with him through baptism into
death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead
through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.*

*For if we have been united with him in a death like his,
we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his."*
(Romans 6:3-5, NIV)

Being baptized into death, sounds like a hard sale. Imagine for a moment a Sunday School teacher approaching a room full of grade 8 boys and asking them, "Would any of you like to be baptized into death this year?" Yet the Apostle Paul says that is exactly what Baptism represents. However, the good news is, "we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his." Now there is something worth talking about!

We know when the season of Lent is coming because every Lutheran and Anglican church in the land is having a Tuesday evening pancake supper with an invitation to come back the next day for a brief Ash Wednesday service. On Ash Wednesday the palms waved the previous Palm Sunday to welcome Jesus as our King, are burned to form the ashes. In a sense, they serve as a reminder of how far we fall short of living up to the glory of Christ. Mixed with some oil the palms are imposed on each congregant coming forward as they are marked with the sign of the cross on their forehead in an act of contrition and repentance.

March Dates

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|------------------|---|
| 2 nd | Pastoral Team Meeting 8:30 am |
| 3 rd | Worship Service/Annual Meeting & Potluck 10:30 am |
| 5 th | Celebrate Recovery 7 pm |
| 6 th | Prayer 10:30 am |
| 10 th | Worship Service 10:30 am |
| 12 th | Celebrate Recovery 7 pm |
| 13 th | Prayer 10:30 am |
| 16 th | Pastoral Team Meeting 8:30 am |
| 17 th | Worship Service 10:30 am |
| 19 th | Celebrate Recovery 7 pm |
| 20 th | Prayer 10:30 am |
| 20 th | CR Leaders Meeting 7 pm |
| 23 rd | Men's Breakfast 8:30 am |
| 24 th | Worship Service 10:30 |
| 26 th | Celebrate Recovery Monthly Meal 6:00 pm |
| 27 th | Catalyst Meeting 7 pm |
| 29 th | Good Friday Communion Service 10:30 am |
| 31 st | Easter Worship Service 10:30 am |

Ash Wednesday then is the first of the 40 days of the Lent season which are wrapped up in "Holy Week". The Sunday before Easter is traditionally Palm Sunday when we remember the ironic scene of Jesus being worshiped as he rides into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey (Mark 11:1-11). The irony of course was that in just five days many from the same crowd would trade their, "Hosannas", for a new chant. Their new chant carried the same exuberance, but you wouldn't have to have been an audio engineer to notice the shift in tone, "Crucify him! Crucify him! Crucify him!"

So let me point out a couple of potential problems as we see this section of the liturgical calendar laid out as it approaches Easter. Easter is the day we celebrate Christ's Resurrection! Among other things the resurrection affirms that through the Cross of Calvary Christ defeated both sin and death; doing so not only for Himself but by extension for all who will believe. That's EVERYTHING!!! However, this year on Sunday, March 31st we take one day to remember



Jesus' resurrection but we take two days to remember how we struggle in our own faith with emotional consistency (Wednesday, February 14th & Sunday, March 24th). Our

emotional consistency can't really be two times more important than the resurrection, can it? Furthermore, why is it that the 40 days of Lent run from Wednesday, February 14th to Saturday, March 30th which is 46 days?

Here's the thing, during Lent there are six Sundays (this year Feb. 18, 24, Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24) and they don't count. Sunday has always been considered by Christians to be a & 'little Easter,' the day on which we celebrate the Lord's resurrection and his victory over sin and death. This is why Sunday is never considered a day of penance but always a day of rejoicing. I love that. Resurrection wins! Christ wins! We are commissioned to be a rejoicing people 52 weeks a year because the empty tomb has sealed our salvation as validated, tangible and complete.



Thank you God for coming to us as a man, for laying down your life as a ransom for us on the cross, now no longer sinking in the quicksand of sin, guilt, and hopelessness, but free to live **out the purpose you've planned for us.**

We ask that this Easter, you would reveal yourself to the many amongst us, family and friends who are in the dark about Easter. The truth of your Easter story has been lost. Though helpless to change their direction we carry them in prayer before you asking for mercy. Open their ears, open their eyes so they might be set free. We trust that you will be faithful in getting their attention in ways that are not our ways.

Only the power of your cross can set the captives free., like you did for us. We ask that that same power that brought your dead body back to life would be available for all those who say yes.

The same power that raised you from death is moving in us to clear the way of any obstacles so that the world might awaken to your story of redemption. Use us Lord to resurrect the Easter story in the way we live and the words we choose to say.

In Jesus name we pray ~ Amen

Barnabas

Notes



Are we celebrating Easter the right way?

Is the origin of Easter biblical? What does the Bible say about Easter? What is the meaning of Easter? Should Christians observe Easter? A brief history of Easter tells us that the name “Easter” comes from the Anglo-Saxon, Eostre, the name of the goddess of spring. Bunnies are symbols of fertility, while eggs were seen as pagan symbols of death and life.

If one were to search for the word “Easter” you could find its mention only in the King James Bible, Acts 12:1-4 “Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church. And he killed James the brother of John with the sword. And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.) And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people.”

When we look at the history of Easter, we will find that the word Easter was substituted for the word “Pesach” which really is more correctly translated as Passover. For centuries, Passover foreshadowed the death of Jesus. Easter mentioned here in Acts 12 had nothing to do with Sunday. Passover is actually tied to a calendar day in the year, not a specific day of the week.

Let’s look at the Bible to find the meaning of Easter and how it relates to the resurrection of Jesus. Romans shows us that baptism instead of Easter was given as a symbol of Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection. Romans 6:3-5 says, “Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore, we were

buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection.”

What we see is that the true meaning is more than just a memorial for the resurrection one day a year with a church service. We can even celebrate the resurrection as we allow Christ’s resurrection to become a reality in our lives as we live anew victoriously. Christ’s death and resurrection is a daily hope of how the good will of God can overcome the forces of evil, of how truth will prevail and unmask the lie, of how love will triumph over sin, and how the blessed hope of eternal life will even put an end to death one day.

Let’s make a clarification. Is it wrong to remember the resurrection? No. It would be wrong to not remember it. Is Easter observance the way to do so? It would be remiss to not admit there is certainly a lot of pagan influence that has become tied to the resurrection in Easter. Nowhere are bunnies, chicks, or eggs mentioned in the Bible or in connection with Christ’s resurrection.

However, where there is opportunity to share the message and gospel of Christ without compromising the biblical truth, the “wise as serpents, harmless as doves” counsel of Christ is appropriate. How to observe it should be considered carefully allowing Bible study and prayer to guide our decisions. Remember, Christ died and rose so that our sins would be forgiven. Let’s celebrate “Easter” the right way.

Pork Chops with Apples and Stuffing



INGREDIENTS

- 4 pork chops, 1/2 inch thick
- Salt and pepper
- 1 tablespoon oil
- 2 medium apples, cut in 8 wedges
- 1 cup of apple juice
- 2 cups stove top stuffing
- 1/4 cup chopped pecans

DIRECTIONS

1. Sprinkle chops with salt and pepper.
2. Heat oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add chops and apples, cook until chops are browned on both sides.
3. Stir in apple juice and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to low, cover and simmer for 8 minutes or until chops are cooked through. Remove pork chops from skillet.
4. Stir stuffing mix and pecans into skillet. Return chops to skillet and cover.

Makes 4 servings can be doubled.

Prep time: 10 minutes

Cook time: 20 minutes or more until chops are tender.

March Birthdays

2 nd	Jocelyn	10 th	Gavin
5 th	Samara	16 th	Jenn
6 th	Kelly	19 th	Vevi
6 th	Steve	20 th	Benjamin
7 th	Micah	25 st	Elody



Ministry Highlight



instead of paying someone to have more money available for our different ministries. We were able to put together 4 different groups that would clean once a month (Group 1 -Joni & Maggie, Group 2 - Larry, Hilkka, Lois & Margaret, Group 3 -Peter, Anna, Dave, Charmaine & Nathan, Group 4 -Trevor, Shea & Shawn - I'm including all of their names because I do not have any pictures). As you notice some of our groups are smaller than others, also, Larry and Hilkka will be retiring this month, so we are in need of some more volunteers to help. If you are interested in volunteering once a month to clean the church or have any questions about serving in any other areas, please let me know (226)347-0033, tracy@southpointcc.ca.

This month, I would like to highlight all of our cleaning groups. We are so thankful for all of their hard work- cleaning the floors, washrooms, windows... Last year, our church decided to use volunteer cleaners



Reflections

by

J'Aime



One of the first songs I ever learned to play on the clarinet was 'Hot Cross Buns.' That was 34 or so years ago. It's a very simple song, involving all of three notes. Little did I know the history of the song, and of the buns themselves.

The song dates back to the 18th century. 1733 is when we come across the reference of the basis of the line 'one a penny, two a penny, hot cross buns.' The reference is from an almanac, talking about a type of spiced bun that was apparently made to consume on Good Friday. The hypothetical foundation of the 'contemporary' hot cross bun dates back even further, to 14th century Christian monks in England. The buns were marked with a cross, symbolizing the crucifixion. The spices in the dough were meant to signify the spices used to embalm Jesus and now some folks have even added orange peel as a way to reflect the bitterness of Jesus' time on the cross. The monks were known to give the buns to the poor, but in later centuries bakers took this item and turned it into a holiday-specific commercialized product.

If you've read any of my previous holiday articles you may get the impression that I strongly rally against the rampant commercialism that drowns out the true meanings of our holidays. I am not anti-capitalism, but let's pull it back a little bit, folks. Easter is, of course, a sad victim of

overdone advertising. And for the wrong reasons. I mean... come on, folks, a giant rabbit running around dropping off sugary treats and eggs?

When I first started reading about hot cross

buns I was inclined to toss the goofy notion of eating raisin-filled pieces of dough on Good Friday right out the window. Just write that one off as centuries-old commercialism. Also, raisins are awful. But maybe, just maybe, those monks in England had it right.

Matthew 26, starting at chapter 17, talks about the Last Supper. That all important meal before the crucifixion. Chapter 26 says, "While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying 'Take this and eat; this is my body.'"

Granted, the bread he was handing out wasn't sweet fluffy spiced rolls. Jesus was handing out unleavened bread and telling his disciples to eat. Beyond even that, Jesus was talking about what was coming for him. He knew his time on Earth was coming to a close and he was trying desperately to instill final lessons and words of wisdom. And he was doing it in a way that would eventually make sense to billions upon billions of people throughout the world, spanning decades and centuries to come.

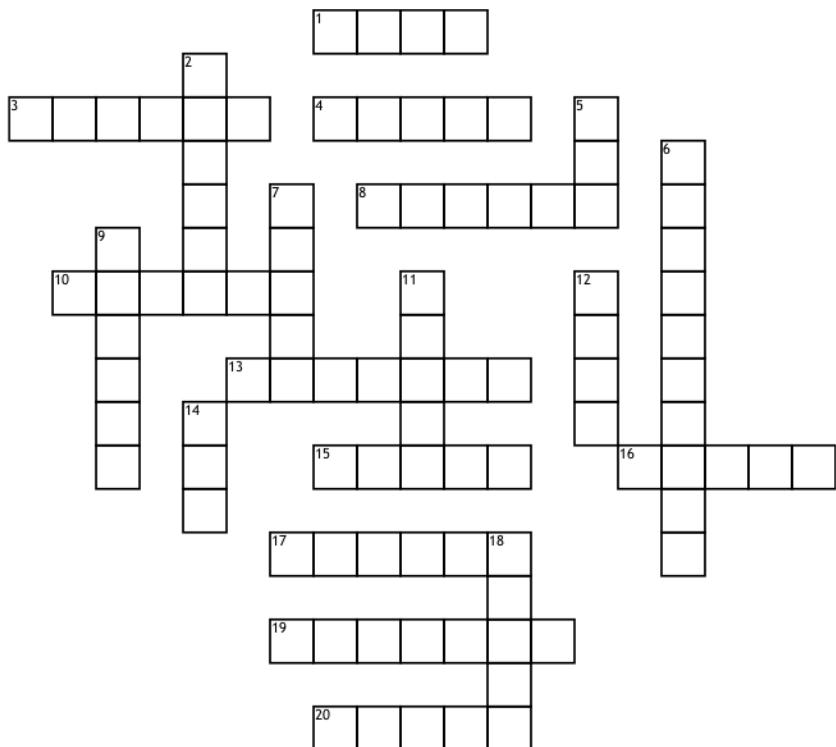
The bread wasn't the important part of the story. It was a relatable tool that Jesus used to convey a message.

So, this coming Easter, when we're bombarded with colourful eggs, bountiful heaps of chocolate and lots of delicious, good food, I want everyone to take a step back and think of the humble little hot cross bun and its origins with English monks. Giving bread to the poor, sharing the all-important message of what Jesus did for us. Using simple, relatable tools to convey a powerful message of salvation.





Easter Spelling Words



Across

1. High source of protein for breakfast.
3. Easter lands on this day every year.
4. Hatches from an egg.
8. The color of a baby chick.
10. Holiday celebrated after New Years.
13. During the Spring these start to pop up.
15. White and furry.
16. You get lots of this in your Easter basket.
17. Season after Winter.
19. What is Christmas?
20. Made out of marshmallows.

Down

2. You put your Easter eggs in this.
5. A little girl can wear this in her hair.
6. Here comes Peter.....
7. What month is Easter celebrated?
9. Mom, dad, brother, and sister are your.....?
11. A color that rhymes with lean.
12. Most people on Easter _____ for eggs.
14. A bunny does what?
18. You use a lawnmower to cut this.

