

Faith at Home Corner - *For the week of April 21st, 2019*

by Rev. Steve Andrews Jr.

Weekly Tip for Worshipping with Your Children: *Worshipping with children is not easy, but it is necessary! Even from the time of birth, children learn the most by observing what their parents do. We are here to help. This week's tip is for: Everyone!*

COLOR CHANGE: Notice that the different colors of the altar and the stoles (the sash that the pastors wear over their albs/robes) changed! The colors help us mark the time of the church year. **White** is the color of purity and completeness and is used primarily during the **Sundays of the Easter season** to remind us that "though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow." Christ's triumph from the grave on Resurrection day is the cause for our rejoicing. His purity before his Father becomes our purity. White reinforces that message of joy. It is also used for the same message for festive Sundays: Christmas and its twelve days; Epiphany (Jan. 6) and the first Sunday following it, observed as the Baptism of Our Lord; the Last Sunday after the Epiphany, also known as Transfiguration Sunday; Holy Trinity Sunday; All-Saints' Day; and twenty-one minor festivals and occasions listed on the church year calendar in Lutheran Worship.

Outreach Made Simply Practical! *Live your normal, everyday lives with Gospel intentionality!*

Easter 4 – What is Easter, anyway? Not surprisingly, our culture doesn't understand the holiday of Easter. They see Christians celebrating, but they also see eggs, bunnies, and over-priced candy by the truckload. In the early church, they used "Christ is risen!" as a greeting. Maybe this won't work with your employer, but it could be a good introduction in conversations with your family, friends, and neighbors. Look for other ways, too, to turn the conversation from Easter to what Easter is actually about. For example, instead of asking, "How was your weekend?" you could say, "Good morning! Did you celebrate the resurrection this weekend?"

Weekly Worship Helps for the Home: *How do we go about doing devotions together as a family? How do we teach our children about their Lord and Savior? Here are some simple ways to do just that, to make Christ the center of your family and to be in His Word daily. This guide is designed to help your family read through the Scriptures together in three years and to cover the Small Catechism in just one year!*

You can certainly do this however you would like. In my home, we read a chapter of the Bible together after dinner each night, followed by reciting the three chief parts of the Catechism (Ten Commandments, Apostle's Creed, and the Lord's Prayer) and then we sing a hymn. There are any number of ways to talk about God in your home!

-Pray together! This week's **Prayer List:** <http://www.gracefaithlove.org/newsletter>

-Scripture Readings: Let's read Esther 8-10 and Jeremiah 1-4. Feel free to ask your Pastor any questions that come up!

-Memory verse: John 20:30-31 – ³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

-Hymn: *O Sons and Daughters of the King* LSB 470/471 in [Lutheran Service Builder](#)

-Psalm: 148

-Small Catechism (2017): Read together the section on the Baptism, Part 1, pg. 23. Digging Deeper with the Explanation – The Third Article, Part Three, pg. 222-236.

-Devotions resources: grab a copy of *Portals of Prayer* at church or subscribe to daily email devotions from www.lhm.org, www.lutheranchurchcharities.org, or <https://media.higherthings.org/reflections/>.

Feel free to share with family and friends, neighbors and coworkers, anyone you'd like!

God Time at Home

Select questions and adapt for your family.

FOR STARTERS: Say: "Around Easter there are many things that remind us of new life. What are some of those things?" (*Flowers, eggs, butterflies, lilies, etc.*) Show a cross. Say: "A cross is also a symbol of life. Where is Jesus who died on the cross?" (*He's not in the grave. He is alive right now at the right hand of the Father. Jesus is also present in believers. As we believe in him, we have life with him now and forever.*)

READ THE BIBLE: John 19:38-20:31

KEY VERSE: John 20:31, "*But these miracles have been written so that you will believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and so that you will have life by believing in him.*"

TALK ABOUT IT: What two men buried Jesus' body? (*John 29:28-39. Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus.*) How were these men alike? (*They were both Pharisees who followed Jesus secretly.*) When did the following people believe that Jesus had risen from the dead: Mary? Peter? Thomas?

In John 20:31, John was talking about all the miracles of Jesus. What do you think is Jesus' greatest miracle? Which miracle proved Jesus is the Son of God? Why? What do we receive when we believe that Jesus is the Son of God that died and rose again for our sin? (*Everlasting life.*)

PRAYER: Thank God for the gift of his Son, Jesus, who gave his life for us to have life. Ask for the Holy Spirit's power to help us believe this wonderful news and to share it with others.

Family Time Option

One day this week, try...

FAMILY TIME OPTIONS: Call the church office and find out names of those who visited church on Easter that do not come very often. See if there is anyone you could make a special card for or make a visit to as an encouragement to visit again. Pray for that family, especially that they would have everlasting life by believing in Jesus.