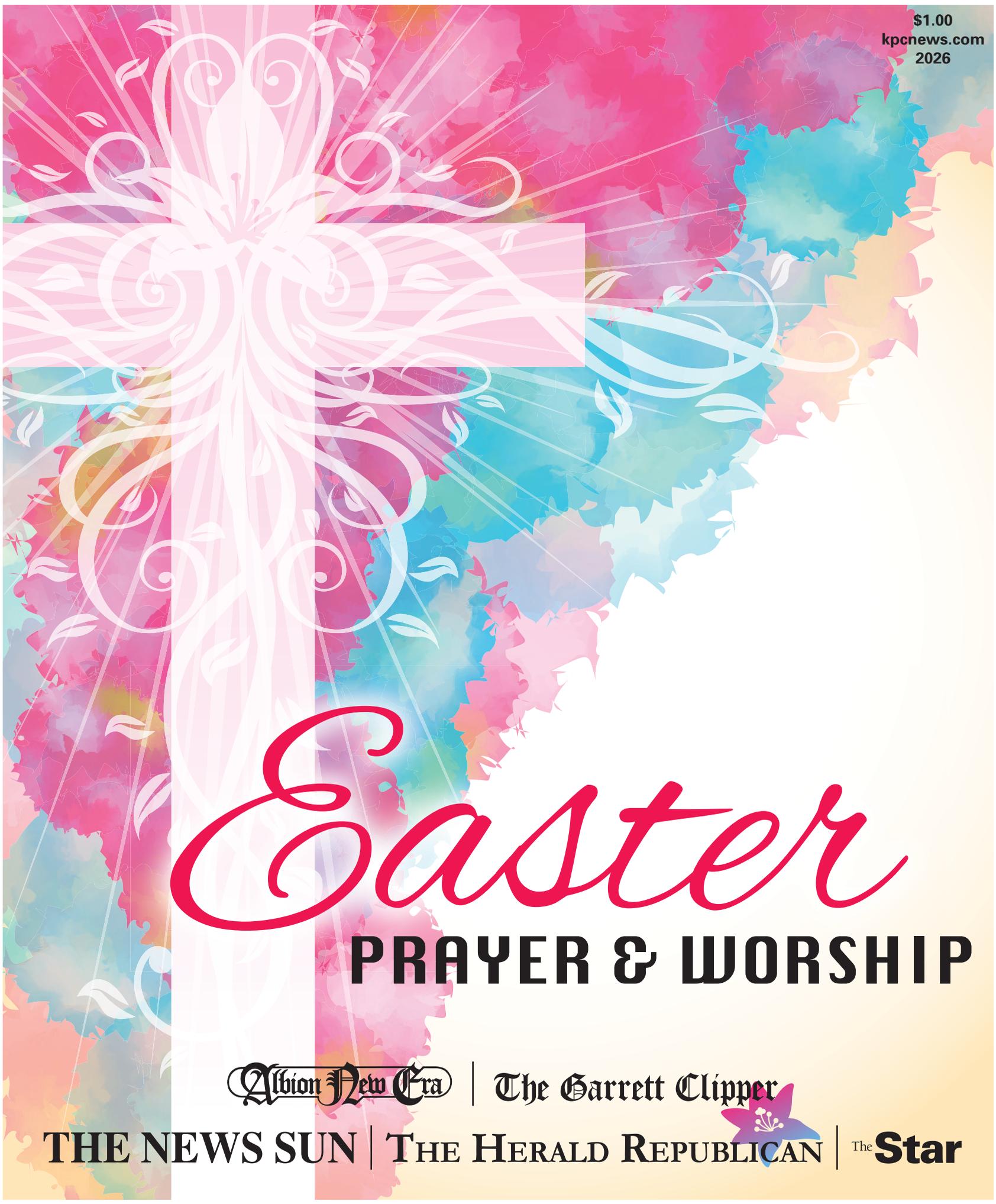


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2026



Easter

PRAYER & WORSHIP

Albion New Era | *The Garrett Clipper*

THE NEWS SUN | THE HERALD REPUBLICAN |  The **Star**

Look at the World: What do you see?

As I write this, I find myself between the 3rd and 4th week of Lent, which for this lectionary cycle places me between the Samaritan woman at the well in John 4 and the healing of the blind man in John 9. Both of these stories I think show us a good deal about how Jesus, as the light of the world, views the world. I will focus here on the healing of the man born blind as a lens through which we may view Easter and the significance of the resurrection.

At the very beginning of this story, we hear that Jesus sees the man who is blind. It is after Jesus notices the man that his disciples seek to offer their understanding of what is going on when they see him. They recognize that something is not as it should be, that in this blindness there is darkness in the world, such that the man finds himself quite literally in the dark all the time. They see this and wonder how it has come to

be. They ask Jesus, “who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

The disciples’ question here reveals much about our human response to darkness, brokenness, sin, and death. It is often a desire to understand the “why” of it. We see things not as they should be and we look for the past cause that has led to this effect. We hear the stories about unrest in the world on the news and we may well find a variety of people or situations to blame for these tragic events. Such a focus, as Jesus will highlight, is probably not very constructive for dealing with the brokenness itself. Indeed, it often takes the brokenness for granted, as a state that cannot be changed. Such a viewpoint would ensure the brokenness continued. Take any of the conflicts we see, Israel-Palestine, Russia-Ukraine, US-Iran, and ask each side who is at “fault” for the conflict

and we would likely hear a ready-at-hand answer of the other side. Odds are good arguments would ensue trying to defend or prove various positions, and suddenly we discover that our efforts have not been to address the brokenness at hand in a constructive way, but rather further the hurt, division, and bitterness that gave rise to these conflicts.

This is not Jesus’ course of action. He shares with the disciples what he sees when he looks at brokenness in the world: possibility for God’s work to be done. He sees possibility for healing and restoration, and that in turn is exactly what he accomplishes. The rest of the story reveals how hard a time we have when our narratives are upturned and the light of the world brings healing, restoration, and redemption into the midst of our darkness.

All of this describes Easter. On Easter, we see

how God conquered the power of sin and death. We see Jesus risen from the grave, overcoming the evil and brokenness of this world. In short, we see on a grander scale all of those things we heard referenced in this reading from John 9. It begins with the fact that God sees us. God looks at our brokenness, sin, and darkness and does not ignore it. God does not look past it or say that “it will all work out.” Instead, God draws near to the darkness by taking on flesh. God gets a real close look at humanity’s faults, failures, and shortcomings.

Yet, in this close look, God does not despair. God does not wonder at how we got to this point, or think that this is how we will always be. Instead, God chooses to work to bring about new possibilities and new realities. God enters into the darkness of death in order to demonstrate God’s work, to reveal God’s glory, in offering true life and restoration. Through the resurrection, we see the truth that there is never a situation that is too far gone for God. Through the resurrection, we are invited to see God’s Word of life that overcomes all of our brokenness.

The good news we get to remember at Easter is that this is the reality that Christ has already ushered in. Yes, we can still see brokenness in this world. Yes, we can still see the ways in which we humans have fallen short (on many levels) at living as we should. But even as we see these things, we know we continue to stand next to Jesus, who looks at this same darkness and says these things have happened “so that God’s works might be revealed in [them].” “As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” (John 9:3, 5 NRSVUE). Easter reminds us that Jesus is still in the world with us, still offering hope, healing, redemption, and reconciliation. God is still at work even in the darkest of times, offering life and light. As we celebrate this Easter season, may we together bear witness to this good news, ever confident in the love of God that is greater than all hatred, in the hope of God that is greater than all despair, and in the life of God that is greater than death.

Written by
Pastor Daryl Emowrey
Calvary Lutheran
Church, Angola

*May the light of the risen Christ
fill you with God's love and peace
this season of Easter
and always!*



Maundy Thursday (April 2): 6:00 PM

Good Friday (April 3): 6:00 PM

Easter Vigil (April 4): 6:00 PM

Sunday Easter Service (April 5): 9:00 AM

To join us remotely, please go to our website
(www.calvarylutheranangola.com) and click on the link for Sunday worship.
We look forward to celebrating the joy of Easter together.



Calvary Lutheran Church
1301 Williams Street, Angola, IN
260-665-2516
www.calvarylutheranangola.com

Celebrating and Sharing Christ's Love



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There is a Better Way

Have you ever heard someone say they are not coming to church because the church hurt them? Well, the church didn't hurt them, broken people within the church hurt them. Maybe you have also heard it said that someone does not go to church because the church is full of hypocrites. That statement can most certainly be true. We talk about love, but when rubber meets the road we do not always love as we want to receive it or as the Lord calls us to. Church is for learning and building each other up. Oftentimes we have to learn lessons over and over again. Could it be the person that you have heard say these things is YOU?

No matter if it is you, a friend, a loved one, a co-worker, or whomever let me begin by saying; "I am sorry someone hurt you within the church walls or a church member or leader."

My question is have you ever had a bad pizza? Did you then stop ordering pizza? Probably not. You might

not get pizza from the same place, or you might give it a few weeks before you go back to that place. Have you ever bought eggs, and you got them home and realized some of them were broken? Did you stop buying eggs? I would bet not. It is time to buy the pizza and get the eggs ... in other words come back to church!

Church, for me, is about worship and connection with the LORD. Yet it is way more than that! Church is a community of people that I am spending time with that have many of the same desires and goals as I do. Wanting to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, and mind (Mark 12:30; Luke 10: 27; & Matthew 22: 37) as well as love our neighbor (near and far) as we love ourselves or our own dear ones.

What does it mean to love the Lord with all our heart? When we place God in the center of all that we do we are loving with our whole hearts. When you love someone you give them

your time by spending time with them. It should be the same with our Lord. When you love someone you want to share what you have with them, sharing your talent and treasures.

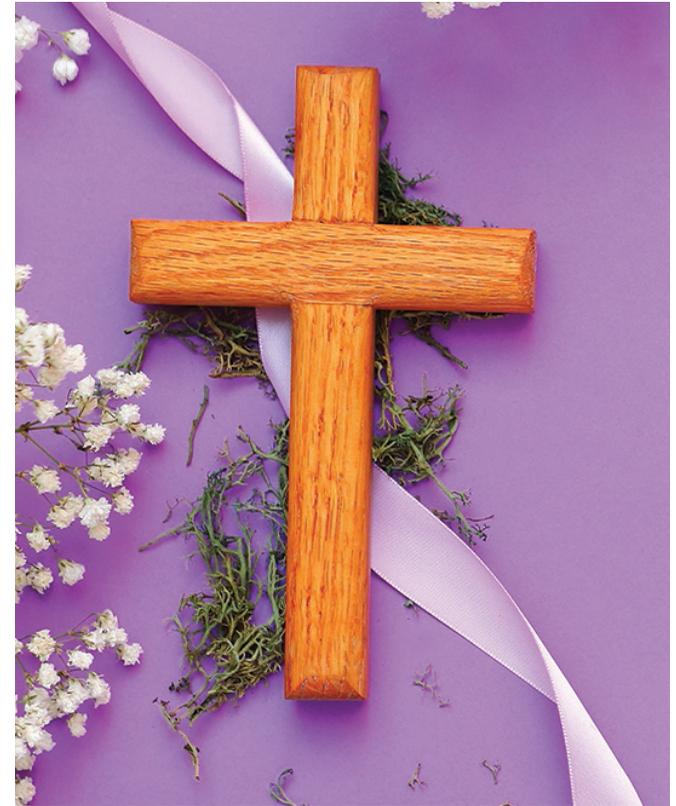
What does it mean to love the Lord with all your soul? When I surrender all that I am and all that I have to Him for His purpose I am loving Him with all my soul.

What does it mean to love the Lord with all my mind? When I take time to study and get to know him as well as sharing my knowledge I am loving with all my mind. We also need to remember we should ALWAYS remain teachable all our days!

Every Sunday is a great Sunday to walk into church and connect with the Lord and people. Easter is a great reminder that the Lord came to show us there is a better way. Easter reminds us that just like the thief on the cross we can never be too far away from God's grace, too "bad," or that it is never too late to turn to the Lord. Find a place to learn more about

the goodness of the Lord and how much you are loved. Remember you're welcome to join us at Nevada Mills Community Church.

**Written by
Pastor Tracey Zimmerman
Nevada Mills Community
Church, Angola**



Did you know?

Easter is a day of great joy for faithful Christians. Easter celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, which is detailed in the New Testament. Easter is what known as a moveable feast, which means it not celebrated on the same date each year. Easter also is celebrated on a different day within Christian churches. Orthodox Christians do not celebrate Easter on the same day as non-Orthodox Christians. History.com notes Orthodox Christians follow the Julian calendar when determining when to celebrate Easter. Orthodox Easter will take place between April 4 and May 8,

following the first full moon after Passover. Non-orthodox Christians follow the Gregorian calendar, which was established by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582. Under the Gregorian calendar, churches determined Easter will be held on the first Sunday after the full moon that occurs on or after the spring equinox. These disparities are why Orthodox churches, which are primarily located in Russia, Greece, Cyprus, Romania, and Bulgaria, observe Easter on a later date than non-Orthodox churches. In 2026, Orthodox Christians will celebrate Easter on April 12.

The world is full of change and chaos.
The Lord is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.
Jesus came not to condemn but to
show us unconditional love.
If this sounds like something you are wanting...
come be a part of the family at

Nevada Mills Community Church.

*We worship at 9 am on Sunday mornings
with fellowship to follow.
Bible Study on Tuesdays and Wednesdays
please join us!*

4710 W Bachelor Rd Angola, IN

The Cross ...or the Empty Tomb?

Many people wear crosses. One does not have to come across scores of people in order to

encounter one wearing this popular pendant. They come in various sizes, styles, and metals. People wear them for a variety of

reasons. Some wear them privately, wanting nothing more than to have Jesus near their heart. Others have a cross in clear view,

often in the hope that some curious individual will notice the item and inquire as to its meaning. Yet, why the cross? The crucifixion is not the end of the story. What about the Easter resurrection? Why not wear a pendant in the shape of an empty tomb? Would this not be a more fitting reminder of what is the ultimate meaning of Christianity?

Without a doubt the cross of Jesus Christ directs one's mind to disturbing realities. The cross was a means of gruesome execution used by the Roman Empire, which occupied and dominated Palestine in Jesus' day. The grisly nature of crucifixion was meant to send a sobering warning to any daring to resist Roman rule. That is the reason crucifixions were done in public. It is debatable whether the thieves on Jesus' sides deserved such an abhorrent chastisement, but certainly Jesus did not. Seeing Jesus, our innocent Savior, on the cross, means taking a candid look at ourselves. Those are our sins being punished on the cross. It is a death we earned. The cross means that I need salvation. The cross means that I am dead and doomed without Christ.

At the same time, the cross is a sign of great love and mercy. Jesus on the cross is God loving and saving sinners. It is while on the cross that Jesus says, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing", and, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in

paradise." (Luke 23)

While perhaps different from the cross, the empty tomb presents its own set of troublesome truths. A tomb is a place of death. It is dark, cold, and lonely. It spells out the reality that Jesus was not merely tortured for sinners. He died for sinners. This dark, cold, and lonely space hewn out of rock is a grim reminder of what awaits those who are without Christ.

Like the cross, the empty tomb is a source of great joy! Jesus paid our debt of death. Death could not hold him in the tomb, and so it cannot hold us. God's power rolled the stone away. The living Christ walked out of the tomb. Celebrating Christ's resurrection is celebrating our resurrection. We live because He lives. It is comfort for those mourning loved ones who have fallen asleep in Jesus. It is hope for Christians living today!

Ultimately, a pendant of the cross or the empty tomb is an appropriate item for Christians to wear. Whether one wears it privately or openly, such a pendant is a constant reminder that we had a need; and Jesus took care of it for us. In whichever way we wear the cross, we need not wait for someone to question us about Christianity, we can begin conversations about faith. It is the best news of all. Jesus loved us enough to hang on the cross. He lives; and we live in Him!

Written by
Pastor Phillip Rigdon
St. John Lutheran
Church, Kendallville

Easter

Angola United Methodist Church

<p>GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 3, 2026 12 PM @ FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC STEUBEN COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICE</p>	<p>EASTER SUNDAY CANTATA APRIL 5, 2026 9 AM</p>
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He is Risen!

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Did you know?



Easter eggs are decorated in many hues before they are ultimately hidden for youngsters to find. While pastel-colored eggs are the norm, one color has particular religious significance for those who want to go a bit bolder with their egg displays. It is tradition among Orthodox Christians to exchange red eggs. According to History.com, red eggs are associated with Mary Magdalene and her role in Christianity. After the Ascension of Christ, Mary Magdalene went to the Roman emperor and greeted him with "Christ is Risen. He then stated, 'Christ has not risen no more than that egg is red (pointing to an egg on his table). After making the statement, the egg turned blood red. Mary Magdalene then began preaching Christianity to him, and the red egg has come to symbolize the blood of Christ redeeming the world."

EASTER
WITH COUNTY LINE

LEARN MORE AT
COUNTYLINCHURCH.ORG/EASTER

GATHER WITH US THIS HOLY WEEK!

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

Main Campus: 9:30 & 11:00 AM
In-Person & Online

Auburn & Garrett Campuses: 10:00 AM
In-Person

Make plans to join us as we begin this sacred week together in worship and prepare our hearts for Easter with County Line.

FRIDAY, APRIL 3

Main Campus: 7:00 PM
In-Person & Online

Join us for a meaningful Good Friday, worship and communion service, as we Abide in Suffering together — taking time to pause, reflect, and remember the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross.

SUNDAY, APRIL 5

Main Campus: 9:30 & 11:00 AM
In-Person & Online

Auburn & Garrett Campuses: 10:00 AM
In-Person

Come celebrate the hope of Jesus' resurrection with us. Whether you're full of faith or full of questions, this day is for you.

Answering some common questions about Easter

Easter is an important day on the Christian calendar. According to the Compact Atlas of Global Christianity, roughly 2.6 billion people across the globe

identify as Christians. As Easter Sunday approaches, answering some frequently asked questions about this important holiday can be a great way for Christians and

non-Christians to refresh their knowledge and maybe even learn something new about the holiday.

What does Easter celebrate?

Christians believe that God raised Jesus from the dead three days after his Crucifixion, and Easter celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Do all Christians celebrate Easter on the same day?

No. Most Christian churches adhere to the Gregorian calendar and celebrate Easter on what is widely referred to as Easter Sunday by secular organizations and other agencies. But Christian Orthodox churches utilize the Julian calendar to determine when to celebrate Easter. So that is why there is some disparity between the timing of Easter celebrations within Christian churches.

How did Good Friday get its name?

Non-Christians may wonder why Christians characterize the day Jesus Christ was crucified as good. Though the notion of Jesus Christ being subjected to abuse and crucifixion is anything but good, Christians believe Christ willingness to be crucified for their sin ensured their redemption. In addition, Trinity College notes that good in this context refers something holy or pious.

What is Holy Week?

Holy Week is the week leading up to Easter. Various

days during Holy Week have their own special significance to Christians. Palm Sunday, Holy Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday are notable days during Holy Week.

How does the Easter Bunny fit into Christian celebrations of Easter?

Though it's easy to dismiss the Easter Bunny as a secular symbol that has little to do with faith-based celebrations of Easter, reality is not so simple. According to the Smithsonian, archaeologists believe humans living during the Neolithic Age viewed hares as a symbol of rebirth and assign a religious significance to burial rituals in which Neolithic peoples buried hares alongside human remains. So while an abnormally large bunny delivering candy and chocolate eggs might not have anything to do with faith-based Easter celebrations, the choice of animal may bear some relation to the celebration of the Resurrection of Christ.

Easter is a celebratory day on the Christian calendar. In 2026, Easter will be celebrated on Sunday, April 5, in most Christian churches. Orthodox Christian churches will celebrate Easter on Sunday, April 12.

EASTER WEEK AT EMMA CHURCH

Join us as we spend the week preparing for Easter!

Palm Sunday, March 29, 9:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 2, 6:30 p.m.

Easter Morning:
 SonRise Service, 7:30 a.m.,
 with light breakfast following
 Easter Worship, 9:00 a.m.

Emma Church
 1900 S 600 W, Topeka IN 46571
 260-593-2036 ♣ www.emmachurch.net

First United Methodist Church

Maundy Thursday 6:00 p.m. Light Dinner 7:00 p.m. Communion Service	Good Friday 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast 7:00 p.m. Tenebrae Service @ Auburn Presbyterian (111 W 12th St)	Easter Sunday 8:45 a.m. Classic Service (in the Sanctuary) 11:00 a.m. Modern Service (in the Fellowship Hall)
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Holy Week

JOIN US EVERY SUNDAY MORNING

8:45 Classic Service (in the Sanctuary)	10:00 Sunday School (for all ages)	11:00 Modern Service (in the Fellowship Hall)
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1203 E 7th St, Auburn
auburnumc.church

@firstumcauburn

(260)925-0885
office@auburnumc.church

Christlike unconditional love and acceptance for all

HOLY WEEK

Remembering His Sacrifice

Easter thoughts

Springtime is glorious, especially after the kind of winter we have just come through.

Everything is coming to life again. It's a time of new beginnings and starting over. People say those kinds of things about New Year's, but that never seemed right to me in the middle of the cold and the dark.

Easter belongs in the Spring.

Can you imagine what it must have been like? Jesus would have been such a breath of fresh air. He rose like the dawn on the world with healing, hope, and miracles, and the coming of the long-awaited Kingdom of God. His light and warmth were shining everywhere. He was preaching forgiveness for the sinner, help for the poor, and love for the outcast. There must have been such electricity in the air. Was it possible that the world was changing for the better?

Then, just as people were beginning to believe, it all came to a screeching, terrible halt. They took him

prisoner, falsely accused him, and crucified him. The unjust order of the dark world violently reasserted itself as it nailed Love to the cross.

You can hear it in Luke chapter twenty-four. Two disciples of Jesus were walking down the road together three days after Jesus' death and talking about how they felt. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel." We had hoped", he says it in the past tense, because now that Jesus is gone, hope is gone with him.

Then came Easter morning, and everything changed! The unjust order and all its darkness were broken. Death was defeated, and light once again erupted into the world! After the long, dark, and cold of death, Jesus comes OUT of the tomb bringing new life

with him!

New life for anyone who wants it.

New life. Starting over. New beginnings. They are all

possible because Jesus went through death and came out the other side.

Easter belongs in the Spring.

**Pastor
Josh Hawkins
Fremont Community
Church**

† HE IS RISEN! †
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EASTER SUNDAY
HE IS RISEN

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SCHEDULE OF EASTER TRIDUUM SERVICES 2026

HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 2
Mass of the Lord's Supper 6:30pm

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3
Good Friday Service 1:00pm
Confession follows until 3:00pm

HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 4
Easter Vigil Mass 8:45pm

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5
Mass Times 8:00am & 10:30am

All are welcome!

"MAY THE JOY OF THE RISEN CHRIST FILL YOUR HEART AND YOUR HOME"

500 E. Seventh St., Auburn, IN 46706
260-925-3930

FAIRVIEW MISSIONARY CHURCH

Helping people take their next step toward Jesus

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Easter Sunday

9:00 & 10:30 am

Children's Ministry

Infant - 5th Grade

During both 9:00 & 10:30 services

525 E 200 N, Angola

1 mile east of Meijer & Menards

www.fairviewangola.com



HOLY WEEK & EASTER CATHOLIC MASS SCHEDULE



St. Anthony Catholic Church

Holy Thursday - April 2
Bilingual Mass at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday - April 3
Bilingual Service at 3:00 p.m.

Easter Vigil - April 4
Bilingual Mass at 9:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday - April 5
English Mass at 10:00 a.m.
Brass Quintet & Choir at 9:30 a.m.
Spanish Mass at 12:30 p.m.

700 W. Maumee Street
Angola, Indiana 46703



St. Paul Catholic Chapel

Holy Thursday - April 2
Mass at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday - April 3
Service at 3:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday - April 5
Mass at 9:00 a.m.

8780 E. 700 N.
Fremont, Indiana 46737



St. Joseph Catholic Church

Holy Thursday - April 2
Bilingual Mass at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday - April 3
Bilingual Service at 3:00 p.m.

Easter Vigil - April 4
Bilingual Mass at 9:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday - April 5
English Mass at 10:00 a.m.
Spanish Mass at 12:30 p.m.

50 N. 100 E.
LaGrange, Indiana 46761