

EASTER

2023



THURSDAY, April 6, 2023

Plan ahead for an 'eggceptional' Easter egg hunt

Easter is steeped in both religious and secular traditions. Each year on Easter Sunday, many families feast on ham or lamb. Hot cross buns may be served as morning treats. And faithful Christians may dress up in their Sunday best to attend religious services.

Easter egg hunts are another time-honored component of this festive occasion. According to History.com, the Easter bunny and his eggs may initially have been derived from stories about an egg-laying hare introduced to Americans by German settlers during the 1700s. Children would make nests and the hare would leave behind colored eggs.

Children often relish in the idea of scouring their homes and yards in search of brightly-hued plastic or hard-boiled eggs. A little planning on the part of Easter egg hunt organizers can make this festive tradition even more fun.

Set the date: If Easter egg hunts are more than just family affairs and involve neighborhood searches or hunts with a close knit group of friends, it may be smart to schedule in the days before Easter. This helps ensure that a good crowd will be avail-

PLEASE SEE **HUNT** | C5



Chocolate Bunnies

REV. TIM THOMAS

Rev. Tim Thomas, has been on the Staff of Azle United Methodist Church since January 2019 and is currently serving as interim pastor. Pastor Thomas and his wife Cindy live in Fort Worth with their cats, Greystone and Bashful. First United Methodist Church Azle, 200 Church Street, Azle, TX 76020

Chocolate bunnies, brightly colored and decorated eggs, plastic eggs filled with goodies, and the young and young at heart in search of the "golden egg". These are all the trappings of Easter. Please don't take me for an Easter Scrooge. I love all the

fun and frivolity of the Easter season, remembering the days when my children and I would sit around the table dunking hard boiled eggs in pastel colors and using "magic" pens to add some unique

PLEASE SEE **BUNNIES** | C2



Have you seen him?

GERRY LEWIS

We knew he was dead. "It is finished," he said. We had watched as his life ebbed away. Then we all stood around till the guards took him down. Joseph begged for his body that day.

It was late afternoon when we got to the tomb, wrapped his body and sealed up the grave. So I know how you feel; his death was so real. But please listen and hear what I say.

It was his voice she first heard—those kind gentle words asking what was her reason for tears. And I

sobbed in despair, "My Lord is not there." He said, "Child! It is I, I am here!"

I've just seen Jesus! I tell you he's alive. I've just seen Jesus, our precious Lord, alive. And I knew he really saw me too; as if till now, I'd never lived. All that I'd done before won't matter anymore. I've just seen Jesus and I'll never be the same again. I've just seen Jesus!

The above lyrics are from "I've Just Seen Jesus" written by Danny Daniels/Gloria Gaither/William J.

PLEASE SEE **SEEN** | C2

THE EASTER MESSAGE *What Makes Easter Worth Celebrating?*

DAVID SHAFFER

Dr. David Shaffer and his wife, Daniele, are Azle-area residents. David is director of Son Shine Ministries (equipfamilies.org) and has been a member of the Azle Area Ministerial Alliance since 1985 (azlema.com). david@equipfamilies.org | 817-444-3777

It was a humble birth in an off-the-beaten-path village. Like many in his area, he worked as a tradesman. Beginning at age 30, he spent three years as a traveling religious teacher, though he never journeyed more than 200 miles from where he was born.

He did not own a home or get married. At one point a large group turned against him, and his friends scattered. One of his closest friends denied knowing him several times. The intensity

of the situation increased as this innocent man in his thirties was seized by his enemies and put through unjust trials.

He was sentenced to die in a manner reserved for the worst criminals. He was mounted on a beam, literally nailed to a cross to suffer agonizingly before witnesses. At this point, his clothes were his sole possession, and his executioners callously threw dice to see who would get them.

There was no last-min-

ute rescue. This person died a horrible death and was placed in a friend's grave thanks to a hasty arrangement.

Life goes by quickly. A few people impact society enough to make history and are remembered. Amazingly, such is the case with this worker, preacher and "convicted" man.

The late James A. Francis made similar points about this man in a sermon he preached decades ago and then added, "... centuries have come and gone and today He is the centerpiece of the human race and the leader of the column of progress. I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever were built, and

all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, put together have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has that One Solitary Life."

To make such an impact, there must be more to this man than his simple upbringing and brief period of ministry. In fact, his story transcends time. Christians believe in a triune God, a Trinity, which is God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. They are distinct yet one and have always existed in perfect harmony with one another.

When God created the heavens and earth, he also created mankind. The story took a detour, however, as man chose to go in a direction that turned away from

God. This decision impacted man's relationship with God because sin separates us from God. At just the right time, God the Son "took on humanity," meaning that he became human. God the Son's name is Jesus. While he was 100% human, he also remained 100% God - God with us, setting an earthly example for us to follow.

Jesus was like us, a human, but, unlike us, he never turned away from God the Father. He was without sin. When he finally told people who he truly was, many could not accept it because of his humble origins on earth. Even though he performed miracles, some still sought to kill him. What they did not know was that Jesus was on a mission to willingly give his

life as a sacrifice for the sins of mankind, to reconnect us with God. His motivation was love.

What makes Easter worth celebrating is that the dead man who was placed in the borrowed grave about 2,000 years ago was bodily resurrected. The massive stone sealing the tomb was rolled away, and Jesus walked out and appeared to hundreds before ascending to heaven. This is the story of Easter, and it provides hope to us all.

He is risen! He is risen indeed!
God loves you, and his Son's death and resurrection make possible a relationship with him that lasts forever. No wonder we call the message of Jesus Christ the Good News!

SEEN

FROM PAGE C1

Gaither. The recording by Sandy Patti and Larnell Harris was released in 1984 and won the first ever Grammy for Best Best Gospel Vocal Performance by a Duo or Group, Choir or Chorus.

It is amazing to me that it's been 39 years since I was first blown away by that incredible vocal performance.

But what's even more amazing is the story it is based on. No event in the history of the world has been more impactful.

Or controversial.

Just think about it. A Jewish carpenter who spends three decades of his life in relative obscurity shows up for a three year ministry as an uncredentialed rabbi with

the most scandalous teaching imaginable—he's the son of God.

More than that, he claims to be able to do things that only God can. He heals the sick. He forgives sin. He raises the dead. He claims to have existed before He was born. He claims to be equal with God.

He predicts his own death. And then says, by the way, that he won't remain dead.

So, who is this guy?

There are really only three options: (1) He's completely off his rocker. (2) He's a scam artist. (3) He really is who he says.

If he's either of the first two, he doesn't deserve to be admired or quoted.

If he's the third, then it makes no sense to not believe everything he said.

But, how do we know?

Because of what happened on that first Easter morning.

He rose from the dead. He appeared first to a group of women in the garden near the place where he had been buried. He told them to go and tell his disciples.

Don't miss the scandal even of this—he entrusted the message of his resurrection first to women! Their message was "we've just seen Jesus!"

And his followers have been telling the story for 2000 years.

After his resurrection he said to one of his disciples (Thomas), "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

That's us. We see through the eyes of faith. And we are forever changed.

Have you seen him?

BUNNIES

FROM PAGE C1

designs.

I love the Holy Holidays and the secular ways we celebrate. The special times with friends and family, wonderful meals and the sharing of times and gifts.

But, as a pastor I also love where the Holy Days bring us. Where the stories of Jesus' life jump out at us through the word, telling us of God's love and Jesus' sacrifice for us all.

But the best part is where we hear the words, "He is Risen, He is Risen indeed."

These words of Faith, Hope,

and Love, especially in these days of uncertainty are the bedrock of our faith. I love the fun side of the Holidays, but I rejoice in hearing the stories of that first Easter, and the Risen Christ and what it means to each of us. CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED! THANKS BE TO GOD! Amen!

Deviled Eggs

Something to do with your dyed Easter eggs after the egg hunt. Easter eggs should always be gathered within 15 minutes after hiding them and then refrigerated if you intend to turn them into deviled eggs.

- 6 eggs
- ¼ cup mayonnaise
- 1 teaspoon white vinegar or lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon yellow mustard
- ½ teaspoon salt
- Black pepper
- Smoked Paprika



Crack egg shells and carefully peel under cool running water. Gently dry with paper towels. Slice the eggs in half lengthwise, removing yolks to a medium bowl, and placing the whites on a serving platter. Mash the yolks into a fine crumble using a fork. Add mayonnaise, vinegar, mustard, salt, and pepper, and mix well.

Evenly disperse heaping teaspoons of the yolk mixture into the egg whites. Sprinkle with paprika.

Kick it up a notch: Add bacon bits, horseradish, green onion, and more! Chop the bacon and the green onion finely, then mix into your deviled egg filling.

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The "Way of the Cross"

A. DAVID BENNETT

Preaching Minister, Springtown Church of Christ

The "way of the cross" is a complex phrase.

The "way of the cross" is the action of Jesus as He suffers and dies and is raised to defeat Satan and extend salvation to believers.

The "way of the cross" becomes the means of accomplishing God's saving work.

The "way of the cross" is

the path chosen by the leaders of the Jews to get rid of the radical rabbi Jesus.

The "way of the cross" is the method the Romans used to quell a riot, garner favor and exercise authority.

The "way of the cross" is the path believers tread as they accept Jesus as King in a spiritual kingdom.

Easter is the story of all mankind needing the "way of the cross". All failed to submit to the king. All squandered God's blessings like the prodigal son. God provided the needed way back. Sinful man could not build the bridge home. Only a holy, just and gracious God could provide access once again. God crafted the "way of the cross".

In 1906 Jessie B. Pounds used the "way of the cross"

as the basis for the lyrics to a great song that speaks of the cross as the way home to God. She declares, "I must needs go home by the way of the cross, There's no other way but this." The refrain is beautiful to the one that walks in the "way of the cross".

"The way of the cross leads home, The way of the cross leads home; It is sweet to know, as I on-

ward go,

The way of the cross leads home."

She reminds of the blood-sprinkled way the Savior trod. She speaks of Him now waiting to receive those that walk by the "way of the cross".

The "way of the cross" leads home and teaches that this world is not our end goal. The cross leads us home. The cross brings us hope and joy and power. The resurrection of the one that traveled

the way of the cross is the hope of all history. One from among mankind made it through our greatest obstacle. Easter is the declaration that the "way of the cross" remains abundantly open to those that will follow the Savior. Jesus is the resurrected LORD! And the "way of the cross" takes us to the exact place we long to be. For certainly, the "way of the cross" leads home.

Stories of the Resurrection as told in the Gospels

Easter is a holy day on the Christian calendar that commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The resurrection of Jesus is described in the Gospels of the New Testament, which millions of Christians read every year, especially during the Lenten season, which is a 40-day period that directly precedes Easter Sunday.

The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John comprise the canonical Gospels. Each book can help Christians understand and connect with the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The following are passages from each of the canonical Gospels that help tell the story of the resur-

rection of Jesus.

Matthew 28: 1-10

Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see

the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you.' So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.'

Mark 16: 2-7

And very early in the morning, the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre

at the rising of the sun. And they said among themselves, 'Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre?' And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great. And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted. And he saith unto them, 'Be not affrighted: ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him. But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said

unto you.'

Luke 24: 1-12

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, 'Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man

must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.' And they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.

The significance of various symbols of Easter

Easter Sunday is a day when Christians across the globe celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Data from the Pew Research Center indicates there are approximately 2.4 billion Christians across the globe, which accounts for nearly one-third of the global population.

Though certain Christians groups do not celebrate Easter, many consider it the holiest day of the year. Given

that significance, it's no surprise Easter is steeped in symbolism. The following are some of the many symbols of Easter and what they represent to faithful Christians across the globe.

EGGS

Eggs might now be more instantly associated with Easter egg hunts for children, but the American Bible Society notes that eggs are symbolic of more than just fun for

kids. Eggs represent the new life that's symbolic of spring, which is when Easter occurs in the northern hemisphere. Christians view eggs as a reminder of the resurrection of Jesus. Interestingly, though colored eggs are often seen as a fun Easter activity for kids, the ABS notes that the tradition dates back to the early days of Christianity, when red-colored eggs were used to represent the resurrection.

CRUCIFIX

The crucifix, which is a distinct representation of a cross with Jesus Christ on it, is symbolic of the crucifixion and subsequent resurrection of Jesus. The ABS notes that the resurrection of Jesus symbolizes his victory over the power of sin and death.

THE LAMB

Jesus is referred to in the Bible as the 'Lamb of God'

(Revelation 5:6-14), so the lamb is another important Easter symbol for Christians. In addition, in John (1:29), Jesus is referred to by John the Baptist as the 'Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.'

EASTER BUNNY

Another symbol, like Easter eggs, that people could be forgiven for mistaking as purely secular, the Easter Bunny is not entirely separate

from the spiritual meaning of the holiday. As noted, Easter, even though it's a moveable feast, takes place in spring in the northern hemisphere each year. Spring is symbolic of rebirth, and the hare was a symbol of fertility among the ancient pagans. The spirit of rebirth associated with rabbits, particularly in spring, also is reminiscent of the resurrection of Jesus from his tomb.

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Why is Easter Sunday such an important Christian holiday?

Christians around the world fill church pews on Easter Sunday to participate in one of the most holy and important celebrations of the liturgical year. Although every Sunday presents opportunities to share in the word of God, Easter Sunday is an especially significant date on the Christian calendar.

Each Easter, Christians celebrate the miracle of Christ's defeat over death through his resurrection and ascension to his father's side in heaven. However awe-inspiring, Easter is much more than this event and its retelling. Easter actually is the core of the Christian religion as it has come to be known, including inspiring the rituals and teachings that have been shared for nearly 2,000 years. Without the events that unfolded during Holy Week, the Christian faith would not

exist as it was prophesied. Christ's selfless sacrifice on the cross for others' sins, as well as his miraculous resurrection, are the anchors upon which all of Christianity has been built.

In 1 Corinthians 15:17, St. Paul wrote, 'And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.' Pope Benedict XVI similarly summarized St. Paul's words, indicating that if the resurrection were taken away, it may be possible to piece together ideas about God and men, but the Christian faith would be 'dead.' In his book, Jesus of Nazareth, Pope Benedict further wrote, 'Jesus would be a failed religious leader. He would then remain purely human, and his authority would extend only so far as his message is of interest to us.'

According to Christianity,

com, Easter is part of the redemptive plan of mankind. It is worthy of celebration because it proved to people that Jesus is the Son of God. This gives Christians confidence that there is life after death, and they will have the same power working in them that raised Jesus from the dead.

Out of Holy Week and Easter also came the start of Christian masses. On Holy Thursday, Jesus introduced his disciples to the bread that they ate at the Last Supper as 'his body' and the wine as 'his blood.' This would serve as the basis for the Christian celebration of Holy Communion, which remains a vital component of the faith and religious services.

Easter is a significant date on the Christian calendar that inspires Christians across the globe to celebrate their faith.



Answering questions about Lent

Before the joyous Easter celebration comes the solemn and prayerful Lenten season. Even the devoutly religious may not know all there is to know about this penitential season. The following are some questions and answers about Lent.

WHEN DOES LENT OCCUR?

Lent is a period of 40 days preceding Easter Sunday. Since 1969, Lent has begun on Ash Wednesday and has ended on the evening of the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday. Since Sundays are not calculated in that time frame, Lent actually

lasts 46 days.

WHEN DID LENT BEGIN?

The first Christians approached each Sunday as a celebration of Easter, and each day of the week was considered a time to prepare for the Sunday celebration. Beginning in the fourth century in Europe, dates began to be established for Christmas and other religious dates of significance. The pattern of 40 days of preparation and penance started to emerge around this time. According to the Catholic Encyclopedia, the first mention of the term 'tessarakoste,' meaning '40' in Greek, could be found in

the early years of the fourth century. As Greek gave way to Latin in liturgies, tessarakoste was replaced with 'quadragesima,' meaning 40 days. Christians started the tradition of Lent around the year 325 during the Council of Nicea.

WHY 40 DAYS?

The Compass News says the 40 days of Lent refer to Christ's 40 days spent in the desert after His baptism. Just as Jesus prayed and fasted, so, too, did the church and its faithful.

WHY IS IT CALLED LENT?

Scholars suggest the word

'Lent' is derived from 'lengten,' an Anglo-Saxon word for spring, which also is related to the German word 'lenz,' meaning spring. By the 11th century, the Oxford English Dictionary notes that 'Lent' had taken on the Christian usage it has today, and the generic term for springtime disappeared.

WHERE DO ASH WEDNESDAY'S ASHES COME FROM?

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, when ashes are spread on the foreheads of followers in the sign of the cross to signal their repentance to God. The ashes are

derived from burning the palm fronds from the previous year's Palm Sunday.

WHY ARE PRIESTS' GARMENTS PURPLE DURING LENT?

Purple long has been considered a royal color, and purple garb, along with a crown made from thorns, was placed on Jesus to mock him as the 'King of the Jews.' Purple/violet became a symbol of the sovereignty of Christ and also was associated with repentance from sin. That is why violet is worn by clergy during Lent, as well as during Advent, the season that precedes Christmas.

HOW IS LENT CONNECTED TO PASSOVER?

Religious scholars contend that the 'Last Supper' took place on what is now known as Holy Thursday. The meal was a seder, a ritual meal held in celebration of the Jewish holiday of Passover. According to the Gospels of Mark, Matthew and Luke, Jesus prepared for the Last Supper on the 'first day of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb.'

Lent is a powerful time on the Christian calendar during which the faithful prepare for the glory of Jesus Christ's life after death.

How did Easter get its name?

Christians and even many non-Christians likely know that Easter is the Christian celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Less widely known may be the origins of the name of this significant holiday. Historians are not certain about the precise origins of the name 'Easter.' Some believe the name can be traced to the English monk Bede, often referred to as 'St. Bede the

Venerable' or 'The Venerable Bede.' According to History.com, in his most famous work, Ecclesiastical History of the English People, Bede asserts that the English word 'Easter' can be traced to 'Eostre' or 'Eostræ,' which is the pagan Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring. Many historians past and present echo this sentiment and believe Eostre is the namesake of Easter.

However, others believe 'Easter' comes from the Latin phrase 'in albis,' which is plural for 'alba' (dawn). That phrase became 'eostarum' in Old High German, a language that historians have connected to Old English. Though which camp is correct may never be resolved, there's no denying that the word 'Easter' represents the same spirit of rebirth that Christians celebrate each spring.

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Dyes are not the only way to color eggs. Everything from watercolor paint to acrylics to decoupage can be used to cover eggs in vivid colors.

6 Easter egg coloring tips

Coloring Easter eggs is a time-honored tradition dating back more than 2,500 years. There is evidence that people living in the ancient settlement of Trypillia dyed eggs. Ancient Persians also were believed to paint eggs for Nowruz (Persian New Year).

Christians adopted similar traditions to symbolize aspects of the Easter story. Originally Christians dyed eggs red to represent the blood of Jesus Christ that was shed on the cross,

according to Chase Oaks Church. Good Housekeeping reports early Christian missionaries adapted the dying tradition to include more egg colors to represent different aspects of the Easter story. Yellow represented the resurrection, blue represented love and red remained a symbol of Christ's blood.

Whether families dye eggs to symbolize the Easter miracle or simply for fun, the following are some coloring tips to enhance the process.

1. Prevent cracked eggs.

Most colored eggs are hard-boiled. To prevent cracking during the boiling process, add a teaspoon of vinegar and a tablespoon of salt to the boiling water. Additional anti-cracking measures include rubbing half a lemon on each shell before boiling.

2. Boil eggs and cool completely. It takes roughly 10 minutes to hard-boil an egg. Fill a pot with enough water to submerge the eggs, then bring it to a boil over medium-high heat. Gently lower the eggs into the water with a

slotted spoon. Cover, reduce the heat to a simmer, and cook for 10 minutes. Drain the eggs and cool in a bowl of water or run under cold tap water.

3. Don't forget the vinegar. Whether you use colored dye tablets or drops of food coloring from the pantry, use a mix of water and vinegar in the coloring solution. According to Education.com, food coloring is an acid dye and bonds using hydrogen. This chemical process only works in an acidic environ-

ment. Vinegar is added to water to make it more acidic and help the dyes adhere more strongly to the eggs and produce brighter colors.

4. Stick to white eggs. Stores sell both brown and white eggs. The species of chicken determines whether the eggs will be white or brown. When coloring eggs, it might be better to purchase white eggs, as the dyes will show up more vividly on the white shells.

5. Create distinctive designs. By covering portions of

the bare eggs before dipping into color, people can create unique designs. Things like masking tape, rubber bands, wax (or crayons), and even twine can be used. The dye will only take on the uncovered areas, leaving white behind.

6. Dyes are not the only way to color eggs. Everything from watercolor paint to acrylics to decoupage can be used to cover eggs in vivid colors. Egg decorators also can use colored yarns, fabric or stickers.

HUNT FROM PAGE C1

able. Hunts on Easter itself may not get as many participants because celebrants could be at church or celebrating privately.

· Gather supplies early. Easter decorations and plastic eggs sell out rather quickly, so it's wise to stock up on items as soon as they reach store shelves. If you'll be using real eggs, consider boiling and coloring the eggs a week before the egg hunt so you won't feel a time crunch. Simply store the dyed eggs in the refrigerator until ready for use. Color around six to

12 eggs per participant.

· Designate a search area. Aim for a relatively private spot for the egg hunt. A park may seem like a good idea, but people who were not included in the egg count could wander in. If you use a public space, rope off an area where the eggs will be hidden. In addition, have a backup plan if the weather will not cooperate. School gymnasiums, libraries or church recreational centers are some potential indoor options.

· Have pails at the ready. Some children will forget to bring a basket. Therefore, have extra, inexpensive pails or buckets on hand. Sturdy gift bags also work in a pinch.

· Keep ages in mind when

hiding eggs. Avoid choosing hiding spots that can be dangerous or prove too difficult for kids to find the eggs. Prior to hiding eggs, count how many you have, which will help to ensure all eggs were actually collected later on. Next, identify hiding spots that will work for various ages. For example, toddlers will need conspicuous spots and older children more challenging nooks and crannies. A map of where every egg is hidden can help as well. Real eggs may not matter outdoors since wildlife could simply dine on any undiscovered eggs. However, plastic eggs are not good for the environment and every attempt should be made to

collect them all.

· Send children out in stages. Let the youngest kids go first, and then group each search team by ascending age. This helps make sure the older kids won't simply snatch up the more easily found eggs.

· Reward with prizes. Be sure each child has some sort of takeaway prize. However, it's fine to reward the best egg hunter with a more substantial prize.

· Gather and celebrate. Encourage guests to bring a small dish to contribute. After the hunt, everyone can gather to enjoy some refreshments.

Easter
at
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Sunday, April 9th
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7:00am
Traditional Service
11:00am

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Cheerful dessert brings smiles to Easter celebrations

Lemon essence seems ripe for spring and summer entertaining, and can feature prominently in Easter desserts. Such is the case with this recipe for 'Lemon Poppy Seed Pound Cake' from 'The Pampered Chef - Stoneware Inspirations' by The Pampered Chef Test Kitchens.

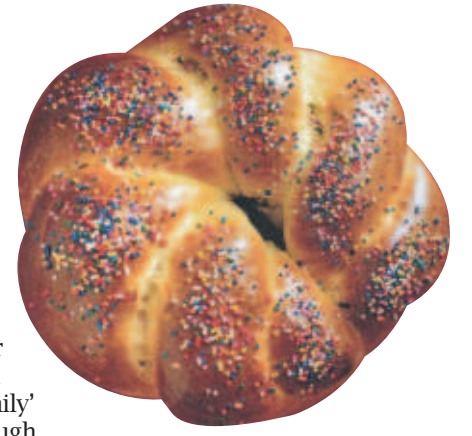
Lemon Poppy Seed Pound Cake

Yield: 16 servings

- 1½ cups all-purpose flour
- 1½ cups granulated sugar
- 2 tablespoons lemon zest
- 2 tablespoons poppy seeds
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¾ cup (1½ sticks) butter, softened (do not substitute margarine)
- 4 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 4 eggs
- 2 tablespoons milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Powdered sugar (optional)

1. Preheat oven to 325 F. Spray Stoneware Fluted Pan (or any bundt cake pan) with nonstick cooking spray. Combine flour, granulated sugar, lemon zest, poppy seeds, baking powder, and salt in a 2-quart mixing bowl; mix well. In a 4-quart mixing bowl, beat butter and cream cheese on high speed of hand-held electric mixer 1 minute. Add flour mixture; beat on low speed 1 minute or until blended (mixture will form a stiff paste).
2. In a small bowl, whisk eggs, milk and vanilla just until blended. Add egg mixture to cream cheese mixture in four additions, beating 2 minutes after each addition. (Do not undermix.)
3. Pour batter into pan. Bake 55 to 60 minutes or until a cake tester inserted near the center comes out clean. Cool cake in pan 10 minutes. Loosen cake from sides of pan; carefully invert onto a cooling rack, keeping pan over cake. Cool completely.
4. Place cake on serving platter. Sprinkle with powdered sugar or prepare a glaze, if desired.

Traditional Easter bread



Easter Bread is a ring of sweet bread that can be adorned with candy sprinkles. Traditionally, Pane di Pasqua is made on Good Friday to help break the Lenten fast for Easter. The following recipe for 'Pane di Pasqua' from 'Feast of the Seven Fishes: A Brooklyn Italian's Recipes Celebrating Food & Family' (Powerhouse Books) by Daniel Paterna makes enough to share the bread with friends and family.

Pane di Pasqua

Yields 7 to 8 loaves

Dough

- 5 packages of dry yeast (11¼ teaspoons proof yeast in a 4-cup container)
- 5 pounds unbleached all-purpose flour (approximately 17 cups)
- 1 additional pound flour for adding to dough if needed, cleaning hands, and dusting boards and pans
- 3½ cups sugar
- Pinch of salt

- 1 pound salted butter, softened, plus a bit more for coating rising dough

- 24 medium to large eggs, beaten
- 2 tablespoons anisette extract

Decorating

- 6 ounces rainbow-colored nonpareil
- 3 egg yolks
- 3 tablespoons water

Combine the flour, sugar and salt in a 16-quart pot. Add the butter and mix by hand, squeezing and merging butter with the flour mixture. Add proofed yeast to the flour mixture; continue mixing ingredients.

Slowly stir in all the beaten eggs and anisette using a fork. Continue to mix until ingredients are combined and loose until dough begins to form.

Knead the dough with floured hands for approximately 45 minutes, or until it becomes smooth and elastic. Add flour to the dough if needed, or to scrape the dough off your hands and the bottom of the pot.

Once the dough is fully kneaded, leave it in the pot, lightly spread some butter over the top to keep it moist, and cover with a cloth. Leave at room temperature to rise for 8 hours or overnight. The dough is ready when it rises about 5 times its size. When the dough has fully risen, punch it down, turn it out onto a floured surface, and form it into a ball. Cut the dough into 7 or 8 smaller dough balls using a sharp knife. Then cut each ball in half. Roll each half into strands approximately 16-inches long. To form a loaf, lay the strands side by side and cross them over at one end, offset by 3 inches.

Continue crossing one strand over the other while working the braid into a circle. The tie off can be challenging. Join the circle by tucking one end under the other, pinch the dough firmly together to seal, maintaining the twist and thickness of the loaf. Repeat with the remaining dough.

Butter and flour one 9-inch baking pan for each loaf. Place the braided loaves in individual pans and set aside, covered in a warm, draft-free place to rise for another hour until the dough rises about 30 percent more.

At this point, preheat the oven to 250 F.

When the dough has risen, place the pans into the oven for about 10 minutes, then raise the temperature to 325 F. Bake until the bread is a dark golden brown and makes a hollow sound when lightly tapped on the bottom.

Prepare the egg wash for decorating. In a small bowl, beat the 3 egg yolks with 3 tablespoons of water and set aside.

When the breads are fully baked, remove them from the oven and pan using oven mitts, then decorate immediately. Brush the egg wash onto the hot surface of each loaf and sprinkle with the colored confetti. Set the loaves to cool the racks. Slice a wedge and spread with butter.



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Morning Worship 10:40 am

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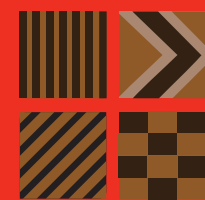
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