

Good News

THE
NEWSLETTER OF
ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH
474 YALICK ROAD, - PO BOX 802
DALLAS, PA 18612

April 2026

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Fax: 570-675-5646
Email: stpaul@epix.net
Web Page:
www.stpaulsdallaspa.org

Rev Charles H. Grube, Pastor
Home Phone: 570-696-2688

In-person worship and communion
Saturday, 5:30 pm | Sunday, 9:30 am
Sunday School 10:45 am (Sept. thru May)
Please continue to visit our website at
www.stpaulsdallaspa.org for worship
resources to use as you are able, and to
join our Live Stream Zoom meeting at
9:30 am on Sunday.



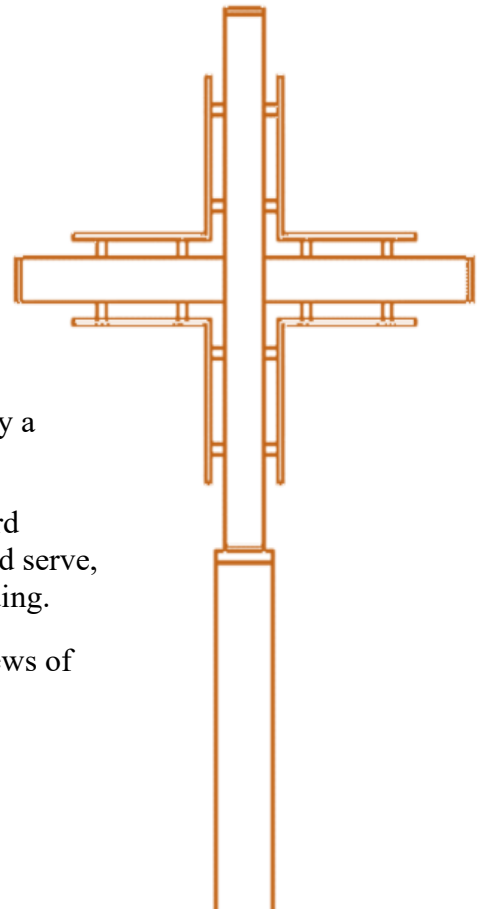
ST. PAUL'S MISSION STATEMENT

St. Paul's Lutheran Church is a family called together by God and united by a common faith.

Our mission is to share with all people God's Love and Grace through Word and Sacrament. Through the Holy Spirit, we are empowered to witness and serve, treating one another with Love, Compassion, Forgiveness, and Understanding.

By our commitments, actions, deeds, and resources, we share the Good News of Jesus Christ, reaching out to our Community, Nation, and World.

Adopted May 1993



ST. PAUL'S STAFF		
Pastor	Rev. Charles H. Grube	
Office Staff	Gail Smallwood & Carol Fett	
Dir. of Music/Organist	Margaret Quintanar	
Youth Choir Dir.	Jean Grube	
Minister of Technology	Marissa Miller	
Sexton	James Madonna	
Sunday School Superintendent	Tony Linnen	
Financial Secretary	Ruth Ide	
CONGREGATION COUNCIL		
<u>2026/2027</u>	<u>2027/2028</u>	<u>2028/2029</u>
Frank Mariano*	Larry Pierce*	Don Kretchmer*
Gail Smallwood*	Bruce Thomas*	Julie Holbrook
Marissa Miller*	Gail Ide*	Keith Brosious
Amanda Brezovsky	Pat Peiffer*	Open Position
*Final Term		
CONGREGATION OFFICERS		
President	Rev. Charles H. Grube	
Vice-President	Frank Mariano	
Secretary	Gail Smallwood	
Treasurer	Carol Fett	
STANDING COMMITTEES		
Christian Education	Marissa Miller, Julie Holbrook, Amanda Brezovsky and Keith Brosious	
Communications	Marissa Miller/Gail Smallwood	
Evangelism	Gail Ide	
Fellowship	Julie Holbrook, Larry Pierce	
Finance	Bruce Thomas, Pat Peiffer, Frank Mariano, Carol Fett	
Head Start	Carol Fett	
Health Ministry	Gail Ide	
Landscaping	Position Open	
Long Range Planning	Frank Mariano/ Don Kretchmer, Amanda Brezovsky and Keith Brosious	
Property	Bruce Thomas, Pat Peiffer, Carol Fett and Frank Mariano	
Salary Review	Frank Mariano	
Social Ministry	Larry Pierce	
Staff Support	Frank Mariano, Don Kretchmer	
Worship & Music	Pat Peiffer	
* * *		

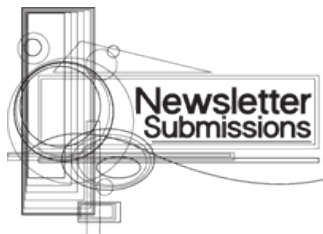
PRAYER LIST - Please remember to ask permission from the person you are placing on the prayer list. Pray for the Congregation of St. Mark, Pond Hill, and Prince of Peace Episcopal Church, Dallas.

Pray for those suffering illness: *Members:* Chris Bellezza, Annie and Marty Bisher, Pam Cyphers, Mary Lou Daley Button, Fran Dierolf, Margaret Edwards, Cheryl Everhart, Marge Fritzinger, Lois and Joe Hardisky, Daniel Henderson, Ruth Ide, Robert Kline, June Lorah, Linda Lundberg, Cynthia Mahalick, Raelene Napierkowski, Leah Pambianco, Pat Peiffer, Rachelle Pryor, Wally Richardson, Val Rothrock, Greta Ruckno, Mark Sabol, Dave Scheff, Carol Swanson, Tim Swanson, John Thomas, Anita Weiss, Geri Williams, Peter and Carol Wittkamp, Alyson Wood, Shirley Zimmerman.

Please note: Those people listed as Family and Friends will be listed here for a four-week period. Please contact the church office at 570-675-3859 or stpaul@epix.net if you desire a name to remain on the list beyond that time.

Family & Friends: Ed Banaszak, Alanna Berger, Michael Bowanko, Darcy Bradley, Marty Calabro, Michelle Casey, Marjorie Catania, Susan Collini, Daniel Cornell, Susan Coslett, Paul Davis, Janet DeCosta, Katrina Diel, Ryan Doughton, Denise Ekdahl, Leona Ellis, Grace Sunglee Emmett, Bob Evans, Rich Fufaro, Jason Germani, Nancy & Christopher Gillies, Catherine Gilroy, Theresa Hahn, Ron Hall, Nancy Harm, Debbie Hilbert, Marty Hille, Scott Holbrook, Jenn Hubbard, Ashley Hutchins, Christine Ide, Frank Ide, Mimi Johnson, Jack Jones, Michael Kaminski, Joe Kerestes, Debbie Kertesz, Bradley Kessler, Alice Laskowski, Jim Madonna, Tammy Madonna, Carol Marker, Julie Marra, Lillian McGrady, Sharon Miers, Becky Morgan, Patty N., Tim Nulton, Helen O'Brien, Alice O'Neil, Ryleigh Phillips, Paul Pryor, Abraham Quintanar, Febe Quintanar, Andy Reistetter, Rita Riley, Robin Rosencrans, Lloyd and Bonnie Ryman, Joyce Rutherford, Sandra Serhan, John Sheeran and family, Nancy Shymanski, Dorothy Smith, Sylvan Smith, Sandy Sprau, Connor Spudis, Sandra Stankiewicz, Stevens Family, Flo Sutton, Benjamin Szostak, Abigail Thomas, Arnold Thompson, Corrine Varneke, Eileen Walsh, Tabitha Walters, Wayne Williams,

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE



The next issue of the GOOD NEWS will be the May 2026 issue and the deadline for all submissions will be

Noon on Sunday, April 19.

Karen Wise, Peg Wyda, Debbie Young, Mary Z., Paul Zawadzki, Carl & Ruth Zimmerman, Ashley, Bethann, Keith, Megan, Diane, Mary, Lori, Greg, Justin, the M family, Evan, Dominick, Kara, Bea, Marion, Cortland, Autumn, Holly, Johnny, Sandra, Robert, Donna (no last names given).



Update on the council meeting held Tuesday, March 3: Christian Education: As part of their ongoing Acts of Kindness program, Sunday school children will be assembling water filters as part of the Wine to Water project, which provides sustainable water solutions to communities around the world. Each filter provides clean water for 12 people for 10 years. Thrivent provides the filter kits for the children. The committee is also planning to assemble resurrection gardens on Palm Sunday and is continuing to make plans for a spring Head Start project. **Evangelism:** Gail Ide has reorganized the church's library, located in a wooden cabinet in the hall. The committee is continuing work on a nametag project and planning for a spring dedication service for the new meditation garden is underway. **Social Ministry:** The committee will assemble Easter basket bags for shut-in members during its March 17 meeting. **Finance/Property.** Council vice-president Frank Mariano encourages congregation members to offer fund-raising ideas to help the church increase its income. Several parking lot lights along the back of the church's property are either loose or burnt out, and the property committee recommended waiting until fall to have them replaced. **Old Business:** More than 30 people registered to attend the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Mission District Council Retreat at St. Paul's on Saturday, March 7. **New Business:** Volunteers are needed to represent St. Paul's at the Mission District Assembly on April 25 and the Synod Assembly on June 4-6 at Split Rock Resort. Anyone interested in attending the assemblies are encouraged to speak with Pastor Grube.



THE JOY OF THE RESURRECTION

We Christians simply cannot get over the reality of the Resurrection. For us, the fact that God raised Christ from the dead proves that Christ's way alone is God's answer to the sins and horrors of the world. The truths Christ taught when he walked on earth stand solid and irrefutable. The light he brought is the only light that never goes out, for it is the eternal light of God's glory. Christ's life is the clearest example of how God intends for us to live. His way is the way that makes the most sense for our lives on this earth. The saints throughout history have shown that again and again.

The hope Christ offers is the only true and lasting hope. Ultimately, it is our assurance that life can be good and joy-filled for all. Consider the words St. Paul wrote to the church at Rome and apply them to your own life: "Just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his" (Romans 6:4-5, NRSV).

If that is not a tremendous cause for abiding joy, then what is?



God expects from [people] that their Easter devotions would in some measure come up to their Easter dress.

—Robert Smith

SPECIAL DATES

- Maundy Thursday, *April 2*
- Good Friday, *April 3*
- Easter Vigil, *April 4*
- Easter Sunday, *April 5*
- Roast Beef Dinner, *April 11*
- Earth Day, *April 22*
- Administrative Professionals Day, *April 22*

† † †



Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

For weeks, there has been a stack of manilla file folders on my desk about four inches high. It reflects the complexity and intensity of the worship we offer in celebration of the most crucial events of our faith – the passion, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus. There is a file for each of those days from Palm/Passion Sunday through Easter Sunday, and for all the attention and preparation they demand in the weeks prior, those days flash past us in a week's time and we will have noted every detail of Jesus' last week, from his entrance into Jerusalem to his last supper, to his arrest, trial, and crucifixion to the empty tomb. It's the most important story we can hear and tell because it's the story of our salvation.

With the folders returned to their drawers, it's easy to assume things will return to normal. But in the death and resurrection of Jesus, we are brought into a new normal, into the promises of our baptism, into life in the kingdom of heaven, into life lived in the promise and presence of the resurrection. God has made us and all things new.

Alleluia!
Pastor Grube

† † †

The best mathematical equation ever given: 1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given.

HOLY WEEK AT A GLANCE

Thursday, April 2: Maundy Thursday;
worship at 7:00 pm, also on Zoom

Friday, April 3: Good Friday; *worship at St. Paul's at noon, also on Zoom*

Saturday, April 4: Easter Vigil; *combined worship with Prince of Peace Church at Prince of Peace at 7:00 pm*

Sunday, April 5: Resurrection of Our Lord,
worship at 9:30 am, also on Zoom;

No Sunday School

THE GREAT THREE DAYS

The holiest days of the church year mark the first days of this month as we conclude our Lenten journey of repentance and celebrate the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus. His last supper, new commandment, and arrest are the themes of our Maundy Thursday worship, the story of his trial, passion, and crucifixion and the glory of the cross are our Good Friday focus, and we celebrate the empty tomb and his resurrection from death at the Vigil of Easter and Easter Sunday worship. And that is the crux of God's action to save us from sin and death and bring us to a reconciled relationship with God and eternal life in the Spirit and the promises of baptism everyday. It's such a huge event that it takes fifty days to celebrate it, but it begins with these pivotal events of the Great Three Days.

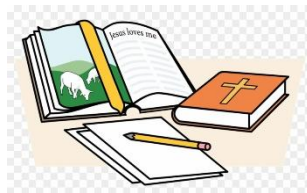
† † †

YES, I CAN!

I cannot end poverty, but I can feed one hungry person. I cannot stop war, but I can offer peace to my neighbor. I cannot prevent death, but I can hold the hand of someone who is dying. These may seem like small acts, yet they are far harder—and far more meaningful—than any grand plan for social change. Christ reminds us of their worth: "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:40, NIV).

FREE LEGAL CLINIC

For the past few months, Pastor Grube has been in conversation with a leader of St. Therese's Catholic Church who is enthusiastic about sharing ministries, citing our relationship with Prince of Peace. St. Therese's membership has been invited to attend our monthly Grief Support Group and our meetings are now advertised in their parish bulletins and newsletter. In turn, St. Paul's and Prince of Peace have been invited to advertise and take advantage of St. Therese's free legal clinic. The clinic is open on Saturdays, usually 10:00 am to noon; the next scheduled dates are April 11 & 25 and May 9 & 23. Future sessions may be found on their "Parish Events Calendar" under the "Schedule" tab on their website, stthereses-shavertown.com or by calling the parish office at 570.696.1144.



BIBLE STUDY RESUMES

Our weekly Bible Study, the Bible This Week, will resume on

Tuesday, April 14 after a brief Holy Week and Easter break. We gather at 10:30 am each week for one hour and dwell in the word that will be proclaimed the coming weekend in worship. We read the text and share thoughts, insights, and questions together. The texts are announced each week in the bulletin; you may read ahead if you'd like to ponder the texts in preparation, but that is not necessary. Participants reflect regularly about how this hour together enhances their worship experience and their experience with the scriptures in general. Give it a try. We'd love to have your perspective, too.



CELEBRATING CREATION

April offers a beautiful reminder of God's handiwork. Earth Day (April 22) encourages us to care for creation with gratitude and stewardship. Consider small steps — reducing waste, planting something new or enjoying the beauty of God's world with fresh appreciation.

HEAD START NEWS

We are pleased to announce that St. Paul's was recently nominated and chosen as one of Head Start's 2026 Outstanding Community Partners. The award recognizes St. Paul's for making significant contributions to their programs and making a difference in the lives of Head Start children and their families. We will be recognized as an Outstanding Community Partner and receive our plaque during the Annual Anniversary Celebration on Monday, May 18, at Mohegan Pennsylvania in Wilkes-Barre. Thank you to all members of St. Paul's for supporting our efforts in making life a little better for our Head Start children and their families.



EVANGELISM NEWS

DID YOU KNOW that St. Paul's has a mini library for your use?

- That there are over 21 different titles?
- That there is something for every age?
- That there is something to pique every interest?

Check out some of these titles: Little Visits for Families; The Underground Church (excellent, I read it!); Women of the Bible; Miracle in the Middle, Men Who Live the Promise in Midlife; Ethics & Social Responsibility in Business; When God Doesn't Make Sense; Becoming Family; You Are So Beautiful; What should I do?; Papa Luther; Caring and Community; The Life of Martin Luther; Labyrinth from the Outside In (can't recommend it enough); Labyrinth Year; and Church Labyrinth. And there's more!!!

And do you know where it is? Under the wall First Aid Box in the hall, going into the Social Hall. The little cabinet's first shelf. Hopefully we can even expand our collection. Just read and return! The second shelf also contains Bibles.

Gail Ide
Evangelism Chairperson





Roast Beef Dinner!

St. Paul's Brotherhood will hold its first roast beef dinner of the year on Saturday, April 11, from 4:00-6:30 pm. This sit-down dinner will feature roast beef and gravy, mashed potatoes, two vegetables, a dinner roll, pepper hash, beverages and dessert. Tickets are \$16 for adults, \$5 for children and will be available at the door the night of the dinner. Take-outs will begin at 3:30 pm.



LABYRINTH WALK



St. Paul's labyrinth will be open on Wednesday, April 15, from 3:00-6:00 pm. Church members will be on hand to offer guidance in walking the labyrinth. The walk is free and open to the public. Shoes are not worn while walking the labyrinth; please wear or bring socks. For more information contact the church office at 570-675-3859.



Grief Support Group



On Thursday, April 16, and on the third Thursday of each month, the Grief Support Group will meet at St. Paul's at 6:30 pm. These meetings are free and open to the public.



MAY DORCAS RUMMAGE SALE

It's time to start thinking about the Dorcas May Rummage Sale!

The Dorcas Society will sponsor the two-day rummage/bake sale, to be held Friday, May 1, 8:00 am-2:00 pm and 5:00-7:00 pm; and Saturday, May 2, 8:00 am -noon (Bag Day all day).

Donations of good clean, usable clothes, household items, dishes, pots and pans, holiday decorations, jewelry, books, games, puzzles, etc., are happily accepted.

The church building will be open on the following days/times for donation drop-off:

Monday, April 27	9:30 am – 4:00 pm
Tuesday, April 28	9:30 am – 7:00 pm
Wednesday, April 29	9:30 am – 4:00 pm
Thursday, April 30	9:30 am – 2:00 pm.

(Donations not accepted after 2:00 pm so Dorcas members will have time to price items).

Anyone (men and women) can assist during the week with setting up tables, unloading, displaying and/or pricing items to be sold.

PLEASE DO NOT BRING televisions, computers/printers, exercise equipment, large appliances, encyclopedias, cribs, strollers, artificial Christmas trees, VHS tapes, electrical cords, and old telephones.

All bakers of St. Paul's are asked to donate homemade baked goods for the Bake Sale; items should be brought to the church by 1:00 pm on Thursday, April 30 so they may be packaged and priced.

A NEW CROSS

There's a new addition to the Cross Cultures display in the education wing hallway. Rick James thought of us on his recent trip to Puerto Rico and brought back for us a wood cross with the repeated fish motif. The shape of a fish in a simple line design has been a symbol of Christians from the earliest communities of believers, with the Greek word for fish, Ichthus, serving as an acronym for Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior. Thank you, Rick, for your thoughtful gift.

† † †



BEAR CREEK CAMP NEWS

Bear Creek Camp is gearing up for another season of summer camp, with the first session beginning June 21 and the final week of camp scheduled to begin August 9. But before the summer begins, Bear Creek welcomes some spring-time campers, too.

The Spring Women's Retreat will be April 10-12. It has become a well-established weekend of rest, renewal, and time in nature. The May Play Day/Open House follows on May 2. It's a day of exploring, meeting staff, and seeing what camp has to offer. Cookout lunch is freely offered to all and pre-registration is appreciated for planning. You can get more details and register on their website at bearcreekcamp.org.

And just a reminder that the soup sale funds to benefit Bear Creek campers are available to campers beyond the usual summer sessions. Contact the church office for information or to request funds.

WORSHIP AT THE MEADOWS

Pastor Grube will again lead the Meadows Nursing Center community in worship throughout the year. Thursday, April 30 at 2:00 pm is the next scheduled service. You are invited to join the gathering, greet the residents, and worship with them. They genuinely and enthusiastically appreciate visitors.

† † †

MOTHER'S DAY BLANKET PROJECT

This year we continue to support Church World Services with gifts of blankets in honor and remembrance of mothers, grandmothers, wives, aunts, sisters, daughters and friends. These blankets are very basic and provide warmth and shelter for those less fortunate around the world – and now, more than ever, with devastation for world conflicts and natural disasters, the need is greater than ever before.

“Blanket Envelopes” are included in this newsletter, or you may make your donation via our website, stpaulsdallaspa.org, and click on the On-line Giving link, then look for the Mother's Day Blankets icon. If you have questions about on-line giving, please contact Carol Fett at stpaul@epix.net, or call 570.675.3859.

Checks should be made payable to St. Paul's/Blankets for your donation of \$5.00 per blanket. An order form is also enclosed which may be folded and placed inside the envelope if you would like your name included in the bulletin on Mother's Day. Please remember to return your envelope no later than Sunday, May 3.

Thank you for your support of this Social Ministry project!

† † †

Easter is the proof that evil men never have the last word about the things of God.

—C. Neil Strait



Hi Everyone,

Think SPRING! Please. Please. Please. While I'm writing this today between the rain downpours, the weather forecast is for some snow coming!

With all that's going on with the weather and in the world, I saw this on my WebMD site on how to quiet the mind, weather permitting, of course. For me it's the breathing when I meditate. And I can't wait to get my hands in soil gardening. Here's hoping you can find something that will help you: webmd.com/balance/ss/slideshow-how-to-quiet-mind

Now I know why I like tea so much. Of course I'd rather drink it: webmd.com/beauty/ss/slideshow-tea-bag-uses

Some of the slide shows below each of these links are also interesting. But remember: always consult with your health care provider to check for interactions with your meds or conflicts with your health conditions.

As you can tell I'm trying to keep subjects "light" as I'm searching for trusted science-backed resources.

In Love and Service and Gratitude,
Gail Ide, member of the Health Ministries Team



ELCA NEWS

The ELCA recently updated its website with a new look, easier navigation, and enhanced search and guided exploration. You can still find the site at elca.org. Meanwhile, our own Northeastern PA Synod website continues to be improved and updated as Stacey Burke, the synod's Director of Communications, works hard to make the website helpful, current, and relevant. You can find the synod website at nepasynod.org or the older godslove.org.

The Scranton Wikes-Barre Mission District Assembly will go far beyond just the business meeting to hear reports and approve a budget by congregational delegates this year. It will include that necessary business, of course, but before that, all Mission District congregation members are invited to gather at St. Matthew, Scranton, Saturday, April 25, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm around the theme, "People Powered: The Call and Gift of Lay Leadership."

Presentations to all and break-out sessions on particular topics around empowering lay leadership will fill our morning in addition to welcoming the newest member of our Mission District community, the Indonesian Lutheran Church of Scranton. We will also reflect on our synod and its purpose and ministry as we prepare to elect a bishop at the synod assembly in June. We'll share lunch and fellowship, then convene for the business meeting.

There is no cost, but registration is requested. Contact the office or Pastor Grube to share your interest or to find out more.



A Hymn Mix-Up With a Message

C. Gray Norsworthy, a pastor in Atlanta, once shared a story about the woman who prepared his worship bulletin. She was faithful in her work but didn't have much background in church hymns. One week, Pastor Norsworthy handed her a draft of the service and hoped she could decipher his handwriting.

When he reviewed the finished bulletin, he noticed the final hymn was titled "Just As I Am, Without a Clue."

Whether it's "without a clue" or "without a plea," the truth remains the same: we all come to Jesus just as we are — and we all need him.

FROM THE MAILBOX

Dear Friends of St. Paul's,



A sincere "Thank You" to all who sent thoughts, messages, phone calls, prayers and cards to me during my recuperation from knee surgery. I hope to join you next month.

Sincerely,
Ruth Ide

Dear Members of St. Paul's,

I am writing to express my sincere appreciation for the unwavering support and generosity shown to our children and families throughout the past holiday season. Year after year, I am continually amazed by the outpouring of kindness and dedication shown to our Head Start children and families. On behalf of the children, families and staff at LCHS, I extend a heartfelt thank you for your continued support. Your generous contributions helped make the holidays bright for the families we serve.

Our program is deeply embedded in the communities we serve, and we want to take a moment to express how much we value the partnerships we've built over the years. The support we receive from individuals, businesses and organizations throughout the community is essential to our program.

We cannot do this important work alone, and we are incredibly thankful for such a caring community that wholeheartedly believes in our mission to support our children and families. Your dedication helps us create meaningful change, and we are truly grateful for your support.

As we look ahead to 2026 and beyond, we are excited to continue our partnership and work together to make an even greater impact in the lives of the children and families we serve.

With sincere appreciation,
Beth White
Executive Director
Luz. Co. Head Start

THERE'S SOMETHING BETTER COMING

The Easter season is a precious time for Christians to celebrate the source of our hope: Christ is risen, and he invites us to rise with him into new life. Easter reminds us that God is still at work, even in the places where we've felt stuck or discouraged.

Easter is an invitation to try again—with his strength—to break habits we thought were unbreakable. There's something better coming.

Easter is a chance to breathe new life into a marriage we feared was beyond saving. There's something better coming.

Easter is an opportunity to slow down, reach out, and reconnect with those we've unintentionally neglected. There's something better coming.

Easter is an invitation to look at our lack of love and seek God for compassion. There's something better coming.


Easter is a chance for all no-hopers to regain their vision of what can be! There's something better coming.

Easter is an opportunity to renew our faith. There's something better coming.

Easter is a chance to "renew our strength and mount up with wings as eagles; to run and not faint." There's something better coming.

???? ?

Bible Quiz



According to Matthew's account, something remarkable happened to the earth on the day Jesus was crucified and again on the morning when Mary Magdalene and the other Mary visited the tomb. What occurred on both days?

- A. There was a flood on both days.
- B. There was an earthquake on both days.
- C. There was a huge fire on each day.
- D. There was complete darkness on both days.

Answer: B (Matthew 27:51; Matthew 28:2)