



Inside this issue:

Easter Bunny Vs. Santa	1
Easter Breakfast	2
Easter Egg Hunt	3
Special Voters' Meeting	3
Rite of Confirmation	3
ELC Silent Auction	4
Church Work Day	4
Welcome to Babylon	4
Church Rummage Sale	5
Community Garden	5
Soup Suppers	5
Because You Asked	6
Love, Inc. Thrift Shop	6
Church Roof Blew Off	7
Faith Days at Pro Sports	7
Local Lutheran Events	7

Hosanna Herald

Bi-Monthly Newsletter of Hosanna Lutheran Church

Easter Bunny Vs. Santa Claus



Did you ever stop to think how the "secular" customs surrounding Easter are truly bizarre? First, there is the Easter Bunny himself. A big male rabbit that carries nests of eggs. Yes, rabbits are extremely good at carrying out that "be fruitful and multiply" mandate. And yes, eggs are perfect, encapsulated

symbols of new life to come. But rabbits don't lay eggs or make nests. Especially male rabbits.

Kids love the Easter Bunny! Perhaps because the Easter Bunny doesn't keep lists of who has been "naughty or nice" like that Santa Claus fellow, or perhaps because he is quiet and soft and huggable and speechless, children eagerly flock to the sides of mall Easter bunnies. Sitting on Santa's lap is often a terrifying experience for small children. But hugging the Easter Bunny is a guaranteed "warm fuzzy."



How different is the Easter Bunny! He comes to children without a set policy for behavior. His egg tokens are left everywhere -- easily accessible to even the smallest child or the worst "seeker." The mute Easter Bunny doesn't appear to espouse any particular system for punishments and rewards, and his symbols don't seem to make any sense.



We ought to take a cue from our kids. The empty tomb on Easter morning presents Christians with a vision that has much more in common with the illogical and ironical Easter Bunny than the easily comprehensible and familiar Santa Claus. The abandoned burial site is itself mute -- a visual

(continued on page 2)



Hosanna Lutheran Church
10304 W. Belleview Ave.
Littleton, CO 80127
Return Service Requested
Dated Material

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit NO. 46
Morrison, CO



NOTE THESE KEY EVENTS DURING APRIL AND MAY:

HOLY WEEK -

- April 1 - Palm Sunday
- April 5 - Maundy Thursday
- April 6 - Good Friday
- April 8 - The Resurrection of our Lord
- April 8 - Community Easter Breakfast
- April 14 - Church Work Day
- April 20 - ELC Silent Auction and Fiesta
- April 29 - Confirmation Sunday
- Thursday, May 3 - National Day of Prayer
- Sunday, May 13 - Mother's Day
- Thursday, May 17 - ELC Last Day of School
- Sunday, May 27 - Pentecost
- Monday, May 28 - Memorial Day





10304 W. Belleview Avenue
Littleton, CO 80127

hosanna.lutheran@att.net
www.myhosanna.org
Office Manager: Gail Kirkegaard
T: 303-973-1706
F: 303-973-1830

Rev. Greg Peters
Home: 303-933-4726

Stephen Ministry
Angela Riemer
720-340-2727

Early Learning Center
Karen Howells, Director
303-973-6485

OUR MISSION:
"To initiate, nurture and empower
Spirit-filled relationships with God
and God's people."

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday

Traditional Service
6:00 p.m.

Sunday

Traditional Service
8:00 a.m.
Sunday School and
Adult Bible Study
9:15 a.m.
Contemporary Praise Service
10:30 a.m.

Easter Bunny Vs. Santa Claus

(continued from page 1)

testimony to the power of life over death. Like the Easter Bunny's ridiculously incongruous basket of eggs, the very place that surely seems to be a dead end -- Jesus' tomb -- suddenly becomes the symbol of birth and new life. There are no naughty or nice lists. It is a gift given freely to all who seek it.

The Easter Bunny's appeal is illogical. Santa fits neatly into adult-centered systems of rewards and punishments. Be nice -- get presents. Be naughty get nothing. Santa Claus has a job -- he employs elves to craft all those gifts we receive. Santa is a successful guy.

NOTE: There will be NO Sunday School on Easter

Easter Breakfast

It has now become a decades old Hosanna tradition: Easter Breakfast. We invite you, your family and friends to join us on Sunday, April 8 from 9:00 to 10:15 as we celebrate the Easter victory.

Come for the fellowship, stay for the food. Enjoy steaming egg casseroles in a variety of flavor combinations. Enjoy sweet rolls with steaming pots of coffee. There will be ice cold glasses of milk and fresh squeezed orange juice. Most important, enjoy a heaping helping of our hospitality. It's all free -- gift from our family to yours.

For those wanting to help there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. Put on your chef's hat and create your own signature egg casserole. Or donate sweet rolls or a coffee cake. Home-made or store bought, it's up to you. There will be special gifts and activities for the kids. Stay as long as you'd like. Easter Breakfast 2012 - experience community at Hosanna!

Roof Blew Off the Church

Winds often exceeding 90 MPH assaulted Hosanna prior to the Ash Wednesday service on February 22. Pastor Greg was alone in the sanctuary preparing for worship when he heard a thunderous crash near the front door. He checked around to find that several skylight panels in the narthex had blown off the roof and crashed outside.

Thank you to everyone who moved furniture, laid covers over the floor that night, and shoveled snow out of the narthex the morning after the storm. Restoration Services has built a temporary roof and will do other repairs.

Free Shredder Day

Thrivent will be hosting a Community Shredder Day at Hosanna on Saturday, May 12 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. An industrial shredder will be here to slice and dice any sensitive material. This event will be open to the community. Lunch will be served.

Local Lutheran Events

LUTHERAN CHORALE CONCERT - "Music of Haydn, Mendelssohn & Bach" at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, May 6, at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 4500 Wadsworth Blvd., in Wheat Ridge. Tickets can be purchased at the door: \$15 adults; \$10 seniors and students; \$25 family.

LUTHERAN FAMILY SERVICES - "Rainforest Rendezvous" Join us for cocktails, adventurous auction and incredible feast at The Wildlife Experience, 10035 Peoria Street in Parker on Saturday, April 21 at 5:30 p.m. Channel 9 News anchor and reporter Gregg Moss will be the Master of Ceremonies. Entertainment provided by local salsa band La Candela. Call LFS-Rocky Mountains at 303.922.3433.

April / May, 2012

OOPS!

(Church bulletin and newsletter bloopers)

oops!
From a worship bulletin in Meridian, Mississippi:
~~Call to worship~~
Hymn: "God I So Good"
~~Invocation~~
Now there is an interesting approach to confession.

oops!
From a newsletter in Grand Rapids, Michigan:
~~Ladies report~~
Attendance has decreased.
~~But giving is on the rise~~
Let's hope the congregation hasn't decreased to zero.

oops!
From a worship bulletin in Des Moines, Iowa:
~~our pantry supplies are getting low.~~
Please help with our canned food drive.
~~We especially need peanut butter~~
Something about this food seems funny.

oops!
From a worship bulletin in Seagrove, North Carolina:
~~this week's announcements~~
You are invited to a church wide ladies breakfast on Saturday.
~~Join us at 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall~~
We hope the church-wide breakfast is low in calories.

oops!
From a worship bulletin in Sycamore, Georgia:
~~scripture readings~~
Hymn: "O, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"
~~Sermon~~
What an interesting wish list to sing about.



Because You Asked

Have a request, question or concern? BYA is for you.

We invite you to e-mail us at hosanna.lutheran@att.net. Whether your question is theological or illogical, practical or hypothetical, everything is on the table. Just type BYA in the subject line.

Want to know what kind of coffee we use or who picks the hymns on Sunday morning? Want a pastoral visit? Want to know what's happening in our Sunday Morning Bible Study or in the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod? Want to attend a Board of Directors meeting or set up an appointment with the Pastor? Just ask. If you don't have a computer, call the Church Office or drop us a line. We promise a response. Why? Because you asked!!

Love, Inc. Opens Thrift Shop

The vision for the Thrift Shop is to provide a self-supporting retail operation to the community that will be run entirely by volunteers. Through combined efforts of our member churches, we plan to establish a place where client families can shop for school clothes or other necessities using vouchers provided through the Love, Inc. clearinghouse. The general public can shop for goods at a reasonable price. Member congregants can donate salable items and volunteer their time. Profits over and above expenses will help fund other Love, Inc. ministries.

We temporarily have use of a donated storage unit and accept donations of clothing and small household items. We hope to open the thrift store some time in the second quarter of 2012. To donate or help, please contact Jerry Hertzler at jmhertzler@comcast.net, 720-480-0476, or Nita Dunn at dunnheim@msn.com, 303-886-0381.

Easter Egg Hunt

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will be on Palm Sunday, April 1, at 9:15 a.m. We will also be making a craft. A box will be placed under the mailboxes for candy donations. Also, you are welcome to donate money for the craft or the golden egg prizes. The hunt will take place outside if weather permits. We could use some help stuffing eggs and hiding them. Contact Lori Meidal at 303-972-8169 or lori.meidal@gmail.com.

Voters to Discuss Capital Campaign

At the January Voters' Meeting Hosanna unanimously approved a motion that empowered the Board of Directors to "embark on a capital fund raising program if they deem it beneficial..." The Board has explored the possibility and would like to present their findings to the congregation.

There will be a Special Voters' Meeting on Sunday, April 15 at 9:15 a.m. to discuss the possibility of embarking on a capital campaign. Since this will be a church wide event we ask that everyone attend this important gathering.

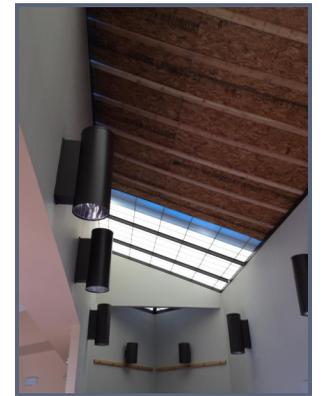
Contact the Church Office or a member of the Board of Directors if you have any questions or concerns.

Rite of Confirmation

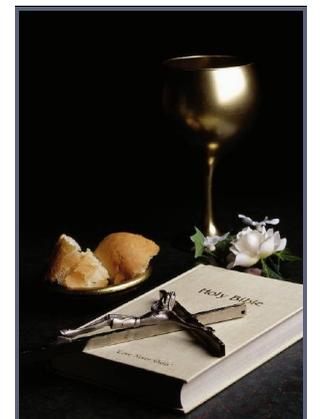
On Sunday, April 29 at the 10:30 a.m. service, we will celebrate the *Rite of Confirmation* with **Nicholas DeMott** and **Heidi Hufford**. Following the service, you are invited to a celebration reception in the fellowship hall. Please remember these young people in your prayers as they celebrate a milestone in their faith journey.



The open skylight



The temporary roof



Holy Communion

CHURCH VOLUNTEERS



Barb Nichols, prints the worship bulletins



Ruth Schnell and Lois Liedtke, counters

Silent Auction and Fiesta

The Hosanna Early Learning Center will host their annual Silent Auction and Fiesta on Friday, April 20 from 5 to 8 p.m. Proceeds will go towards the purchase of new equipment for the classrooms and playground.

Bid on such items as four passes to Disneyland, a pair of Adidas basketball shoes autographed by Denver Nuggets player, Nene, and a soccer jersey autographed by the Colorado Rapids team. Catering will be by Qdoba. All are invited! There will be something for everyone. For more information, call the school at 303-973-6485.

Church Work Day

Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 14. We will be doing Spring prep to the gardens, the grounds and the fountain. If you are not able to labor, please consider coming to visit with us and show your support. Lunch will be provided. Contact Lori Meidal at 303-972-8169 or lori.meidal@gmail.com.

Welcome to Babylon

Daniel's Courage in Captivity - Our 2012 Vacation Bible School will be held on June 7, 8, and 9 from 9:00 to noon!

JOIN DANIEL - torn from his home and forced into a foreign king's service. Immerse yourself in the exotic sights and smells of Daniel's new Babylonian world. Imagine the **pressures** of learning a new language and culture...and the **shock** of discovering your best friends have been tossed into a **fiery furnace** - just because they follow God.

Church Rummage Sale

The Church Rummage sale is coming this Summer! Donations Needed! We will begin accepting donations of items for the rummage sale on June 1. We are looking at setting the date of the sale for August 11. Contact Lori Meidal at 303-972-8169 or lori.meidal@gmail.com if you would like to help or dump your junk, I mean donation.

Community Garden News

We have had a terrific response to our offer of leasing a garden plot to each family and we still have a few plots available. If you would like to support the garden, but don't like to get your hands dirty, donations are accepted. I am happy to assist any novice gardeners too. Contact Lori Meidal at 303-972-8169, or lori.meidal@gmail.com.

Soup Suppers as Community Experience

The intention of our Lenten Soup Suppers was to connect people to Jesus. Members of the community were invited through media and word of mouth. Our message: come and experience community at Hosanna.

Special teams made welcomed our guests. We made it clear that we cared about them and were here to help. Many reported that we were successful in connecting with our visitors.

It is our vision to create community for the community in all that we do. Help us make Hosanna a welcoming congregation, a place that connects people to Jesus.

CHURCH VOLUNTEERS



Dale Anderson and Barb Bathe, counters



Willa and Doug Bradshaw, Church President and Facilities Manager