

ST. JOHN'S EAGLE

**2745 Morgan Hill Road, Easton, PA 18042
610-252-3571**

E-mail: stjohnswilliams@rcn.com

Website: www.stjohnswilliams.com

**Worship 10:00 a.m.
Sunday school 10:15 a.m.
April 2026**



**St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
of Williams Township**

**Newsletter
Monthly Publication**

Volume 4 2026

The Newsletter is presented in loving memory of
Ella and Mabel Helm by Jane Yobe.

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR:

Dear Friends,

With April 15th (tax day) just on the horizon, I am reminded of the adage, “there are two things in life that are certain: death and taxes.” Recently, however, I thought of something else that is every bit as certain as death and taxes. And that is armed conflict. War has existed since the beginning of human history. In his early fifth century work *The City of God*, Bishop Augustine of Hippo wrote that at the center of human existence is a “lust for domination.”

Wars occur when one nation-state tries to conquer another nation-state through military force. That’s how Joshua led the ancient Israelites to take possession of the Promised Land, through military conquest. That’s how the Roman empire conquered most of the western world in the years leading up to Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection, through military conquest.

Wars also result when people revolt against their leaders in an attempt to overthrow those in power and take control of the government. For example, in the second century BCE, the Jewish people rose up in revolt against the Seleucid Empire, established an independent Jewish kingdom, and reasserted the Jewish religion. This is described in the apocryphal books of 1st and 2nd Maccabees. Other more recent examples include our own Civil and Revolutionary Wars. In fact, war has been a virtual constant throughout most of our own country’s 250 years of existence. Yes, war is unfortunately just as certain as death and taxes.

BUT WAIT — there is something even *more* certain than death, taxes, and war, and that is God’s love and faithfulness, justice and mercy, grace and forgiveness. They are Constant. Unfailing. Unending. Unlimited. Unimaginable. Enduring. In short, beyond description. The psalmist exhorts us, “O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever” (Psalm 136:1, NRSVUE). St. Paul writes in his letter to the Romans, “What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else?” (Romans 8:31-32, NRSVUE).

God gave Jesus up. Gave him up for us. Through Christ, God has forgiven all our sins, restored our relationship with himself, and given us the blessing of eternal life. This is most certainly true. Amen.

God bless you at Easter.

Pastor Jeff

STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Jeff Carstens	484-544-9403
Secretary	Jill Kerbaugh	610-417-3576
Treasurer (interim)	Terri Hinline	610-258-4283
Financial Secretary	Terri Hinline	610-258-4283
Cleaning person/Sexton	Gina Serafini	1-804-614-5247

Pastor's email:	pastor.jeff.sjwt@gmail.com
Church email:	stjohnswilliams@rcn.com
Church website:	www.stjohnswilliams.com
Office hours:	Tuesday, 9 a.m. – noon

COUNCIL MEMBERS – 2026

Jane Patriarca, Council President	610-838-1359
Larry Pfister, Council Vice President	610-253-2385
Terri Hinline, Council Secretary	610-258-4283
Sharon Casciole	610-554-9269
Lil Glovas	610-253-6082
Jack Helm	610-258-5779
John Kichline	610-751-0368
Megan Patriarca	484-597-1163
Bonny Pfister	610-253-2385
Sue Rutan	610-554-0875
Gina Serafini	1-804-614-5247
Marilyn Strawn	610-252-1022

REPORTING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Christian Education – Jane Patriarca	610-838-1359
Church Property – Larry Pfister	610-253-2385
Evangelism –	
Finance – Terri Hinline	610-258-4283
Mutual Ministry – Jack Helm	610-258-5779
Social Ministry- Marilyn Strawn	610-252-1022
Lil Glovas	610-253-6082
Worship & Music – Bonny Pfister	610-253-2385
Youth & Family – Megan Patriarca	484-597-1163

APRIL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- April 2** **Maundy Thursday**
7:00 p.m. Worship w/ Holy Communion
At St. John's Lutheran
- April 3** **Good Friday Community Service**
7:00 p.m. Worship at St. John's Church on
Morgan Hill
- April 5** **Easter Sunday**
10:00 a.m. Worship w/ Holy Communion
- April 12** **Second Sunday of Easter**
- April 19** **Third Sunday of Easter**
10:00 a.m. Worship and Sunday school
- April 26** **Fourth Sunday of Easter**
10:00 a.m. Worship and Sunday school
Food Pantry offering

APRIL DATES TO REMEMBER

- April 7** 11:00 a.m. Bible study
- April 14** 11:00 a.m. Bible study
- April 15** Ladies' Lunch at Tony's
Deadline for May Newsletter articles
- April 20** 6:30 p.m. Council meeting
- April 21** 11:00 a.m. Bible study
- April 26** **Food Pantry offering**
- April 28** 11:00 a.m. Bible study
- April 29** Noon to 6:00 p.m. Blood Drive at St. John's
Lutheran Church

DON'T BE LOCKED OUT!!

***WE CONTINUE TO LOCK THE CHURCH
DOORS SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10:15 A.M.***



LESSONS FOR APRIL

<p>4/2 Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14 Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 John 13:1-17, 31b-35</p>	<p>4/19 Acts 2:14a, 36-41 Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 1 Peter 1:17-23 Luke 24:13-35</p>
<p>4/5 Acts 10:34-43 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 Colossians 3:1-4 Matthew 28:1-10</p>	<p>4/26 Acts 2:42-47 Psalm 23 1 Peter 2:19-25 John 10:1-10</p>
<p>4/12 Acts 2:14a, 22-32 Psalm 16 Peter 1:3-9 John 20:19-31</p>	

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Date	Greeters & Ushers	Lector
4/2		
4/5	Lou & Marie Mammana	Ron Hinline
4/12	Lou Mammana	Lou Mammana
4/19	Sue Rutan	Sue Rutan
4/26	Kathy Mathews	Kathy Mathews

Communion Assistants:

4/2, Maundy Thursday: Bonny Pfister

4/5, Easter Sunday: Jane Patrairca

Altar Guild: Bonny Pfister & Nancy Buttner

Door locker: Bert Hinline



**NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE
 FOR THE MAY 2026
 NEWSLETTER IS APRIL 15.**

FLOWER & BULLETIN SPONSORS

- April 5** **Easter Lilies** In loving memory of our daughter, Jami Ann Silfies. We love you and miss you, Mom, Dad, Shaun, Scott, Jenni and Anderson
F In loving memory of Dolores Race, on her birthday, by Bonny, Larry and family
F OPEN
B OPEN
- April 12** **F** In loving memory of Ruth Dunlap Buttner by sons, Charles and Kenneth
F In loving memory of Carroll E. Walter by John Kichline
B OPEN
- April 19** **F** In loving memory of Joshua J. Kichline by John L. Kichline
F In loving memory of Carroll E. Walter by Gladys Eckhart
B OPEN
- April 26** **F(2)** In loving memory of Les Pektor by Judy and family
B OPEN

Complete the form on the next page and place it in the offering plate, call the church office at **610-252-3571**, or email stjohnswilliams@rcn.com with your request.

Bulletins are \$10.00 per week.
Flowers are \$15.00 per vase.
Special Flowers are \$20.00.
Newsletters are \$25.00 per month.

All prices are subject to change.

If you sponsored altar flowers, and would like to have them, please call Bonny Pfister @ 610-253-2385, and she will make arrangements with you.

FLOWER AND BULLETIN DEDICATIONS

Please use this form to dedicate altar flowers, bulletins or newsletters. You may place the form in the offering plate or mail it to the church secretary.

Checks may be made payable to St. John's Lutheran Church. Payment is due the week of sponsoring.

Altar flowers: \$15.00/vase (2 per Sunday)
Special flowers: \$20.00/vase
Bulletins: \$10.00 per service
Newsletter: \$25.00 per month

Your name _____

Phone number _____

Email _____

Circle your choice: "In loving memory of" or "In honor of"

Circle your choice: Altar flowers 1 or 2 vase(s)
Special flowers
Bulletins
Newsletter(s)

Date requested: _____

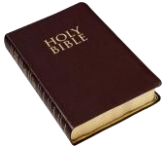
Dedication: _____

Circle your choice: "In loving memory of" or "In honor of"

Circle your choice: Altar flowers 1 or 2 vase(s)
Special flowers
Bulletins
Newsletter(s)

Date requested: _____

Dedication: _____



BIBLE STUDY

John and Gale Kichline lead us in a Bible study that is filled with enlightening conversation. Join us **every Tuesday at 11:00 a.m.** around the St. John's kitchen table, and experience God's love over a cup of coffee, a cup of tea or a bottle of water.



BOOK CLUB

We will meet **Tuesday, May 5, at noon** at St. Luke's. Our book is *The Frugal Wizard's Handbook for Surviving Medieval England* by Brandon Sanderson. Please let me know if you are planning to attend. Thanks, Kathy (610-533-8133)



LADIES' LUNCHEON

Our next luncheon will be **Wednesday, April 15, at 11:30 a.m.** at Tony's Pizza, 3417 Sullivan Tr., Easton PA 18040. We will carpool from the church at 11:00 a.m. If you plan to attend, please call Terri @ 610-258-4283.

SYNOD NEWS

If you would like to read the Synod News, formerly found in the newsletter, you may find it online at nepasynod.org/publications/synod-news/. There will be printed copies in the back of the church for those who do not have access to the Internet.



OUTREACH IN OUR COMMUNITY

PROJECT OF EASTON FOOD PANTRY

The updated wish list is: Tuna & Crackers Kits, Granola Bars, Apples in bags, Grape or Apple Juice, Canned Stew/Pasta, Toilet Paper, Diapers (all sizes), Feminine Care, Grocery Tote bags, Hand Warmers. Donations may be put in the box in the fellowship hall for delivery to the pantry.

Drop-off hours at the **Easton Food Pantry, 330 Ferry St.**, are Tuesdays from 8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Items may be dropped off at **St. John's** on Tuesdays, during office hours from 9 a.m. to noon. Bring items to the kitchen door, and ring the doorbell.

You may mail monetary donations to:

Interfaith Food Pantry
320 Ferry St
Easton PA 18042

Donations may be made on the following website:

<https://www.projecteaston.org/foodpantry>

If you have any questions about donations, contact Val Piacentini @ vpiacentini@projecteaston.org or call 610-258-4361, ext. 18.



LINCS FAMILY CENTER

The LINCS Center supplies needs for families in our school district.

Their updated needs are: canned soup, canned pasta, macaroni & cheese and fruit cups. Pull top lids are preferred.

There is a box in the fellowship hall for these items.



SAFE HARBOR MISSION WITH ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

We continue our joint mission to make a soup and dessert meal 6 times a year. We could use more volunteers. If interested, please see Terri Hinline.

MILLER – KEYSTONE BLOOD BANK



Our goal is to donate 24 pints of blood each year. As of February 28, we have donated 8 pints of blood.

Thanks to Nancy Ackerman, Pr. Jeff Carstens, Terri Hinline, Jane Patriarca and Susan Staments for donating in February.

Due to the low quantities of blood at this time, **the blood bank is in dire need of donors.** Please consider donating, now more than ever. **They may take walk-ins, but you're assured of a slot when you make an appointment.**

3765 Nicholas St., Easton (610) 559-7100
1465 Valley Center Parkway, Bethlehem (610) 691-5850

Please remember to give our account number whether you donate at a mobile blood drive or at one of the building locations.

Let the Blood Bank know that you are donating to account

#0461

If you do not see your name listed in the newsletter the month after you donated, please call the church secretary. You may leave a message stating your name and the date and location you donated. We will then call Miller's and correct the credit to our church. We are finding that some people have donated, but their credit did not go to St. John's.

Thank you to everyone who gives life to others through the contribution of your blood. So many people benefit from your giving spirit. You are saving lives.

Please help by donating blood or platelets in April.

See next page for our Blood Drive April 29.

2026 ST. JOHN'S BLOOD DRIVE DATES



Our Second blood drive at St. John's Lutheran Church, 2745 Morgan Hill Rd, will be held **Wednesday, April 29, 2026**. I have many appointment openings from 1:00 p.m. through 6:00 p.m.

Please consider donating whole blood for the many people who need it. The entire process takes about an hour, and everyone goes away with a prize!

First timers are **very** welcome, as well.

Please contact Terri Hineline at 610-258-4283 or text me at 610-442-9794 to schedule an appointment.

Last year we had 25 successful donations. Let's do better this year.

Due to your response, we are holding two drives this year. The next one will be Wednesday, October 28, 2026.

We will continue these blood drives as long as we have the support of generous people like you.



Eugene (Gene) Hagenbuch
525 Cider Press Rd
Easton PA 18042

Chris Hinline
C/O The Gardens for Easton
Memory Care
500 Washington St Rm 310
Easton PA 18042

If you know of anyone who should be on the Shut-in list,
please contact the church office, 610-252-3571, or email
stjohnswilliams@rcn.com.

**Make the day of a shut-in by sending them a card or a note,
letting them know we're thinking of them.**



APRIL

1	Susan Brick	15	Alexis Judd
2	Aaron Mohr	15	Michael Trabold
2	John Brown	16	Harper Lynes
4	Rachel Brobst	16	Jacklyn Henninger
4	Robert Brown	16	Dallas Febbo
5	Brandy Miller	18	Cassie Sassanos
5	Robert Lauer	18	Janet Buttner
5	Jason Nicholas	19	Morgan Pektor
6	Barry Nace	20	Kiley Ackerman
6	Matthew Losey	21	Maxem Silva
6	Eugene Hagenbuch	21	Suzanne Nace
7	Alexander Wenner	21	Kathleen Mathews
7	Robert Patriarca	22	Shawn Berry
7	Katie Hosler	24	Brianna Davis
9	Paul Nicholas	24	Judy Hineline
9	Stefen Jennings	24	Paul Cunningham
11	Gina Serafini-Stull	26	Louis Mammana
10	Leigha Smith	27	Hunter Diehl
11	Kristy Stoner	28	Lori Coon
11	Braeden Haney	29	Jade Dennis
12	Chad Hunter	30	Dakota Altanosio
13	Jessica Henninger		
13	Trevor Batdorf		

**Please notify the church office of any additions,
deletions or corrections. Thank you.**

Holy Week Timeline Explained from Palm Sunday to Resurrection Sunday¹

Anna Oelerich

Contributing Writer

Updated March 25, 2024

Christians worldwide celebrate Holy Week every spring, commemorating the last eight days of Jesus' life on earth. The time is a sacred one—an opportunity to reflect on and express gratitude to God for the most important events in the history of the world. The week begins on Palm Sunday and ends on Easter Sunday, each day set apart by various special services, readings, songs, and events.

What Days Comprise the Holy Week Timeline?

Palm Sunday honors the day when Jesus humbly rode into Israel's capital city, cheered as the new King of the Jews—and as the Son of God who would usher in an eternal kingdom. A handful of days later, many who misinterpreted His mission called for His death. Jesus was sent to die by crucifixion on Friday and, through His sacrificial death, paid the price for the sins of humanity. On Sunday, He resurrected to new life, proving His claim as the Savior of the world who had the power to defeat death. Since that day, those who believe He came for that purpose are welcomed as children of God into eternal life. The following lists the days of the Holy Week timeline and the events that took place on those days. While most churches have special programming for Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday, others devote each day of Holy Week to special meals, songs, and prayers.

Palm Sunday

Jesus had been teaching about the kingdom of God and His identity as the Jewish Messiah for about three years when the time came for Him to formally and publicly make that claim in Israel's capital of Jerusalem (John 12:12-15). When He arrived, people greeted Him with a famous ancient symbol of victory—palm branches. The thousands of Jews carrying the branches had heard Jesus's teaching about God's kingdom and had been beneficiaries of his miracles. Many believed that He came to usher in the new kingdom promised in the Old Testament. They had waited 400 years to hear from God. Now, here was who seemed to be

God's Son, claiming He was the king of Israel. But even Jesus' mode of transportation into the city—a lowly donkey rather than a majestic warhorse—revealed the Jews' misaligned expectations. Centuries of prophecies had suggested the Messiah would come and overthrow the Roman government and bring Israel back to the glory it enjoyed under King David (Psalm 110, Isaiah 2:2, Isaiah 11:12, Ezekiel 37:24). But the kingdom God was introducing was an eternal, universal kingdom, not a local, political movement. Just as Jesus' birth was marked by unadorned humility, so would be the rest of His short time on earth. During Palm Sunday services, churches across the world gather to wave palm branches as a nod to Jesus' triumphal entry. The leaves can also be dried and woven into small, handheld crosses. More traditional churches might sing noted Palm Sunday hymns such as “All Glory Laud and Honor.”

¹ Anna Oelerich, “Holy Week Timeline Explained from Palm Sunday to Resurrection Sunday,” Bible Study Tools, https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-study/topical-studies/holy-week-timeline.html?utm_source=today's+bible+breakout&utm_campaign=today, accessed Mar 12, 2026.

Holy Monday

Jesus had spent the evening of Palm Sunday out of the city, and upon return the next day, he taught in the temple of Jerusalem. He shared parables that used simple imagery to explain the kingdom of God. The Jewish leaders thought he was being blasphemous by doing so and questioned him (Matthew 21:23). Later, as he walked through the temple, Jesus became angry that the holy place of worship had become a place for buying and selling—and taking advantage of the poor. In his zeal, he overturned tables, enraging the vendors (Matthew 21:12-16). Then he spent the evening with his friends Lazarus, Mary, and Martha (Matthew 21:17). It is here, at the beginning of the week, that Jesus increases and intensifies His public messages. The Gospels record the outrage of the leaders of the day, and we are meant to recognize that Jesus' death on Good Friday will not be accidental or unexpected. Instead, Jesus deliberately stirs up the anger of those who wish to kill Him because He fully understands His mission as a sacrifice for the sins of the world. The magnitude of Jesus' messages contrasts with His decision to reconnect with several close friends. This was doubtless an encouragement to the three siblings in question and Jesus Himself as He processed what lay ahead of Him. Jesus had declared Himself to be “the resurrection and the life” shortly before raising Lazarus from the dead—a

clear foreshadowing of His own death and resurrection. The Eastern Orthodox Church observes Holy Monday with Bible readings and special hymns recounting the day's events.

Holy Tuesday

Gospel accounts suggest that on Tuesday, Jesus continued to publicize His message by teaching parables in the temple. The parable of the tenants in particular (Matthew 21:33-44) depicts a dramatic and even violent reflection of Jesus 'eventual sacrifice—an assignment from His Heavenly Father. Jesus also addresses the end times, the kingdom of God, the hypocrisy of those who claim to fear God, and what to expect when the Son of Man comes. In each parable, He speaks with certainty and gravity. Once again, Jesus 'authority to teach in such a way is questioned. This time, the chief priests seek to arrest Jesus after sensing He is speaking against them (Matthew 21:45). At this point, the crowd still reveres Jesus, so these plans are put on hold. Each of these events is designed to show the reader that Jesus was the Son of God and that He knew it. No one could accuse Jesus of being a humble teacher indignant at the thought of being worshiped. Instead, Jesus invites this recognition of His deity (Matthew 24:25, Matthew 26:1). Though not as highly celebrated as some of the other weekdays, the Catholic Church observes Holy Tuesday with relevant Scripture readings and hymns. In Mexico and Spain, Tuesday marks another day of *Semana Santa* ("Holy Week"), in which schools and many businesses are closed to allow for an extended celebration.

Holy Wednesday

Jesus 'popularity had reached an apex with His entry into Jerusalem (John 12:19), and the Jewish religious leaders ramped up their efforts to rid themselves of Him. Between (alleged) blasphemy, public miracles, and blatant attacks on the religious establishment, they had now compiled what they believed was sufficient reason to take action. On Wednesday, plans were set in motion to capture Jesus—and kill Him. In the words of Caiaphas, who was the high priest that year, "You do not realize that it is better for you that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish" (John 11:49-53). Later, Jesus is anointed by Mary at Bethany, with an expensive jar of perfume that Jesus later suggests is a preparation for His burial. Understandably, Jewish leaders were angered at Jesus 'claim to be the Son of God and may have feared that they would lose power and authority if Jesus were to "come to power." Yet Jesus was very popular with many people, and his miracles were hard to explain away. They needed to find and arrest him, but how?

Their question was answered when Judas Iscariot, one of Jesus' disciples, approached them with an offer to hand over Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. Judas' possible motives have been debated throughout the centuries. One thing is for certain: his involvement meant the chief priests didn't require any extended searches for Jesus the next evening. This day is also sometimes referred to as Good Wednesday, or Great and Holy Wednesday, by Eastern Christian churches. In the West, it's sometimes called Spy Wednesday. In countries such as the Czech Republic, Wednesday is used to give homes a thorough cleaning in preparation for Easter Sunday.

Holy Thursday

To some, Maundy Thursday may seem like an archaic, mysterious name. Is it a noun? An adjective? What does it have to do with Jesus? It turns out that *maundy* comes from the Latin *mandatum*, where we get the word "mandate" (a word much more familiar to us). The mandate, or command, in question is Jesus' command that His followers love one another (John 13:34). How fascinating that while other moments from this historical day often get more attention—the Last Supper, the washing of the disciples' feet, Judas' swift exit from the table—the early church made Jesus' new command the namesake for Maundy Thursday. Many Christians reenact the Last Supper with a traditional *seder* meal similar to the one Jesus would have shared with His disciples; in this scenario, the words of Jesus are uttered by the priest or pastor. (Foods eaten can include a lamb shank bone, bitter herbs, and salted vegetables.) This special service can also include a foot-washing ceremony. Some churches (particularly Lutherans and Catholics) will choose to offer a *Tenebrae* service (*Tenebrae* means "Shadow"). Here, the sanctuary's candles or lights are gradually extinguished as clergy strip the altar of its linens. This can be accompanied by a loud noise at the end, meant to encourage meditation on the sufferings of Christ. *Tenebrae* may also start three days of special services, known as triduum.

Good Friday

The Gospel writers create a stark contrast between Palm Sunday and Good Friday, between the crowds shouting "Hosanna!" and "Crucify him!" After Judas betrays Jesus (identifying Him to Roman guards with a kiss), Jesus is quickly carted through one ordeal after another. First, He is taken to the Jewish high priest, Caiaphas, who is joined by other elders and religious leaders (Matthew 26:57, 59-60). It is here that Jesus

is physically assaulted for the first time (Matthew 26:67-68). The Jewish leaders realize that their own laws prohibit them from killing Jesus themselves, so they hand Him over to the Roman governor. Pontius Pilate tells the Jews that he “finds no fault in” Jesus (John 18:28-38). Their rabid response sends him back inside to speak with Jesus once more, eventually relenting to Jesus’ death sentence. Jesus is whipped with various sharp, maiming implements, then mocked by soldiers (John 19:1-3). Betrayed by His friends and His nation, He now endures increasing physical *and* social agony. Tucked within the three-hour ordeal of Jesus’ death are many significant fulfillments of Old Testament prophecies (Psalm 22, Isaiah 53, etc.) These contain details about the manner of His physical death (being nailed to a cross), ridicule from onlookers, and separation from God due to taking on the sins of humanity. Many churches hold special Good Friday services that feature “Stations of the Cross,” interspersing special prayers with passages from the accounts of Jesus’ arrest, trial, and death. Similarly, “passion plays” feature multiple church members reenacting the words and actions of Jesus, Peter, Pontius Pilate, and others. In the Philippines, more graphic commemorations involve flagellation (whipping) and crucifixion reenactments. Periods of fasting and total silence are also common.

Holy Saturday

The Gospels are somewhat silent about what happened on Holy Saturday. In fact, only Matthew gives explicit details about the day’s events (Matthew 26:62-66). The details about the guard at the tomb are imperative when reflecting on the numerous alternative explanations for the empty tomb that have circulated for centuries. Matthew’s account makes it plain that no one could have overtaken both the Roman guard and the stone that took several men to move in the first place. Moreover, archaeology and Jewish history reveal that to enter a traditional tomb of that time, one had to stoop down and essentially crawl in—not walk in and out upright. We know from the disciples’ that they likely remained in hiding, fearing punishment from the Romans or the Jewish elite. Like anyone who buries a beloved friend, they would’ve been in a state of mourning, likely too shocked to go about their business. The fact that it was the Sabbath meant that the rest of the community would’ve been somewhat quiet, even after the harrowing events of Friday. Holy Saturday is also sometimes known as Easter Vigil. Some churches will hold prayer vigils and light commemorative candles. However, since Holy Saturday technically marks the end of Lent, certain churches take a more joyous approach with the celebratory ringing of bells. At home, some will prepare for the next day’s Easter celebration.

Easter Sunday

Finally, we come to one of the most important days on the Christian calendar and the culmination of the Holy Week timeline. The first Easter morning began quietly, not with the fanfare now associated with the holiday. Like Jesus' birth, the day involved several unlikely witnesses to a miracle and an appearance and message from an angel. In one Gospel account, two of Jesus' female followers arrive at the tomb to pay their respects. Suddenly, an earthquake rattles the ground, and an angel arrives on the scene to calm their fears, remind them of Jesus' promise to rise again on the third day, and to tell the other disciples of the good news. Later, Jesus appears to the remaining disciples, further proving His status as the Son of God. Though He suffered from unspeakable wounds on Friday, His body only shows signs of three nail piercings and a spear wound. Easter's overwhelming worldwide popularity (even among nominal Christians or non-Christians) means there's no shortage of Sunday festivities—or beloved foods. Here are several international favorites:

- Hot cross buns (New Zealand, United Kingdom, etc.)
- Babka, or bread with raisins (Poland)
- *Colomba de pasqua*, a dove-shaped sweet bread (Italy)

The Holy Week Timeline that holds events from the end of Jesus' life changed the course of history, offering hope to those who now, through faith in His sacrifice, are called children of God.

Anna Oelerich is a Chicago-area church youth director, freelance writer, and graduate of Taylor University. She received her B.S. in Professional Writing in 2018, but has loved words—reading, storytelling, list-making, and even handwriting—for as long as she can remember. Previously, she served as the marketing and communications coordinator for a community foundation, where she shared powerful stories of generosity, and encouraged others to give. When writing an article, or developing programming for her students, Anna enjoys highlighting the historical and cultural contexts of familiar Bible passages so others feel they are living the stories for themselves.