



newsletter

Northwest Hills Church
9334 Fort Street, Omaha NE 68134
Phone: 402 572-8392
Fax: 402 572-8394
www.northwesthills.com

Rev. Alex Wolf, Pastor
Suzy Parsons, CE Director
Cheryl Morehouse, Office Administrator

Vol. 53 No. 4
March 25, 2025

Barb Renicker, Music Director
Nate & Rita Merriam, Custodians

April 2025

April 6  <i>Flower orders due.</i> <i>Cookie orders due.</i>	9:30 AM Worship/Communion (No Sunday School) "A Living-Giving Aroma" John 12:1-8 10:30 Assemble Easter Baskets—C 6:30-8:30 PM Square Dancing—FH
April 13 PALM SUNDAY <i>Newsletter Deadline</i> <i>Cookie order pick up.</i> 	9:30 AM Worship/Sunday School "Ride On To Die" Luke 19:28-40 10:30 Fellowship—C (C&M Cmte.) 9-11 Easter Cookie Order Pick Up—C 6:30-8:30 PM Square Dancing—FH 
Thurs., April 17 MAUNDY THURSDAY	7:00 PM CANTATA—S
Friday, April 18 GOOD FRIDAY	7:00 PM Good Friday Service—S
Saturday, April 19 	9:30 AM Hoppin' Easter Adventure Activities (back of church) 10:00 AM Egg Hunt 
April 20 EASTER SUNDAY 	9:30 AM Worship/Sunday School "Resurrection Hope" Luke 24:1-12 10:30-1 Easter Brunch—FH 6:30-8:30 PM Square Dancing—FH
April 27 	9:30 AM Worship/Sunday School "Resurrection Witness" Acts 5:27-42 6:30-8:30 PM Square Dancing—FH

THE SCAMMERS ARE AT IT AGAIN! With the warmer weather, unfortunately we're starting to see that trend again that we battled last year: emails (and even texts!) that LOOK like they are coming from staff at Northwest Hills Church. If you receive ANY email from Pastor Alex or Cheryl that just doesn't look right (like a weird subject line), a plea for money, or especially links to "photos" — DON'T click on any links, or if something doesn't seem right, don't even open the email. You can *always* call the church or email us and ask if we sent out a communication to you. It is never a bother to us when you reach out to verify. We would rather you check with us for your peace of mind.

Unfortunately (according to the gentleman who manages our email account) there is nothing we can do to stop these scammers from sending bogus emails or texts. The best we can do is NOT respond to them, report any suspicions to us, and hopefully they will get discouraged from lack of activity.

Just wanted everyone to be on alert. We truly appreciate your understanding and patience as we all deal with these irritations of our "connected" world.

THANK YOU

From the Immanuel Newport House Team:

*"Dear Northwest Hills Church Members,
Thank you for the cute valentines you made for the residents at the Newport House. They were very delightful and added fun to Valentine's Day! We appreciate your thoughtfulness! The Residents and Team Members of the Newport House"*

"Thank you for thinking of our residents!" Mary

"Thank you for your generosity!" Katy

"Thank you so much!" Lori

MEN'S MINISTRY BREAKFAST: We look forward to gathering on Saturday, April 5th at 9:00 AM in the Commons. It is a BYOB: "Bring Your Own Breakfast." All men of the church are invited for this great time of fellowship!

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDIES: Come join us for a great time of fellowship and gathering around the Word of God! We meet at 10 AM on Wednesday mornings in Room 128 (Choir/Community Room). All are welcome!

RUTH CIRCLE will meet Tuesday, April 1st at 11:00 AM in the Room 128. Refreshments by Kathleen Hammond.

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION will have a Ladies' Day Out on Thursday, April 3rd. We will meet at the Cracker Barrel (9409 S. 142nd Street, Omaha NE 68138 402-891-8665) at 12 noon. If you wish to carpool, meet at the church before 11:30 AM.

SARAH CIRCLE will meet as needed. For any questions, call Terri Burrigot, 402-659-6913.

CHURCH COUNCIL have their meeting on Thursday, April 10th at 7:00 PM in Room 128 (Community Room/Choir Room).

WORK DAY! Mark your calendars for our spring Work Day starting at 8:30 AM on Saturday, April 26th. Help us get the property spruced up for spring and summer activities. There will be projects inside and outside. You don't have to commit to the whole morning: if you can only come for an hour, we welcome you! Any questions, please contact Building & Grounds Co-Chair, Steve Jacobsen at 402-677-6867. Thank you in advance for your help!

APRIL MISSION & SERVICE PROJECTS

We will once again be blessing the Lydia House with infant/toddler baskets for Easter! We will assemble the baskets on Sunday, April 6th. We will assemble the baskets in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your help!

Easter Brunch will again take place after the Easter morning service on April 20th in the Fellowship Hall! We are asking folks to sign up for how many of your family/friends will be attending with you. Everyone coming needs to please bring a breakfast dish (enough to serve 8) and pastries or fresh fruit, so that we will have enough for everyone. Coffee/juice will be provided. Questions? Please contact Kathy Caito, Mission & Service Chair or Kathleen Hammond, Fellowship Chair.



LOOKING AHEAD:

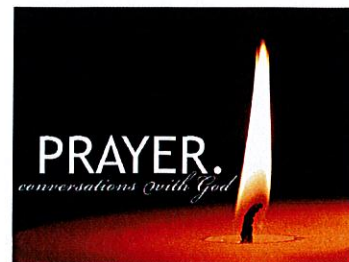
Our next project will be getting ready for our annual **BLOCK PARTY** that will be held Sunday, May 18th from 5-8 PM. Be looking for sign ups for different volunteer positions, food and baked good donations. We are looking forward to this annual community outreach opportunity! If you have any questions, please contact Mission & Service Chair, Kathy Caito.



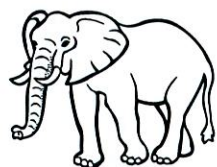
EASTER FLOWER order forms are now available in the Commons. Watch for details. Easter is later this year: the **due date** to order spring/Easter plants will be **Sunday, April 6th**.



Our church family will continue to collect **non-perishable food donations** for the Holy Cross Church Food Pantry. Our faithful contributions are blessing those in need who experience food insecurity in our immediate neighborhoods and community. Your selfless acts of sharing food with our neighbors makes a lasting impact in ways we may never know on this side of heaven. The bin for collections is located in the Commons for this year-round support. Thank you for your generosity!



Prayer chain requests can be called to Ardell Reuter at 1-918-703-1068 or the church office at (402) 572-8392.



REMINDER: we are collecting "**white elephants**" throughout the year for our October sale! No clothes** or broken items, please. There is a large green bin in the Board Room (down the hall

across from the main church office) for your items. Thank you for your contributions!

CLOTHES** are being collected year-round for the Open Door Mission. New or clean, gently-used clothing can be deposited in the specially-marked bin in the Commons. Thank you for your kindness!



CRAFTERS! We get together every Wednesday from 1-3 PM in Room 128 to work on crafts for the October Craft Fair! No special skills needed, and we have plenty of crafts for you to choose from, or bring your own. Even if you can

come for just an hour or so, we would love to have you join our fun group! Any questions, please contact Leigh Powell.

YUMMY! 2025 Sarah Circle Easter Cookie Orders are due **April 6th**! Extra forms are available in the Commons until the deadline of April 6th. Cookie order pickup will be Sunday, April 13th from 9-11 AM in the Commons. Thank you for your continued support!



Thank you for your kind responses regarding updating our prayer list. We are always encouraged to hear when our loved ones are much improved. Please continue to let us know of any changes so that we can update our list and assure that the prayers going out weekly are the most current and urgent needs expressed. Thank you in advance. The ongoing list is below:

Continued Prayer Requests: Sandy Christopherson, Dianne Hasch (Dianna Cupps' friend), Jeff Walton, Susie Ryan, Cierra Ervin, Kyle Hurt & Jacoby, Marchelle Conrad, Peg Hawkins (friend of Annie Kuti), Steve Swift, Jerrie Wilcox, Tom Vincent, Nikki Heim, Elaine Jenkins, Cindy Key, Joanne Mears, Vicky (Nikki Heim's daughter); Suzy Salonen, Linda Nelsen, Urban family

On-Going Cancer Treatment: Mike Lambert, Mary Larson, Patricia Gename (Mary Hinman's daughter), Gail Schroeder, Dave Merriam, Sue Day, Sharon McNutt (Ruth Negus' friend's sister), Betty Benskin, Judy Intlekofer, Gail Formanack (friend of Bev Ambrosius), Gary Dutton, Vicki Nolan, (Leigh Powell's sister), Ena Nolan, (Leigh Powell's niece), Bill Owens, Linda Sexton

"He sent His Word, and healed them"

— Psalm 107:20

"But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

— Isaiah 53:5

**HE HEALED THE ONE
WHO ARRESTED HIM,
SERVED THE ONE WHO
BETRAYED HIM, AND
LOVED THE WORLD
WHO CRUCIFIED HIM
THAT'S MY JESUS**



FROM PASTOR ALEX WOLF

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Every year, Christians around the world remember Jesus' passion and death during Holy Week and celebrate his resurrection on Easter Sunday. Easter celebrations involve many different traditions. One of the most popular is the Easter Egg. How did eggs become such an important part of our Easter celebrations?

In many human cultures throughout history, eggs have long represented new life and rebirth. According to tradition, early Christians who lived in Mesopotamia (modern-day Iraq) used eggs to teach about the resurrection—just as a chick emerges from the shell, so Jesus emerged from the empty tomb.

What about coloring the eggs? There are numerous stories about why Christians started coloring eggs for Easter. One tradition claims Mary Magdalene, the first person to encounter the risen Jesus, spent the rest of her life proclaiming the good news of Christ. The story goes that she even addressed the Roman emperor Tiberius. Holding an egg in her hand, she declared, "Christ is risen!" The emperor laughed, remarking that Christ had as much chance of rising from the dead as that egg had of turning red. Immediately, the egg in Mary Magdalene's hand turned bright red. Another tradition states the Mesopotamian Christians eventually started staining the eggs red to symbolize the shedding of Christ's blood. However it came to be, the coloring of eggs at Easter is a practice loved by many.

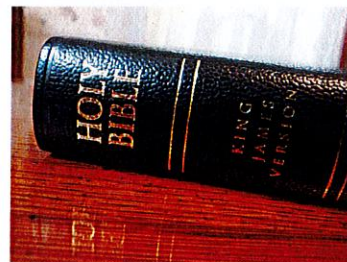
Why do we give other people eggs? In medieval times, Christians refrained from eating eggs during Lent. So on Easter Sunday, when Christians broke from their Lenten fasts, eating an egg was a real treat! Over time, Christians began giving eggs as gifts at Easter. A legend claims that in 1290, English king Edward I purchased 450 eggs, had them decorated with a variety of colors, and gifted them to his household on Easter Sunday.

What about Easter Egg hunts? According to a legend, the Protestant Reformer Martin Luther told men in his congregation to hide eggs for women and children to find. He claimed that the joy experienced as they found the eggs mirrored the joy the women felt when they found the empty tomb and realized Jesus had risen from the dead. Whether or not this legend is true, Easter Egg hunts are a fun event for all ages.

Eggs have long been associated with the celebration of Easter. So, whenever you see an Easter Egg, may it remind you of Christ's resurrection. May you have a blessed Easter!

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Alex



Sermon Topics and Scriptures for April

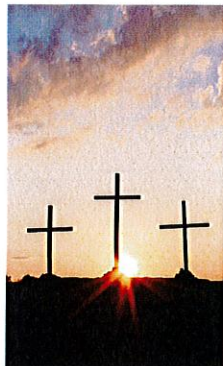
April 2025 Sermons

April 6 – John 12:1-8,
"A Living-Giving Aroma"

April 13 (Palm Sunday)
Luke 19:28-40, "Ride On to Die"

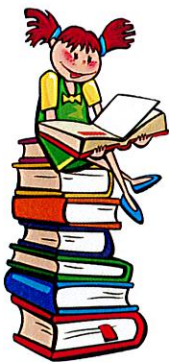
April 20 (Easter Sunday)
Luke 24:1-12, "Resurrection
Hope"

April 27 – Acts 5:27-42,
"Resurrection Witness"



Lenten Evening Study

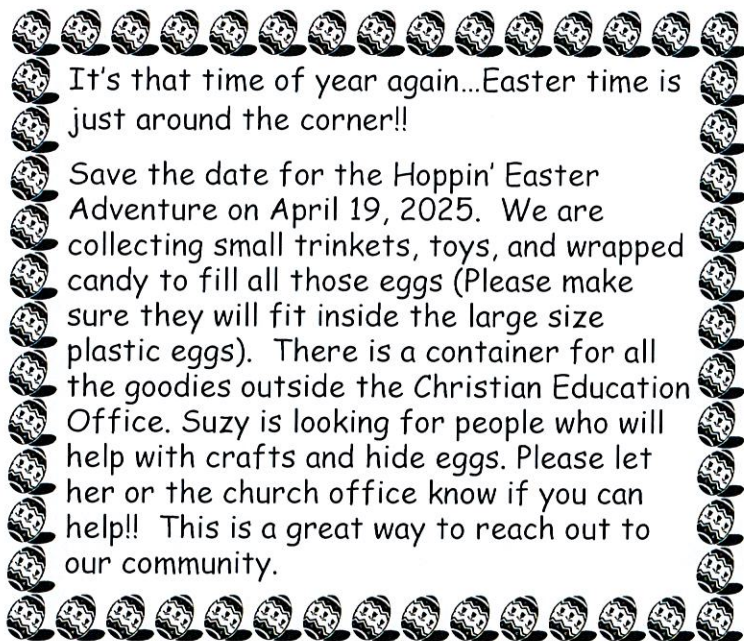
On Wednesday evenings during Lent, Pastor Alex is leading a study through the book *Finding Jesus in the Psalms* by Barb Roose. This book offers a refreshing look at the psalms and enables its readers to find the presence of Christ in them. This study will continue through Wednesday, April 16th. A light supper is served at 6:30 PM in Fellowship Hall and the study begins at 7:00 PM. Please let Pastor Alex know if you would still like to join in.



From our Northwest Hills Preschool...

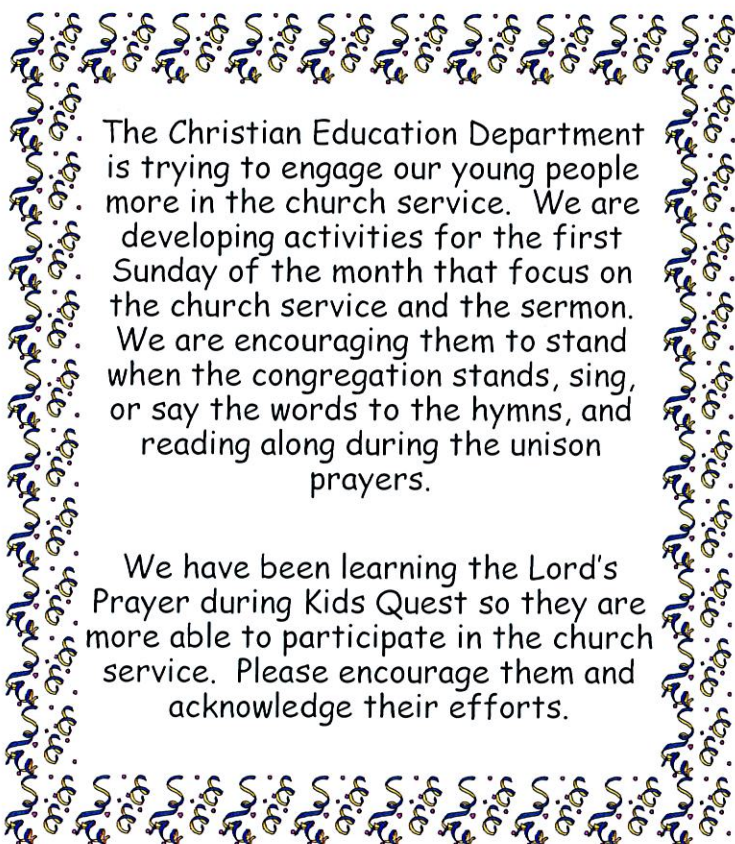
It is hard to believe that we are nearing the end of the school year! Once the students get back from spring break, the rest of the school year seems to just fly by. Open registration started on March 1st and we already have six students registered for next year. That's a pretty solid start! The students are starting to practice for their end of year program and graduation. Our program is May 16th and everyone is welcome to join us! We are also getting ready for Easter and enjoying all the springtime projects and lessons! Yippie for warm weather and springtime! We hope you and your family have a lovely Easter season and are able to enjoy all the fresh newness that springtime brings! Happy Easter from the preschool crew!

— Jacque, Lori, and Robin



It's that time of year again...Easter time is just around the corner!!

Save the date for the Hoppin' Easter Adventure on April 19, 2025. We are collecting small trinkets, toys, and wrapped candy to fill all those eggs (Please make sure they will fit inside the large size plastic eggs). There is a container for all the goodies outside the Christian Education Office. Suzy is looking for people who will help with crafts and hide eggs. Please let her or the church office know if you can help!! This is a great way to reach out to our community.



The Christian Education Department is trying to engage our young people more in the church service. We are developing activities for the first Sunday of the month that focus on the church service and the sermon. We are encouraging them to stand when the congregation stands, sing, or say the words to the hymns, and reading along during the unison prayers.

We have been learning the Lord's Prayer during Kids Quest so they are more able to participate in the church service. Please encourage them and acknowledge their efforts.

DR. WERNER P. JENSEN SCHOLARSHIPS:

Scholarships are available for those pursuing a certificate or diploma from an institution of higher learning. This scholarship will be paid directly to the institution of education.

Completed applications should be returned to the church. Hard copies are available in the Commons, or via email. There will be two different applications: one for new applicants and another for scholarship renewal.

Criteria for Consideration:

- New applicants must have participated in church activities at Northwest Hills Church
- Exhibiting an active commitment of faith
- Application to an institution of higher learning
- Completed written application
- Completed recommendation letter(s) (see application form)
- Interview with committee
- Priority will be given to applicant not previously awarded this scholarship

DEADLINE: The **application** deadline is April 30th. **Recommendation forms** are also due April 30th. All documents must be returned to Northwest Hills Church, 9334 Fort St., Omaha, NE 68134, Attn: Scholarship Committee.

ARE YOU GRADUATING? Please contact Suzy Parsons so that we can celebrate you in May!

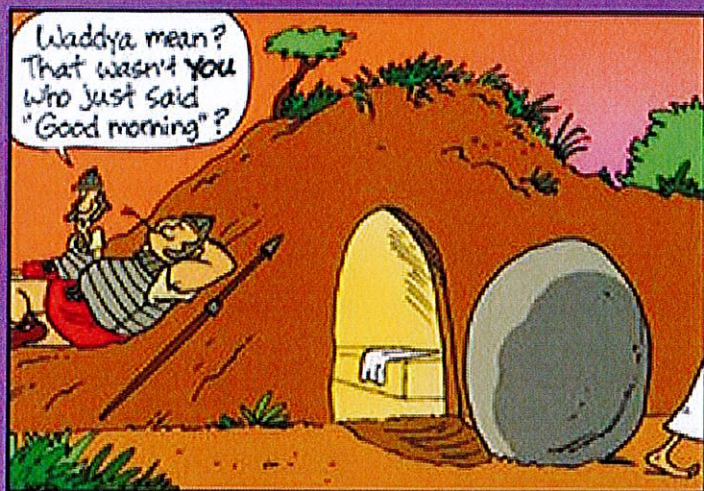
Can contact Suzy at:
suzy@northwesthills.com





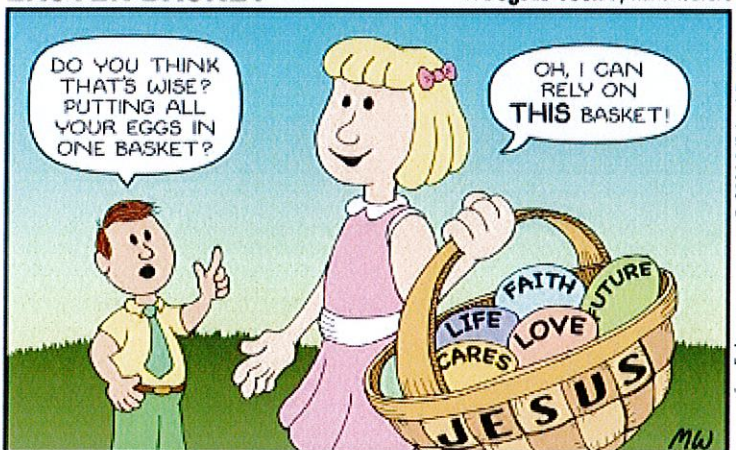
"The **CANASTA CLUB** will meet on Thursday, April 10th (since Maundy Thursday is on April 17th) in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring your own lunch. Dessert will be provided by Team #2 (Elaine Kemper and Jerrie Wilcox). Plan to arrive in time to start playing by 10:00 AM.

If you have any questions, or would like to join, please contact Deb Shafer at 402-999-1052 or ddshafer@outlook.com. We still need subs (men or women). Please contact Ardell Reuter at 1-918-703-1068."



EASTER BASKET

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.

- 2 TIMOTHY 1:12 NIV

Psalm 103 (Amplified Version) [A Psalm] of David

- ¹ Bless (affectionately, gratefully praise) the Lord, O my soul; and all that is [deepest] within me, bless His holy name!
- ² Bless (affectionately, gratefully praise) the Lord, O my soul, and forget not [one of] all His benefits—
- ³ Who forgives [every one of] all your iniquities, Who heals [each one of] all your diseases,
- ⁴ Who redeems your life from the pit *and* corruption, Who beautifies, dignifies, *and* crowns you with loving-kindness and tender mercy;
- ⁵ Who satisfies your mouth [your necessity and desire at your personal age and situation] with good so that your youth, renewed, is like the eagle's [strong, overcoming, soaring]!
- ⁶ The Lord executes righteousness *and* justice [not for me only, but] for all who are oppressed.
- ⁷ He made known His ways [of righteousness and justice] to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel.
- ⁸ The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and plenteous in mercy *and* loving-kindness.
- ⁹ He will not always chide *or* be contending, neither will He keep His anger forever *or* hold a grudge.
- ¹⁰ He has not dealt with us after our sins nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.
- ¹¹ For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great are His mercy *and* loving-kindness toward those who reverently *and* worshipfully fear Him.
- ¹² As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.
- ¹³ As a father loves *and* pities his children, so the Lord loves *and* pities those who fear Him [with reverence, worship, and awe].
- ¹⁴ For He knows our frame, He [earnestly] remembers *and* imprints [on His heart] that we are dust.
- ¹⁵ As for man, his days are as grass; as a flower of the field, so he flourishes.
- ¹⁶ For the wind passes over it and it is gone, and its place shall know it no more.
- ¹⁷ But the mercy *and* loving-kindness of the Lord are from everlasting to everlasting upon those who reverently *and* worshipfully fear Him, and His righteousness is to children's children—
- ¹⁸ To such as keep His covenant [hearing, receiving, loving, and obeying it] and to those who [earnestly] remember His commandments to do them [imprinting them on their hearts].
- ¹⁹ The Lord has established His throne in the heavens, and His kingdom rules over all.
- ²⁰ Bless (affectionately, gratefully praise) the Lord, you His angels, you mighty ones who do His commandments, hearkening to the voice of His word.
- ²¹ Bless (affectionately, gratefully praise) the Lord, all you His hosts, you His ministers who do His pleasure.
- ²² Bless the Lord, all His works in all places of His dominion; bless (affectionately, gratefully praise) the Lord, O my soul!

Easter blessings to you!



Hoppin' Easter Adventure

April 19, 2025

9:30: Crafts, snacks, and Easter activities

10:00: Egg Hunt

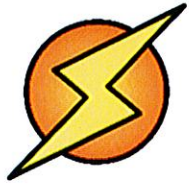
Invite your family members, friends, & neighbors!!

Toddlers-4th grade

We will be collecting individually wrapped candy and small trinkets and toys to fill the eggs. Please remember items must be small enough to fit inside a plastic egg. A bin will be placed outside the Christian Education Office.



APRIL 2025



KIDS QUEST!!
EPIC Youth
PK-High School



APRIL 6 No Kid's Quest

APRIL 13 "Last Supper"

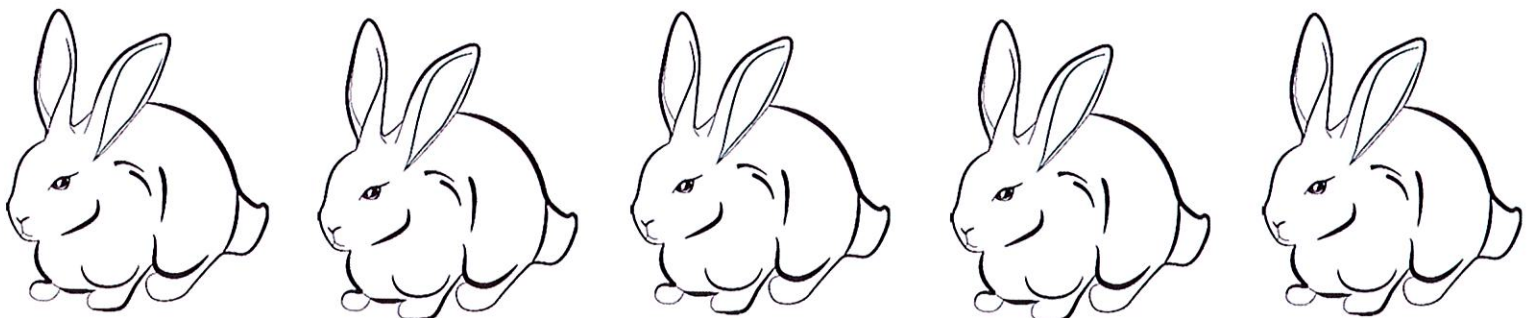
APRIL 19 (Saturday 9:30 AM) Easter Egg Hunt!
(See your email!)

APRIL 20 No Sunday School: celebrate Easter
with your family!

APRIL 27 "Jesus Rises"

Hey, Kids...

Remember your offering for Kids Quest so we can get to our \$60 goal to help Heifer International by purchasing rabbits!



APRIL 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 8-8 PRIMARY ELECTION—C 11 AM Ruth Circle— Room 128 6:30 PM Bells 7 PM Scouts-FH	2 10 Bible Study-128 1-3 Crafting—128 6:30 Lenten Dinner & Study—FH 6:30 PM Choir	3 11:30 carpool from church parking lot 12 noon W/A Ladies Day Out at Cracker Barrel	4	5 9:00 AM Men's BYOB—C 9-11 AM Lambert Prayer Group-19D 12-5 AA Group—FH 12-7 Merriam Family-C
6 9:30 Worship/Communion (No Sunday School) 10:30 Assemble Easter Baskets— Fellowship Hall <i>Flower Orders Due</i> <i>Cookie Orders Due</i> 6:30-8:30 PM Sq Dancing—FH	7 6:45 PM AA Mtg-FH	8 6:30 Bell Choir 7 PM Scouts-FH	9 10 Bible Study-128 1-3 Crafting-128 6:30 Lenten Dinner & Study—FH 6:30 PM Choir	10 10-2 Canasta—FH 7 PM Church Council Meeting—FH	11	12 9-11 AM Lambert Prayer Group—19D
13 PALM SUNDAY 9:30 Worship/Sunday School 10:30 Fellowship-C (C&M Cmte) 9-11 Cookie Order Pickup-C 6:30-8:30 PM Sq Dancing—FH	14 6:45 PM AA Mtg-FH	15 6:30 Bell Choir 7 PM Scouts-FH	16 10 Bible Study-128 1-3 Crafting-128 6:30 Lenten Dinner & Study—FH 6:30 PM Choir	17 MAUNDY THURSDAY 7 PM CANTATA	18 GOOD FRIDAY 7 PM Good Friday Service	19 9:30 Hoppin Easter Adventure—back of church —Set up FH for Brunch—
20 EASTER SUNDAY 9:30 Worship/Sunday School 10:30-1 Easter Brunch—FH 6:30-8:30 PM Sq Dancing-FH	21 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 6:45 PM AA Mtg-FH	22 7 PM Scouts-FH	23 10 Bible Study-128 1-3 Crafting-128	24	25 6-10 PM Old Domin- ion Dancers—FH	26 8:30-noon Work Day! 9-11 AM Lambert Prayer Group-19D
27 9:30 Worship/Sunday School <i>One Great Hour of Sharing</i> 6:30-8:30 PM Sq Dancing-FH	28 6:45 PM AA Mtg-FH	29 9 AM Newsletter Crew—C 7 PM Scouts-FH	30 10 Bible Study-128 1-3 Crafting-128 6:30 PM Choir			S: Sanctuary C: Commons L: Library FH: Fellowship Hall

**NORTHWEST HILLS CHURCH
9334 FORT STREET
OMAHA NE 68134**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**NON PROFIT ORG
U S POSTAGE
PAID
OMAHA NE
PERMIT NO 369**

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1 Jim Lemons	5 Cindy Urban	16 Charlene Wozny	23 Kristi Stamp-Svacina
1 James Putzstuck	7 Leigh Powell	17 Amie Meador	25 Ardell Reuter
3 Thomas Frank	9 Nancy Miller	19 Suzy Parsons	25 Buddy Vincent
3 Carson Korus	11 Rick Henkel	19 Judy Summers	26 Sue Slowik
3 Courtney Scofield	11 Coleen Vincent	20 Taylor Tracy	28 Kathy Merriam
4 Dave Merriam	12 Kylee Pierce	21 Lawrence Jacobsen	30 Melanie Brusnahan
5 Carla Dudley		21 Jerod Urban	

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

14	Gail Allberry & Brian Jensen
14	Lynn & Kathleen Hammond
30	Dave & Kathy Merriam