Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church 1326 South 26 Street Omaha, NE 68105-2380 (402) 341-7730

Return Service Requested

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Email: graceluth@graceluth.com Web Site: www.graceluth.com

REGULAR SUNDAY EVENTS 9:00 A.M. Christian Education 10:30 A.M. Worship Service

Pastor - Rev. Dr. Damon D. Laaker Editor/Church Secretary – Brenda Spahr Organist - Colleen Jeffrey Sexton - Nenchi Ilka Families In Action - Virginia McGill Non-Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Omaha NE Permit No. 39

Inspired By Christ, it is our mission to share God's Word and Love in care and in service to all.

April 2012



# THE GRACE MESSENGER



#### **2012 Council Members**

John Boato Vicki Cox Sarah Emery

Ralph Fitle
June Hilmer
David Hufford

Greg Hula Carolyn Matson Samantha Trejo

Pastor Laaker

Officers Serving the Congregation but not on Council:

Financial Secretary: Janet Hula Treasurer: Margie Sutej

The regular meeting of the Council was held March 13<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Laaker invited the Council to share their prayer requests and concerns. We pray for the family of Ernie Olson. We pray for the families of the victims and the family of the soldier who recently caused so many deaths. We pray for the healing of those close to us; Ralph's co-worker Randy Haney as he awaits a liver transplant. June's sister, Rose, as she awaits surgery at the end of March. Greg's friends, Greg Nielsen with his chemotherapy and John Conwell with his sudden health concerns. We pray for peace & stabilization in areas of unrest; Syria, Uganda, etc. We celebrate with and praise God for David Hufford's healing. We pray for Fern as she goes through her rehab after her fall, for Jack Williams, Barb Narducci, Barb Nelson, and Joe Narducci as they continue to adapt and struggle with their discomforts. We pray for the family of Thomas Kono, as they mourn his death.

Pastor led devotions from Jeremiah 14:22 and Titus 2:13. Both remind us to put our ultimate trust in God. We are encouraged to find hope in God.

<u>Visions for Ministry</u>: The Council is reading "*Missional Renaissance*" by Reggie McNeal. We discussed how we need to be willing to take our internal views/ groups / ideas...and make them external. Look at "church" as a community, not as a building. Studying Jesus is great, but living Jesus is better! Please read chapter two for our next meeting.

Reports were received from the Financial Secretary and the Treasurer. Please continue to give generously.

Christian Education: No new report.

<u>Evangelism/Outreach:</u> Waiting to hear about possibility of a candidate for Lutheran Volunteer Corp. At this time, we have no one to partner with in this endeavor.

<u>Finance:</u> Thrivent is now insisting on annual enrollments from those who wish to participate in the Choice Dollars program. The council also welcomes Ralph as he steps in to train to take over for Margie! The Mission Investment Fund has currently denied our grant request to help with parking lot expenses.

<u>Property:</u> The issue with our roof has been turned over to a public adjuster.

<u>Service/Social Ministry:</u> OTOC - please support and help pass LB 599! They will also hold their Spring fundraising on April 21 at the Hot Shops in downtown Omaha.

Support/Stewardship: No new report.

Worship: No new report.

<u>Unfinished Business:</u> No new report.

New Business: No new report.

<u>Announcements:</u> Pastor and Mary will be in Topeka the last Sunday in March. Sarah will bring treats for our next meeting, on 4/10.



During Holy Week at St. George Catholic Church nursery school in Baton Rouge, LA, the teacher and the children were discussing Jesus' death and resurrection. When the teacher, Chemaine Plauche, asked the children why Jesus came out of the tomb on Easter Sunday, a 4-year-old girl raised her hand and answered, "He probably wanted to see what the Easter bunny brought for him."

You may recall that in last month's column, I spoke about a particular theme, Be who you are, See what you have and Do what matters. I've been thinking about this in relation to our Holy Week and Easter celebrations.

Be who you are. I wonder if those who participated in the welcome of Jesus into Jerusalem had any idea of the uniqueness of that day. If they were like us, and I suspect they were, many folks probably didn't pay much attention. It was simply another parade. Again, like us, people probably only thought about this event in retrospect. Do you remember...? Remembrances are important to us. What special remembrances are triggered in you as you enter this special time?

See what you have. Historically, we know that this time was a very special time for people living in Jerusalem. This was Passover time. You will recall that Jesus didn't have a place that was his in Jerusalem. He would send two of his disciples ahead to prepare for this special celebration in a borrowed room. Upon his death, he would be laid in a borrowed tomb. We spend a considerable amount of time, energy and resources to make sure we have the things necessary for a special celebration. Often it means that we too have to borrow things. In some ways, we have borrowed this special time and tied it to our celebration of the meaning of Christ's work among us. How do you feel about borrowing things for your use?

Do what matters. It seems pretty clear in the Gospel stories that Jesus was focused on doing what mattered for the sake of the kingdom. Any time someone tried to persuade him differently, Jesus was clear in indicating his purpose. At the meal, no one had extended the hospitality of washing their dusty dirty feet. So, Jesus took off his outer garment and bent down to wash the feet of the disciples. Peter was aghast. "No, you can't do that to me!" Jesus made it clear that this is what mattered and he would do it for all gathered. Then when they went out to the garden and the squad arrived to arrest him, he would not allow the zealous disciples to fight for his freedom. These things mattered and he would fulfill his purpose. Are we as clear and focused on doing the things that matter in this relationship we call Christian?

I trust we will come to worship the one who clearly knew who he was, knew what he had and did what mattered for our salvation. May your worship of the Christ renew within you the joy of knowing who you are, seeing what you have and enabling you to do what matters for the kingdom.

Pr. Damon Laaker

A man is justified (declared righteous before God) by faith alone, but not by a faith that is alone. Genuine faith will produce good deeds, but only faith in Christ saves.





Palm Sunday, April 1 9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School. 10:30 Palm Sunday Worship Service.





"Unless I wash you, you have no part with  $\emph{me.}$ "

Maundy Thursday, April 5
6:00 p.m. Lenten Supper.
Dinner prepared and served by
the Hula family.
7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service.



Good Friday, April 6
No Supper.
7:00 p.m. Good Friday Service.





Easter, April 8

Only one Easter Sunrise Service This year's service will be at 7:00 a.m.

There will be no 10:30 a.m. service.

Easter Breakfast 8:00 a.m. Served by the Moyer family.





And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

2 Corinthians 9:8

- Thank you to Marilyn and Jerry Van Ormer for their dedication in tending to the plants in the entry way, they continue to look welcoming.
- Thank you to Mary Laaker, Tom and Sarah Emery, Arlone Farber and Vicki Cox for their ongoing care in the nursery during Sunday morning worship service.
- Thank you to Bob Moss and Jerry Van Ormer for their continuing efforts to maintain the church with any projects that need to be completed.
- ♦ Thank you to Marilyn, LaVonne, June, and Eva, with your dedication in quilting for the Lutheran World Relief.
- Thank you to Nenchi Ilka, you are doing such a great job cleaning the church building!
- Thank you to Jerry and Marilyn Van Ormer, Joe Narducci, Greg and Janet Hula, and Eva Martin who pick up altar flowers every Sunday morning.
- ◆ Thank you to Ron and Donna Adrian, and Brenda Spahr who take care of the altar, set up and take down communion.
- Thank you to the Newsletter Assembly Committee (LaVonne, Bob, Marilyn, Jerry, June, Eva, Gloria, and Louise who dedicate one morning every month to assemble the Newsletter for mailing.

### Ladies of Grace Church,

Thank you all for the luncheon that you prepared and served for us. It was greatly appreciated and Ernie would have loved it!

Don, Grace, Donna and family.





Creighton Athletics is proud to host "Faith & Family Night" at TD Ameritrade Park Omaha for the Creighton-Illinois State baseball game on Saturday, April 28. Gates open at 5:30 p.m., first pitch is at 6:30 p.m. Grace Lutheran has received some discount passes good for unlimited \$4.00 tickets. Passes are displayed on the back table in the sanctuary for all the current and future baseball fans.



# Prayer Concerns from Family and Friends

"Give attention to your servant's prayer and his plea for mercy, LORD my God. Hear the cry and the prayer that your servant is praying in your presence this day."

1 Kings 8:28

lways

Pravers

Those we pray for named below are members unless otherwise specified:

- Andrew Edwards Doing dialysis a couple times a week until a kidney can be found.
- Ken Hilmer Ongoing health issues.
- La Vonne Moss Ongoing health issues.
- Jack Williams Ongoing health issues.
- Rose Heesacker Ongoing cancer treatments. (June Hilmer's sister.)
- Rex Olson Ongoing cancer treatments. (Don Olson's brother.)
- Wanda Black Ongoing health issues. (Ernie Olson's Aunt.)
- Pastor Judy Gifford Ongoing cancer treatment. (Assistant to the Bishop.)
- Norma Courtney Ongoing health issues. (Arlone Farber's Mom.)
- Mary Jane King Ongoing health issues. (Donna Adrian's Mom.)
- Jean Matson Spiritual healing during cancer treatments. (Andrea Spahr's Grandma.)
- Mike Novak Ongoing cancer treatment. (Dorothy Novak's son.)
- Sharon Bishop Spiritual healing during cancer treatments. (Friend of Dorothy Novak.)
- Jeff Van Overen Healing during cancer treatments. (Friend of many.)
- The family of Ernie Olson.

### **Pray for our Shut - ins and Nursing Home residents:**

Mae Lane - St Joe Villa. Barbara Nelson - Life Care Center, Elkhorn. Barbara Narducci - Home Jack Williams - Immanuel Village.

## Pray for wisdom for your Church Council here at Grace Church.

Pray for the Council Members. Ask God to bless their ministry among us.

Pray for strength and spiritual wisdom for the leaders in the local church and the Nebraska Synod:

Pastor Laaker

Bishop David deFreese, Nebraska Synod

Bishop Mark Hanson, ELCA Bishop, United States

• Pray for the Sudanese community in general. David Nange and Charles Tuw are the elders for the Sudanese Worshiping Community.

Let's encourage each other as we see God's hand in answering our prayers.



# Quilting for Lutheran World Relief on Mondays at 9:00 a.m.

If you have the morning free, drop by and help cut squares and tie quilt tops on to the backs.

Coffee break and joke time is at 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday Night
April 18, 2012
7:00 p.m.
Candle light Prayer Service
for Confession,
Meditation and Healing
at Grace Lutheran Church.

People of all faiths are welcome!





# Traveling SUN Seniors Understanding Nature

Fontenelle Nature Association has various resources to bring the wonders of nature to you! Learn about humming-birds, delightful ducks, Lewis & Clark expeditions and more! Additional information is posted on our bulletin board and any questions you can call Catherine Kuper at 402-731-3140, ext. 240.

Lefler United Methodist Church 1501 Madison, South Omaha April 21, 2012 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Roasted Pork Dinner and all the fixings to benefit the United Methodist food pantry at Pearl. Take-outs are available and there will be a bake sale table. Cost is \$8.00 for Adults and \$4.00 for children ages 4-12. Any additional information or questions, please call Jean at 402-733-7653.



# Nebraska Synod Assembly 2012 Bethany Lutheran Church Elkhorn May 31, through June 2

Volunteers are needed to help the assembly run smoothly. Volunteer opportunities include; greeting voting and non-voting members, assisting with registration, directing traffic, set-up and tear down before and after the assembly. If you are interested please contact Pastor Brad E. Meyer at pastorbrad@lord-of-love.org or call at 402-493-2946.



# Thrivent Financial for Lutheranse Let's thrive:

### **Thrivent Financial for Lutherans**

Please note: Thrivent Choice participants need to log into your account and direct your Choice dollars for 2012 to Grace Lutheran or some other institution. Thrivent reset all previous directives. Thanks for your help and understanding.

# **Lutheran Youth Serve Omaha (LYSO)**

Kountze Memorial and St. Matthew Lutheran Churches have teamed up for a second year to host Lutheran Youth Serve Omaha (LYSO).

Each day youth are sent out into a variety of service sites in the community. Youth will be divided into groups according to grade level (K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12th) and a new service site will be scheduled for each group, each day. Those service sites will be based on rotations and develop awareness in the areas of Poverty and Hunger, Children and Youth, Senior Care, and the Environment.

We are inviting Churches, you to join LYSO! June 11th - 15th, 2012 from 8:30 a.m. to noon, grades K - 12th. An informational meeting is scheduled for Sunday, April 15th, 12:30 p.m. at Kountze. A sack lunch will be provided.

For additional information please call Ian Hartfield at Kountze Memorial (402) 341-7761 / ian@kmlchurch.org or Stacia Vawter at St. Matthew (402) 556-7030 / stacia@smlutheran.com a brochure has been posted on the bulletin board.

# "Helping Hands"

Working Together in God's service





Highlighted items below are in constant need.



These are things our clients can not purchase with their food stamps and are always appreciated.

Deodorant Dish soap

Can Openers Toothbrush and toothpaste Shaving Cream Mouthwash (without alcohol) Feminine hygiene products Razors

Hair products (combs, brushes, picks) Kleenex

Bar Soap Dry Laundry Soap

**Bathroom tissue** Shampoo

Project Hope Diaper wipes

4205 Boyd St Diapers, especially sizes 4, 5, 6 and pullups Omaha, NE 68111

We always need paper or plastic bags. 402-453-7649

# 2012 Feinstein Challenge

Alan Shawn Feinstein has, for the past 14 years, provided one million dollars of his money to anti-hunger agencies throughout the country. Every year Mr. Feinstein challenges these agencies to raise funds and food from March 1st to April 30th. The more money and food collected, the more of Mr. Feinstein's one million dollars will be received.

At Project Hope we are grateful for all the donations congregations in Omaha have shared with us in the past. Once again, we have a unique opportunity to get supplemental funds for all contributions during March and April. We would use this money only for buying food. The Lutheran church and community re-! sponse in 2011 was incredible with helping us meet and exceed our goal of \$54,000. We raised \$54,270.00 with food and money. We will get \$1.00 credit! for each food item donated and \$1.00 credit for every dollar donated. This would be an ideal mission opportunity during the Lenten season. Would your congrega-i tion please consider joining us in this Challenge by collecting food items or re-! ceiving a special offering?

Kids At Work 2012



Ernie and Mesha summer 2011 at the Kountze Community



Its spring, it's almost Easter, then Mother's Day, and then it's time for Kids At Work 2012! I'm asking that annual question: Would you like to volunteer part of your summer to participate in the Kids At Work summer program and make 2012 a successful failure?

A successful failure, what does that mean? Many people are frozen by various circumstances and not comfortable with the word failure; count me in. It is not easy to willingly participate in anything if the outcome is failure. I do not want to be known as someone who fails, maybe if it's a successful failure, at least it sounds like a success.

That is what Kids At Work is about, successfully failing. Continuously trying new things, rescheduling on a spare moment, learning what works, what doesn't, and growing from all the unique events that happen surrounding Kids At Work. Observing the faces of the youth who participate, the smiles, the ones who don't smile and even the ones who complain (not too many though) and after they are encouraged to finish the work at hand acknowledging the accomplishments that have been achieved is inspiring to witness.

God has worked with failures throughout history. During this time of Lent, Holy Week and Easter we are reminded in Mark 14:30 - "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "today-yes, tonight-before the rooster crows twice you yourself will disown me three times." After Christ beat death and rose again, his encounter with Peter did not focus on sin or failures but on love and feeding his lambs.

Kids At Work lost a faithful and dedicated leader earlier this month. His shoes are mighty big (really big) to fill! Ernie had a unique connection and respect with the youth, as we all know he had that gift of humor and shared with all who were within hearing distance.

Join in on the summer events, have a little fun, find some youthful inspiration, find growth within yourself and what can be accomplished. By the end of the summer the question might be; why haven't I done this sooner? Stop by the church office and talk to Brenda Spahr regarding participation opportunities that could be just around the corner for you.

Participants from 2011, contracts are in the works and will be mailed or given out shortly. Any questions, please call the church office at 402-341-7730.

# Community News

# Midwest Eye Care, P.C.

On Thursday, May 17, Midwest Eye Care, and Clarkson Family Practice will donate their services to provide cataract surgery at no charge to people in need as part of Mission Cataract USA.

Eligible candidates will be given a thorough eye exam and up to 25 people will be scheduled for free cataract surgery at Midwest Eye Surgery Center, at 4353 Dodge Street on May 17.

Please call 402-552-2020 by March 19 to speak with Jennifer Anderson, Mission Cataract Coordinator with any questions or to set up an examination.

# **Congressional Candidates Forum**

Sunday April 15<sup>th</sup> North High School 36<sup>th</sup> Ames 6-8 P.M.

Omaha Together One Community will hold a forum for Congressional Candidates on **Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m**. at North High School (36<sup>th</sup> and Ames). OTOC is co-sponsoring this event with Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance (IMA) and the Empowerment Network. Democrat and Republican candidates will be asked questions about education, healthcare, workforce/training, immigration, youth and neighborhood development. We urge you to attend and to invite others to take an active role in this political process. If you have questions, please call OTOC at 402-344-4401 (or include your local leader contact information)

# **Healthy Babies:**

When prenatal care is denied in Nebraska the one who pays the price are the babies. Healthy babies are worth the investment, prenatal care makes a difference for a lifetime. LB 599 is a simple and effective mechanism to restore prenatal care to all low income women regardless of their income or immigration status. Support LB 599 and restore prenatal care for all Nebraska babies. Please call your State Senator and ask them to support LB 599.



# ANOTHER

# **One Another for ELCA Hunger**

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:34-35)

In Nebraska, we understand as well as anyone in the U.S. – perhaps the world – the important relationship between the precious earth and resources God has blessed us with and our ability to feed and nourish ourselves. We understand what it means to be part of a community that looks out for one another.

Hunger is present in developing countries and here at home. It happens in both urban and rural settings. In short, hunger affects people everywhere, across the world, across the country and across the street.

#### Consider the following:

- One out of every seven people on the planet suffers from hunger and poverty.
- One out of every six people lack safe drinking water.
- Every 5.4 seconds, a child dies from a preventable disease related to malnutrition.
- In the U.S., about 11 percent of the population deals with hunger on a daily basis.
- The number of households requesting emergency food assistance is on the rise, with almost half coming from families with children.

Here in the nation's bread basket, we believe that we can feed the world. So let's do it.

*One Another for ELCA World Hunger* is a joint justice/giving campaign authorized by the Nebraska Synod Council and aimed at engaging local mission centers in discussion about the poverty and hunger in our midst and how we can respond as the church.

Eighty percent of giving to One Another will go directly to ELCA World Hunger. In addition to direct food aid, ELCA World Hunger works to help develop hunger-relief solutions through programs that address economic sustainability, housing, job training, sanitation. ELCA World Hunger acts consistently with the great Lutheran tradition of looking for solutions that will address people's needs well beyond today and tomorrow.

The remaining 20 percent of giving to One Another will stay in the Nebraska Synod to help support and undergird local hunger-relief efforts that are affiliated with the Synod and its mission centers, such as food pantries and job skills ministries.

### What Can I Do?

We can't address hunger and poverty if we don't understand the nature and scope of the problem. By engaging each other in conversation, we hope that there will be a healthy sharing of knowledge and experiences that will help create a greater understanding of the root causes of hunger and our calling as Christ's disciples to address these issues in our world and communities.

As part of One Another, each mission center will receive educational materials intended to encourage reflection and discussion about hunger and poverty and our role as the church in addressing the issues involved. These materials are excellent resources for worship, adult discussions, Sunday school classes, open forums, etc.

#### Continued...

One Another will challenge all of us to step up and make our calling to care for the hungry and the poor a part of our faith journey. Several ways to show our love and concern for one another will be offered, such as:

- Take *ONE* weekend and devote it to discussing hunger and poverty through the worship service, Sunday School lessons and forums.
- Develop *ONE* new way in which your mission center can reach out to those who suffer from hunger and poverty.
- Designate *ONE* person at your mission center who will advocate for the hungry and the impoverished.
- As a consumer, give *ONE* percent of your annual spending for groceries or dining out to ELCA World Hunger to support their efforts to alleviate hunger and poverty at home and abroad.
- As a food producer, give *ONE* percent of your annual yield to ELCA World Hunger to support their efforts to alleviate hunger and poverty at home and abroad.
- Pray *ONE* minute a week for those who suffer from hunger and poverty.
- Fast for *ONE* day to stand with those who suffer from hunger and poverty.
- Send *ONE* letter or e-mail to a decision maker who can help improve the lives of those who suffer from hunger or poverty.

### **Our Goals**

The Nebraska Synod has a long history of supporting ELCA World Hunger through our financial gifts. This year, we are asking mission centers and individuals to prayerfully consider increasing their giving with the goal of raising \$300,000 this fiscal year.

The Nebraska Synod is working to create new ministries for our definitelyabled brothers and sisters in Christ.

This is a group that has been largely underserved and under-reached by the church throughout the ages. The goal is to change this trend by making a concerted effort, not just to serve them, but also to empower our definitely-abled brothers and sisters to lives of ministry and service.

On April 14 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., a large gathering will be held to meet our definitely-abled brothers and sisters in Christ. The event will be held at First Lutheran Church in Lincoln (1551 S. 70th St.). The event will focus on youth and young adults; people between middle school age and 30. Participants will worship, talk, serve and share fellowship.

For more information, contact Lisa Kramme at the Synod office, at 402-896-5311.



# Alegent Health 125 Years of Service

As we approach the midpoint of our 125th year of service to the people of this region we continue to explore ways to better serve and impact community health. The original charter written by Pastor E.A. Fogelstrom in 1887 assured "The object for which Immanuel is organized is the relief of the sick and suffering, the care and education of orphans and neglected children, the support of widows and aged persons with reference to creed, color or nationality, and the establishment and maintenance of hospitals, homes and other institutions for such relief, care and support." During this celebration year we are emphasizing community based ministry and outreach to serve needs and connect with the spirit of our 125 year old charter. Over the past several months we have sponsored a Community Health Fair; collected food for 125 Thanksgiving Dinners distributed by Lutheran Family Services, sponsored families at Christmas, and conducted a coat/hat/mitten drive.

Of particular interest to our Founders was the care of women. We renew this pledge by offering to all our Lutheran churches an opportunity to schedule mammography screenings for congregational groups. Immanuel's new, spa-like Women's Imaging Center, is specifically designed for women by women. One in eight women will develop breast cancer and early detection saves lives. Mammography is a commonly provided service with no co-pay for patients and is provided by Medicare and Medicaid so there is no out of pocket expense for almost every person. Our contact person for these screenings is Mary Bailey, Diagnostics Director, 402-572-3796.

We invite you and your congregants to join in some upcoming activities this Spring.

**April 27,** our Immanuel Auxiliary will be hosting a very special "Night of Celebration" at the Strategic Air and Space Museum in Ashland, NE. This annual event is not just for fundraising - it also serves as a great way to recognize those who have contributed to our Mission and impacted so many lives in the community.

**April 28,** we are hosting an "Immanuel Reunion Picnic" in the morning in front of the hospital. This event is reaching out to anyone impacted by our Immanuel health ministry over the last decades. Our orphans, babies, nursing school graduates, past staff and physicians, and most importantly our patients will be returning to North 72nd Street for a time of fellowship and celebration.

Throughout the coming year we will be celebrating our Lutheran heritage, reaching out to those we serve and continuing to demonstrate our healing ministry's faith tradition. We have a number of other activities and health related functions planned for the rest of this special year, which will culminate in October. We invite you to visit Immanuel and share our scheduled activities with your congregation members. We are very blessed to be part of this 125 year health ministry. We hope you can join us!

Ann Schumacher Vice President/Chief Operating Officer Beth Llewellyn Vice President Mission Integration



# Special Days in April at Grace Lutheran Church

April 1 - Palm Sunday.

April 5 - Maundy Thursday Dinner & Service.

April 6 - Good Friday Service.

April 8 - EASTER!

April 10 - Grace Council Meeting.

April 11 - Photographers Club.

April 18 - Prayer Service.

April 19 - Neighborhood Meeting.

April 24 - Newsletter Assembly.

April 25 - Photographers Club.

Subscriber Marvin D. Hills diligently composes messages for the church signs of South Side Church of God in South Bend, IN.

Here is a sampling:

"Easter is the rest of the Christmas story."

"A Christian's death is merely a transfer to the home office."

"A sunrise is God's way of telling the world to lighten up."

"You can save money, but money can't save you."

"A budget helps us live below our yearnings."

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A man is driving along a country road when a rabbit jumps out in front of his car, and the car hits it. The man, a sensitive animal lover, pulls over, sees the dead rabbit, and begins to cry.

A woman drives by, stops her car, and asks the man why he's crying. "I killed the Easter bunny with my car," the man weeps.

"Don't worry," the woman says. She runs to her car, pulls out a spray can, walks over to the dead bunny, and sprays the contents on him.

The Easter bunny immediately jumps up, waves its paw at the two of them, and hops off down the road.

Then the bunny stops, turns around, and waves again. He stops and waves several more times before he hops out of sight.

The astonished man asked the woman, "What's in the can that you sprayed on the Easter bunny?"

The woman showed the man the label on the can. It said, "Hair spray. Restores life to dead hair, and adds permanent wave."

—via Rise Samra Hallandale Beach, FL Reprinted with permission from JoyfulNoiseletter.com





A little girl was excited when her dad took her to see the Easter bunny at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church in Baton Rouge, LA.

After the Easter bunny hugged her and turned to walk away, the little girl covered her face with both hands and yelled, "Oh my gosh, the Easter bunny has a *zipper!*"

—via Jeff Totten Lake Charles, LA Reprinted with permission from JoyfulNoiseletter.com





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A technologist worked at a hospital where a Filipino by the name of Dr. Resurrection was on the staff. "Whenever he was paged," she said, "people assumed that something dire had happened to someone."

~ Unknown ~ Reprinted with permission from JoyfulNoiseletter.com