

One of the greatest and most interesting things about marrying someone is that you now must participate in their traditions. Especially the holiday traditions. You know, the little things that you must do to make the holiday *feel* like the holiday. Rita learned that for Thanksgiving to be Thanksgiving, you must have taco dip and oyster dressing. I learned that for Easter to be Easter we must watch *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

Have you ever seen it? It is wild. The movie was filmed on location in Israel (I love playing the game "I've been there!" with Rita). The cast looks like a bunch of hippy stereotypes. The songs are a bop, if a little theologically questionable. Despite its flaws, we have to watch it every Easter.

Which is odd because it's not an Easter movie. See, one of the biggest flaws of the musical, in my opinion, is that it ends too soon. The movie fades to white with Jesus dying on the cross and the hippy cast piling into their bus and driving away. It's not an Easter movie, it's a Good Friday movie.

If we stop the story on Good Friday, then that leaves us with no Good News. The cross has the final say. Jesus died, the end. Where's the hope in that? Where's the Good News?

We are not Good Friday people, my friends. We are Easter people. Our joy and hope are not found on the cross, it is found in an empty tomb. God the Son loves us so much that not even the grave can stop him. Because of the Resurrection we have the assurance of forgiveness and eternal love.

Easter is almost here! Our Lenten journey is coming to an end. I pray you join us here at LUMC to celebrate with joy the wonderful Good News: He is Risen! He is Risen indeed!

God Bless, Pastor Ed

Enrollment for 2024-2025 Little Ones' Preschool is open to everyone now.

Your child must be 3 years old before August 1, 2024 for our Preschool classes and age 4 before August 1, for our Pre-Kindergarten classes.

Registration forms are available in the church office or from Carlene Weber.

Easter Candy is needed for our Easter Egg Hunt. Please bring individually wrapped candy to the gray bin in the welcome area. *Thank You*

Sunday Fellowship Time Refreshments Schedule

March 24 Kaitlin Kaiser, **March 31** Pastor Ed & Rita, **April 7** _____

TOPS Club is meeting at LUMC on Mondays, 4:00 PM, Room 206, use north east door.
Come Join Us!

Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is open to anyone in the Union North school district as well as to our church family on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month 2 – 5 PM

Coming Up on The Calendar!

Mary Magdalene Mission Circle Meeting - Tuesday, March 19, 7 PM

Fil Easter Eggs & Pizza – Thursday, March 21, 6 PM

Church Ladies Lunch – Friday, March 22, meet at the church at 11 AM
then to Essenhaus

DeColores Meeting – Saturday, March 23, 9 AM – 1 PM

Euchre/Game Night – Saturday, March 23, 6 PM

Preschool Sunday/Palm Sunday – Easter Egg Hunt
Carry in Brunch, bring egg casseroles to share

Ida Mission Circle Meeting – Wednesday, March 27, 10 AM meet in Fireside Room

Holy Thursday Service – 7 PM

Good Friday Service – 7 PM

Easter Sunrise Service – 7:15 AM followed by a lite breakfast
Easter Worship – 9 AM