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From the Pastor's Desk



Greetings to you and peace from God our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

HAPPY EASTER!!!! Since Easter is the first Sunday of April, it is fitting to begin with that greeting. We traditionally greet others with "HAPPY" Easter, and rightly so. Knowing in our hearts and in our lives that Jesus gave His life for our sins should make us happy. I would even venture to say it should make us ecstatic!!! I began to think if there would be other words to describe Easter and I found 21 synonyms for happy or ecstatic. Words like enraptured, euphoric, joyous, and even "over the moon:" could be substituted for ecstatic. And, I definitely think the few synonyms I listed could easily replace "Happy" in our Easter greeting. Anyone who knows in their heart that Jesus died for them are HAPPY. But, I acknowledge that when my heart and mind truly grasp the fact that Jesus gave His life for the forgiving of MY sins, I feel euphoric! I feel joyous! I feel jubilant! I feel "on cloud nine" (whatever that truly means.) Now it seems awkward to greet others with "Euphoric Easter! Or with "Joyous Easter! Or with Jubilant Easter!" But, the word happy in my mind falls a bit short on how to describe what Easter means for us. And, along that line, our greeting for Christmas is to use the word "Merry." That too just does not convey the height of emotion we should feel knowing that God came to live among us, to teach us, to heal us, to LOVE us, as we celebrate His birth. And, realizing what Jesus did for us as He gave His life for our salvation is not conveyed by using the term "Happy" as an Easter greeting. Now, I am not on a mission to change the way we greet others at Easter time. I love being wished "Happy Easter" as well as wishing others "Happy Easter." I acknowledge that what Easter means to me is so much deeper than what the word "Happy" calls to mind.

As I was typing the previous paragraph, my mind drifted to a phenomenon we are currently encountering with "Cancel Culture." It seems like most every thing in some way is offensive to some, to a few. I understand that there are some things that we did or do in life may be offensive and may have caused pain and oppression for others. But, to say that we need to remove names of presidents from schools simply because they had slaves way back when, or they did something or said something demeaning to someone else should cancel out any of the good that person did in life, to me it is ridiculous. To demand that Abe Lincoln's name should be removed from schools for whatever reason totally ignores the fact that he led the cause to end slavery.



Thomas Jefferson had slaves but to cancel out any of the good he did as one of our Founding Fathers because of his having slaves is to me laughable. These are just two of the many people Cancel Culture is pushing to eliminate for whatever reason. And, perhaps because of the stance I have taken regarding Cancel Culture, I might now be on the list to be cancelled. But, if that be the case, I will say that I am okay with being cancelled. If anything “wrong” or negative I did whenever causes someone to say that I am not a good person, then I am okay with that because I know that there is a lot more good in my life. I choose to look at the good that others do in life and affirm the good they do rather than condemn their whole existence because of something negative.

Easter is the day we celebrate the fact that Jesus rose from the dead and proved to us that evil, darkness, pain, and death are not in any way able to overpower the good, the righteous, the faithful. God and good IS definitely more powerful than Satan and evil. No matter how far from that truth we may stray, God and good will ALWAYS win over Satan and evil. Easter proves this for us. Praise be to God!

God Bless us ALL! HAPPY EASTER!!!!

With love - Pastor Lou Ann



SPECIAL SERVICES in APRIL

April 1- Maundy Thursday—7:00 PM

Gospel: John 13:1-17, 31-35

Sermon: “Love One Another”

April 4- Easter Sunday

Gospel: Mark 16:1-8

Sermon: “My Lord, What a Morning”

April 11 - Easter 2

Gospel: John 20:19-31

Sermon: “Proof Positive!”

April 18 - Easter 3

Gospel: Luke 24:36b-48

Sermon: “Open Minds”

April 25 - Easter 4

Gospel: John 10:11-18

Sermon: “One Flock, One Shepherd”



We would like to continue the tradition of wearing special hats on Easter, so we invite you to wear yours on Easter Sunday.

Also, if you have any flowers blooming in your yards or gardens, we ask you to bring some with you to decorate the cross. Let's brighten up the church with lots of color this Easter.



Last year we had to cancel our summer concert series because of the pandemic, but we are planning to start back up again this year. The concerts will be held on Sunday afternoons from 2:00-4:00 PM. In case of inclement weather, they will be moved indoors to the church. There is no admission charge, but a free will offering will be taken. Food will be available for purchase. Bring your own lawn chairs or blankets or sit at one of our picnic tables. Here is what we have scheduled so far: June 27-Red Lion Felton Band; July 11-Country Core, August 22-Timeless; September 5-Down Home Country Singers. Hope to see you there!!

APRIL
BIRTHDAYS



May God
Bless You
On Your
Birthday

2. Mark Eberly
3. Sasha Richardson
Connor Boyd
5. Ronald Heindel
6. Beth Markey
7. Jeri Jones
8. Elijah Matthews
9. Teila Geesey
11. Cindy Axe
12. Kara Sylte
Roslyn Bowen
Sydney Brown
13. Joan Mickey
15. Daniel Neuhaus
18. Charles Williamson
21. John Barley
Nancy Taylor
22. Charles Diehl
Aubrey McKinsey
24. Gene Wise
Debra Forbes
26. Marcia Ness
27. Fran Doll
Brandon Ness
28. Tessa Myers

CELEBRATING APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

April 6 - Fred and Brenda Kerchner - 30 years
April 10 - Nelson and Marti Leader - 56 years
April 18 - Peter and Donna Busch - 6 years
April 22 - Jeri and Lou Ann Jones - 32 years

FINANCIAL REPORT

Undesignated General Fund

Red Brick Chapel

Cemetery

Month-2021	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
January	\$8,700.59	\$8,680.74	\$0.47	\$269.88	\$1,645.35	\$1,826.80
February	\$7,297.86	\$10,776.85	\$0.48	\$311.54	0.35	\$10,906.97
March						
April						
May						
June						
July						
August						
September						
October						
November						
December						
Total	\$15,998.45	\$19,457.59	\$0.95	\$581.42	\$1,645.70	\$13,733.77

Balance of Undesignated General Fund @ March 1, 2021

(\$3368.57)

Balance of Red Brick Chapel Fund @ March 1, 2021

(Includes \$60,284.28 Endowment)

\$78,311.62

Balance of Cemetery Fund @ March 1, 2021

(Includes \$877,559.49 CD's, Trusts, UCC Foundation. Transferred \$15,000 from Foundation to People's Bank in January)

\$886,863.45

Financial Assistance Given through Hand of Hope Fund - 2021

	#	Total	Monthly	Available
	Families	\$\$\$	Donations	Balance
Beginning				\$ 651.73
January	1	\$ 50.00	\$ 21.47	\$ 623.29
February				
March				
April				
May				
June				
July				
August				
September				
October				
November				
December				
Total	1	\$ 50.00	\$ 21.47	

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

Peggy Luckenbaugh
Room 704B
Colonial Manor Nursing Home
970 Colonial Avenue
York, PA 17403

Linda Trone
Room 700
Colonial Manor Nursing Home
970 Colonial Avenue
York, PA 17403



Keeping in our prayers
Dolores Barley
Nancy Taylor
Friends battling cancer
Covid 19 patients



Remember
and pray for
Our Members
in the
Military

A1C Ness, Brandon
6907 S. Camino de la Humanidad
Tucson, AZ 85756

Sunday School Class

Beginning Sunday, April 11, we will be looking at “Words of Life: Jesus and the Promise of the Ten Commandments Today” by Adam Hamilton. This is a ten week study and will take us through to the Summer break. In “Words of Life,” Adam brings modern eyes to the most important set of ethics in history, He considers the commandments in their historical context, considering the meaning of each commandment in Hebrew, unpacking how Jesus reinterpreted them, and showing how every “thou shalt not” was intended to point to a life-giving “thou shalt.”

He also explores how the latest research in science and psychology illuminates these commandments, rightly understood, as a way of ordering one’s life beautifully in the present day. In a culture marked by workaholicism, materialism, and social media—driven envy, God has given us a time-tested path that leads to gratitude, confidence, and peace.



SISTERS OF SERVICE

The SOS will hold their will hold their first meeting of the year on Monday, May 24, at 6:30 PM at the church. The main topic of discussion will be this year’s bazaar. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. Any interested women are invited to join us.



On Saturday, April 10, 11:00 AM-1:00 PM, the Men’s Group will be holding their first chicken BBQ of the season. You will get a 1/2 chicken, baked potato, applesauce, and roll and butter all for \$9.00. If you would like to place an order, please call the church office at 244-0655. Other BBQ’s will be held on the 2nd Saturday of each month thru October. Last year the dinners sold out fast, so if you want to be sure to get one, it is best to pre-order.

Book Sale

Because we were shut down for several weeks, we have decided to extend our book sale until further notice. You can continue to donate or purchase books at any time.

New items have been coming in quite often, so even if you already browsed the selection, keep checking for new additions. Prices are: VHS tapes 4/\$1.00, DVD’s & CD’s – 2/\$1.00

Hardback books-\$1.00, Paperbacks -\$.50.





Our Women's Book Club will be starting back up again on Tuesday, April 13, at 11:00 AM at the Dallastown Family Restaurant. We each choose our own books to read and discuss them with others while enjoying lunch and fellowship. New members are always welcome to join us. Future meetings will be held at the same location on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. If you need books to read, check out the ongoing Book Sale.



MEN'S GROUP



We will hold our next meeting on Tuesday, April 13, at 7:00 PM at the church. All men are welcome to attend and also bring a friend if they like.



As many of you may know, the Penn Central Conference has closed Hartman Center, so there will be no camping there this year. The Conference has, however, partnered with the Lutheran Camping Corp. of Central PA and through them are offering the opportunity to camp at Kirhenwald near Lebanon and Newakwa outside Arendtsville. There are many types of camps available for all ages. There is even a special "elder camp" for those 55 and older, an adult craft camp, and family camp.

As in the past, our church will pay for half the cost of your camp. Also, as an incentive to try the camps, the Penn Central Conference will pay 50% of the remaining cost.

To find out more about the camps, pick up a brochure in the Gathering Room or go to the website LutheranCamping.org.

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

You are about to complete a very important step in your life and we would like to recognize you for your accomplishment on Sunday, May 23, during the worship service. If you are graduating, or have graduated in the past year from high school, college, or a trade/business school, please complete the information below and return it to the church office **no later than Sunday, April 25.** We will include a paragraph about you and your future plans in the June edition of "*Bly Lines*". On Sunday, May 23, your name will be listed in the bulletin and Pastor Lou Ann will have a small presentation to make to you.



NAME _____

PARENTS NAMES _____

SCHOOL NAME _____

DATE OF GRADUATION _____

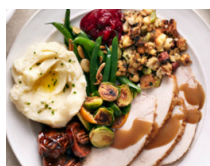
DEGREE EARNED _____

AWARDS/ACTIVITIES _____

FUTURE PLANS _____

EMMANUEL'S CLOSET

April 2021



Easter Project

We would like to thank everyone for the Easter candy and also monetary donations to help with our Easter holiday project. Each family was given a gift card to buy perishable food items for Easter dinner, various kinds of candy, and also a kit to decorate eggs as a family. The special gifts were given out on March 20 and March 27.

Below is a list of items that we are especially in need of right now:

Hot cocoa/Tea/Coffee
Brownie/Cake mix
Tomato/Spaghetti sauce
Dinner kits (Taco, pizza, etc.)
Chicken helper/canned chicken
Canned chili w/meat
Spam
Beef stew
Sauerkraut
Beets
Carrots
Mixed veggies
Fruit
Pancake mix/Syrup

E.C. Continuing Needs

Juice
Cereal/Oatmeal
Peanut Butter/Jelly
Pancake Mix
Spaghetti Sauce
Boxed Dry Pastas
Helper Meals
Dessert Items
Condiment Items
Canned Tuna/Meats
Canned Fruit/Vegetables
Soap
Shampoo
Toilet Paper
Paper Towels
Dish Washing Liquid
Laundry Detergent
All-Purpose Cleaners

Please, NO Expired Food Items

Our clothing and household room remains closed until further notice. Hopefully, we will be able to re-open again later in 2021.



***THANKS FOR
CARING!***

finding your anchor

Article # 5

You've heard it said that change is the only constant. And, the older I get, the truer that feels. Seasons come and go, and all of life changes alongside them. Everything is always in motion. Sometimes change is big and drastic and happens right before my eyes, while other times it's so slow and gradual that it goes unnoticed until I look back and see how far I've come. No matter how long it takes, nothing stays the same. For better or for worse, everything is always changing.

But I like routine. I like structure. I like when things fall into place. I like being anchored—kept safely tethered to something that holds me in place. So often I think we view anchors as negatives, things that might keep us stagnant and prevent us from pushing forward into new territories. And I know in my own life, there have been moments when I have questioned these natural tendencies and the routines and habits I hold fast to. I have wondered if I might live more freely without them.

However, when I pause to look closely, more and more I have come to see that these anchors are what keep me from floating away into places where I don't want to be or that I'm just not ready for yet. Instead of stifling me, they actually provide a safe place for me to grow and explore and be. Anchors still allow their boats to move and float—to find a rhythm among the waves around them. Their purpose is simply to keep a boat from drifting so far off course that it's difficult to recover.

The anchors of our life can be significant things like faith, prayer, meditation, but they can also be seemingly small and mundane like cooking, reading, running. The magical thing is that they somehow offer a place of refuge in the ever-changing landscapes of our lives.

This past spring when the world shut down, I kept feeling myself drawn to my kitchen. I think it provided a place for me to wrestle with the devastation happening in the world and

the uncertainty of what the future might hold for so many people. I came to realize that the familiar rhythms of cooking and baking provided a level of comfort. As I moved around the kitchen, measuring and whisking and kneading—like I've done so many times before—my heart was able to find some rest. It was a safe place for me to think and process the rapidly changing world around me.

Then I understood the kitchen has played a pivotal role in my life over the years, even when I haven't realized it. It's been a consistent anchor that has kept me steady while also giving me space to find new perspectives. I remember turning to the

kitchen when the kids were young and the ways it grounded me and gave me space when I felt like I was being pulled in a million different directions. I remember turning to the kitchen when work was using every last ounce of my creative energy and the ways it recharged me and allowed me to reclaim some creativity.

Season after season, the rhythms of the kitchen have been my stronghold, and the peace it's provided me has been an anchor.

So as simple as it sounds, I'm thankful for my kitchen. I'm thankful it's been a place where I can put my mind to rest and

just simply be. Because everything changes, and the difficult truth is that I simply don't have any control over it. I can work very hard to arrange details just so. I can wake up with fresh intentionality for each day. And as new seasons come, I can step into them with renewed purpose.

These are pursuits I will always believe in and will always go after with an open heart. But even with those efforts, circumstances will arise that can't be conquered by human will alone. And so, when life gets chaotic, I've found that it's good to have something that steadies you—an anchor that keeps you where you need to be—a moment and place in time where you can find peace and rest.

**“And so, when
life gets chaotic,
I’ve found that
it’s good to have
something that
steadies you...”**



April 2021

The only way to live is to accept each minute as an unrepeatable miracle, which is exactly what it is: a miracle and unrepeatable.

Storm Jameson

MIRACLES!

How can each minute be an "unrepeatable miracle"? Isn't that somehow cheapening the meaning of the word "miracle," if we say that every minute that we live is a miracle? Aren't miracles supposed to be the super-special moments or actions or occurrences that happen only once in a while, if ever? Well, that's what we've been led to believe, anyway--that miracles are the exception rather than the rule, and that we can live our whole lives without ever seeing a "genuine" miracle.

This perspective, though, is a perspective that focuses on lack, on the poverty of our experiences, rather than on the riches of the world in which we live. Don't we define things and experiences for ourselves? And if we do, doesn't the way we see things depend on us?

In this minute, we're alive. Our eyes and ears and hearts and lungs are functioning, all on their own. The computer's working and pulling this information from a server hundreds or thousands of miles away from you, so that you can read it in the comfort of your own home, or at your workplace.

Or perhaps it's been sent by email to your inbox, and all you had to do was click on the subject line to read it. Your home or work is serviced by electrical lines that allow you to have light and heat and music and so much more. Right now, trees and plants are producing oxygen so that we can breathe and continue to survive.

The web of life continues, even in this very moment, and there are so many miraculous things going on right now that we'd be remiss in our duties as human beings not to recognize their miraculous nature and accept the fact that this particular moment is a miracle in our lives.

Tom Walsh

Finally, my winter fat is gone. Now I have spring rolls!

In the spring the world is mud-luscious
and puddle-wonderful.

e.e cummings

Mother Nature apologizes for the late arrival of spring. Father Time was driving and refused to stop to ask for directions.

THE REAL JESUS

The Jesus of many people is small enough to be contained in an aquarium that fits on the cabinet. He never causes trouble or demands attention. If you want a goldfish bowl of Jesus, steer clear of the real Jesus Christ. He changes everything! No, Jesus doesn't make you sexy, skinny, or clever. Jesus doesn't change what you see in the mirror. He changes how you see what you see. He will not be silenced, packaged, or predicted. He is the pastor who chased people out of church. He is the prophet who had a soft spot for crooks and whores. He is the king who washed the grime off the feet of his betrayer. He turned a bread basket into a buffet and a dead friend into a living one. And most of all, he transformed the tomb into a womb out of which life was born lifeyour life.

Max Lucado

There will be things that rattle your cage,
push your buttons, and rock your boat,
These things are to remind you that
there's still much more to know.

Mike Dooley

"Peace can become a lens through which you see the world. Be it. Live it. Radiate it out.
Peace is an inside job."

Dr. Wayne Dyer

In a society that has you counting money,
pounds, calories, and steps, be a rebel and
count your blessings instead.

Lisa Heckman



FLIPPING TABLES

I don't know about you, but I'm ready to let Jesus flip my tables! My unhealthy ego is my marketplace, where I feel I always need to prove myself and nothing is ever enough. Jesus, please flip that table! My thoughts that cling to old stories that keep me stuck in resentment. Jesus, please flip that table! My tendency to judge myself and others, instead of practicing compassion. Jesus, please flip that table!

Where I struggle to accept myself and love myself for who I am, exactly as God made me and, instead, often stay stuck in wanting to be someone different. Jesus, please flip that table!

Where I have made a "temple" out of material goods and feeling that my life is "not enough" and being stuck in the tormenting place of, "my life should've been different": Jesus, please flip that table!

As I allow these tables to be flipped, it hurts, as I have clung to them for so long, and even mistook them for reality. The table begins to flip, and I feel scared, because the "comfort" of this space of suffering is what I have "known", and I am not certain what is on the other side of the tables; and that's what our culture teaches us to cherish, isn't it? Certainty. But I am so tired of being tired and trapped in the same old patterns that I become willing for my tables to be flipped, instead of thinking the need was for everyone else and every situation to flip theirs!.....

To my delight, on the other side of these self-made tables that I needed God to help me flip, I find Grace. I find Love. I find forgiveness for myself and the ability to forgive others. I find that instead of clenching into myself in fear, I begin to open up to the vastness of Love. Instead of clinging to what I was used to, I become willing to see each day with new eyes and I begin to practice letting go and surrendering into the sacred flow of life, where I allow myself to see that God holds me through all things.... Each day it seems there are times when I begin to try to reconstruct some of these tables, but now I begin to notice when I'm doing it and practice allowing God/Love/Forgiveness to help me put down the hammer and begin to focus on the Grace that surrounds me.... The Grace of God: in me, through me and as me..... I am willing to do the work of healing. I am willing to enter the many death and resurrections of life. I am willing to let Jesus flip my tables

Sheena Gund

Darkness fell. His friends scattered. Hope seemed lost. But Heaven just started counting to three.

No tomb could contain what Love was about to release.

Bob Goff



TRUTHS

Never judge a day by the weather.

The best things in life aren't things.

Tell the truth— there's less to remember.

He who dies with the most toys— still dies.

Age is relative. When you're over the hill you pickup speed.

There are 2 ways to be rich— make more and desire less.

No rain, no rainbows.

Science has never drummed up quite as effective a tranquilizing agent as a sunny, spring day.

W. Earl Hall

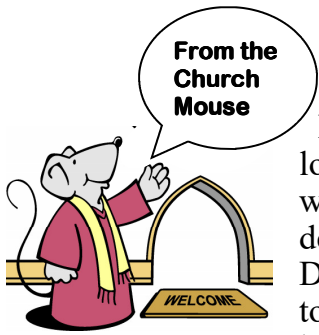


"God spreads grace like a 4-year-old spreads peanut butter—He gets it all over the place!" If God can be that astonishingly generous, then I should be too..."

Mark Lowry

Look at your life thru the lens of a child, such wonder, such trust, such joy in the unwrapping of the day. Put your hand in Mine and skip along with Me, unrestrained by grown up versions of what this day might hold. I hold the day and I hold your hand. See Matthew 18:3

Pamela Steinke



Revelations for APRIL from “Bly Mire” Mouse

“Spring has sprung, the grass is riz,.... I wonder where the flowers is.”

Every spring I would hear my mom saying this so now it is in my head. She loved spring so much because it took away the grayness and the bleakness of winter. When we lived up In the coal region years ago I would get somewhat depressed because it seemed like that area got a lot more gray than here in Dallastown. I too love Spring because of the grass getting green, flowers starting to grow and bloom. I always say to the little ones that Spring is the season of hope. Everything that disappears in the fall and winter starts to pop up and show its beauty. The other day I was cleaning out remnants of corn stalks that gathered in my flower beds from the field next door to us. That was a big task! But, I saw that my miniature daffodils were poking through the soil. Soon I will see their beauty! I can hardly wait!!! Another thing I love about spring is seeing little lambs out in the fields. They are SOOOOO cute!!! I just had a conversation with a friend and she said they have six lambs this year, but there is one that is special. The lamb only weighed three pounds when it was born so she took it in the house to care for it. The lamb loves to be cuddled and even lays its head on her shoulder. Oh, I just LOVE lambs

This year, April begins in a special way. April first is “April Fool’s Day” and Mire and I play lots of pranks on our little ones. I have often wondered where April Fool’s day comes from and I found it interesting that many countries around the world acknowledge April 1 as April Fool’s Day. Everything I read indicates that sending people on mindless tasks or pranking others is what the day is about. I did find it curious when I read in Wikipedia that some biblical scholars link April Fool’s day to the time when Noah first sent a dove from the Ark to find indicators of dry land. It was shortly after the rain had stopped and some think Noah was foolish for sending out the dove so soon. Now, whoever connected this with foolishness is beyond me. But, no matter what the origin of April Fool’s Day is, I still like to pull pranks on my little ones.

The really special thing about April First this year is that it is also Maundy Thursday. I know Pastor Lou Ann is planning and preparing for the evening worship service. It always is a very moving service. As a matter of fact, I often have to wipe tears from my eyes when Mire and I share communion. (I sneak in the kitchen and get bread crumbs and grape juice for us.....SHHHH.....don’t let anyone else know this.) Then, Easter Sunday is April 4th and that is always a joyful and moving service! There is special music planned with Brass and Tympany. And, there is Bell Choir music planned!!! WOW!!!

Now, to tie in part of the previous paragraph, at Easter, it means so much to me to envision Jesus is the Lamb of God. Just this Sunday in worship we sang the song “Lamb of God.” Oh my.... how precious!!! I have Spirit chills running up and down my little mouse spine!!!!

HAPPY EASTER to you!!!

April’s humor:

**If April showers bring May flowers, what do May flowers bring?
Pilgrims.... OR..... June bugs.**

**Who is the smartest person in the Bible?
Abraham..... He knew a Lot!**

With our Love,

BLY and MIRE



SUNRISE SURPRISE

The hidden surprise in these sweet rolls hints at the reason behind Easter's joy.

What you need:

- ½ cup chopped pecans
- 10 uncooked frozen rolls, thawed
- 10 large marshmallows
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- ½ cup melted butter
- ¼ cup brown sugar
- Adult help

What you do:

1. Grease a round baking dish. Sprinkle pecans on the bottom.
2. Flatten each roll. Place a marshmallow in the center, wrap dough around it and pinch edges together.
3. Combine sugar and cinnamon. Dip each roll into melted butter and coat with cinnamon-sugar. Place in pan, seam side down.
4. Sprinkle brown sugar and remaining butter over rolls. Cover with plastic wrap and let rise 30 minutes.
5. Bake at 350 degrees until golden brown, about 30 minutes. Cool in pan.
6. As you bite into a roll, you'll see the marshmallow has melted, leaving an empty center — just like Jesus' empty tomb!

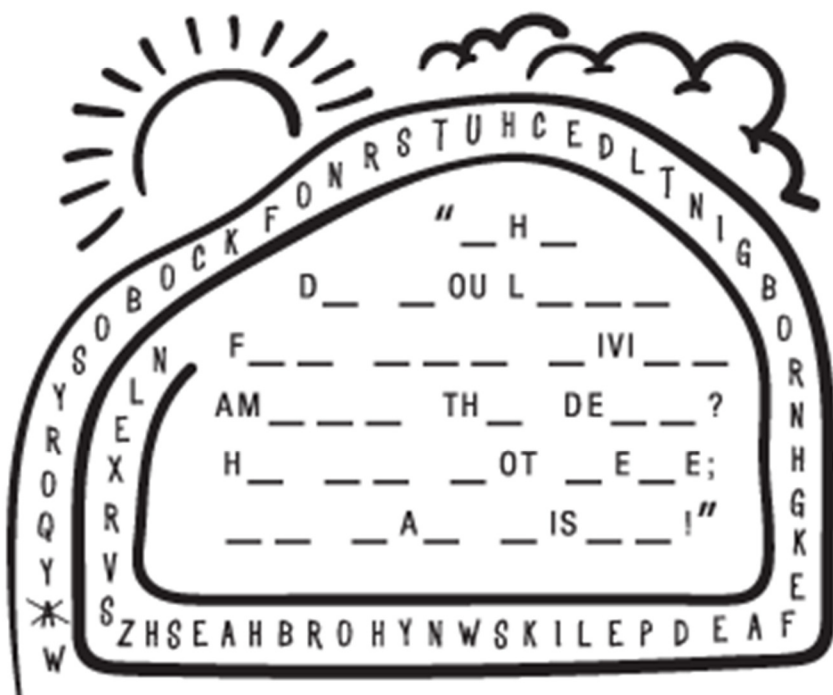


PUZZLE

EASTER MORNING message

Early Sunday morning, some women who followed Jesus encountered a great surprise. Solve the puzzle to see what the angels told them.

Directions: Cross out every other letter in the maze. Write the remaining letters in order to complete Luke 24:5-6, NIV.



LUKE 24:5-6, NIV

Answer: "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!" Luke 24:5-6, NIV