

Preparing for Easter

Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, was on February 17 this year. Lent is a forty-day period before Easter set aside as a season of soul-searching and repentance. The forty days reflect Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for His own time of spiritual reflection. Sundays, because they commemorate the Resurrection, are not counted. In the early church, Lent was a special time when new converts were instructed in the faith and prepared for baptism on Easter.

Churches that follow a liturgical calendar—annually reliving the major events in Jesus' life—place great emphasis on Lent. Even though we don't make much of Lent, your family will benefit from preparing in advance to celebrate Jesus' Resurrection. Here are some possible ideas that I found from *Crosswalk Parenting* website that might help to you and your family prepare for Easter.

1. New Life: As Lent begins, help your children plant crocus, daffodil, or hyacinth bulbs in a bowl of sand, covering halfway. Leave in a dark closet for two months, keeping soil moist (a process known as forcing bulbs). When shoots appear, let them bask in the sun. Don't forget to leave one bulb unplanted as a reminder of how they began.

2. Devotions: You may want to commit to a regular pattern of family worship—daily, weekly, or whenever you can. Or you may post Bible verses wherever the busy family is sure to see them. Talk about them at dinner or on the way to school—especially how verses apply to events in our daily lives.

3. Giving up: Traditionally, especially in Europe, during Lent, there were no weddings, no dancing, no singing. No flowers or “alleluias” in churches. Some families may find spiritual value in giving up something for Lent—television, sweets, video games—not as a penance, but as an outer symbol of dying to self during a season of spiritual reflection.

4. Mite box: Select a charity that helps those in need. Decorate a box with a slot on top. Display it where everyone at home will remember to contribute their change. On Easter, empty the box, count together, and put a check in the mail.

5. Pretzels: Bake your own pretzels (check cookbooks, library or Internet for recipe—or buy the frozen ones). Pretzels originated as early Christian Lenten treats, designed in the form of arms crossed in prayer.

6. Easter Seals: Support or volunteer for this organization, founded in 1934 as a means to raise funds to help children with disabilities. In the original words, “Easter means Resurrection and New Life, and the rehabilitation of crippled children means new life and activity . . . physically, mentally, spiritually.”

7. Jonah: In Matthew 12:39–41, Jesus points to the story of Jonah as a sign of his own destiny. So this is a great time to review it with your children, discussing the issues of sin, obedience, and God's mercy.

8. Easter in Cyberspace: Check out www.njwebworks.com/easter for many, Christian Easter links, including history, poetry, drama and daily meditations.

9. Giving: While we usually think of Christmas for gift-giving, Easter has a richer heritage. God gave His Son. Jesus gave His life. Find ways to give unconditionally: money to a homeless person, treats for those in nursing homes, old clothes to children in another country. Jesus told us clearly, “*Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me*” (Matt. 25:40).

10. Handel's Messiah: Invest in a CD or tape, and bathe your family in this beautiful classic, clearly composed under divine inspiration—each segment a Bible verse prophesying the birth, life, death and finally the resurrection of Jesus. (*The Hallelujah Chorus* was a celebration for Easter morning following the Lenten absence of “alleluias.”)

You think about that now. Amen.

—Pastor Rick

Sunday Schedule at BPEFC

9:00 AM

Worship Service	Sanctuary
Nursery (Birth to two years)	Room 100
Chicks (Birth date in 2007)	102
Lambs (Birth date in 2006)	103
Giraffes (Birth date in 2005)	104
5's and K (Birth date in 2003 & 2004)	105

Adult Bible Fellowships

Young Marrieds (and Committed Couples)	112/113
Mosaic (Multi-generational, singles/marrieds)	108/109

10:30 AM

Worship Service	Sanctuary
Nursery (Birth to two years)	Room 100
Chicks (Birth date in 2007)	102
Lambs (Birth date in 2006)	103
Giraffes (Birth date in 2005)	104
5's and K (Birth date in 2003 & 2004)	106
<i>K.Z. & Company</i> (Grades 1–6)	Fellowship Hall
Youth Worship Service (Grades 7–12)	Youth Room

Adult Bible Fellowships

Salt (Elem. & Youth Parents)	108/109
In-Betweeners (Singles/Marrieds, 50+)	112/113
Prime Timers (Senior Adults)	114

BPEFC Pastoral Staff

Rick Ensrud, Senior Pastor - ext. 11

Dan Carlson, Adult Ministry Pastor - ext. 12

David Durey, Executive Adult Ministry Pastor - ext. 13

Jeff Gagnon, Executive Ministries/Missions Pastor - ext. 22

Leane Gondek, Children's Ministries Director - ext. 27

Josh Major, Adult Ministry Pastor - ext. 14

David Myles, Community Outreach Pastor - ext. 29

Jena Pietari, Student Ministries Director - ext. 15

Luke Turner, Worship Ministries Director - ext. 37



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Welcome to Brooklyn Park Church!


We're so glad you have joined us today. Our goal is to help you connect with God in worship and connect with others in meaningful relationships. Please let us know if we can help you in any way.

Worship Services Offered:

- 9:00 AM:** Traditions
- 10:30 AM:** Multi-cultural
- 10:30 AM:** Youth Worship Service (Grades 7–12)

Guests . . . after the service, you are invited to the Guest Reception Area (in the West Foyer) to meet with staff and learn more about our church.

All-Church News

- **Alpha Course:** Sundays, 5:30 PM. It's not too late to join us. Come for a dinner, movie and discussion. This course will help you find answers to questions about God and Christianity. It's a great place for you to bring a friend. Other courses also offered: *Freedom in Christ* and *Bible Overview*. Sign up in the Foyer today if you are interested.
- **Comedy Club:**  Saturday, March 6, 7:00 PM, featuring *Comedy Sportz*. Get ready for a fun night for the whole family! Tickets are on sale in the Foyer; Adults: \$10 / Youth: \$5. **TICKET REFUNDS AVAILABLE AT THE ADULT MINISTRIES KIOSK OR CHURCH OFFICE.**
- **Spring Spruce Up:** Saturday, March 6, 8:00 AM–2:00 PM. Help clean and organize the church kitchen. See *News & Notes* for specific details.
- **Chicago Mission/Work Team:** April 24–May 1, at Circle Urban Ministries/Rock Church. There will be an informational meeting on Sunday, March 7, at 12:00 PM, in Room 112/113. We are looking for men and women (skilled and unskilled) to do building maintenance, renovation and general cleanup projects. Interested? Sign up in the Foyer or contact Larry at 763-533-8057.
- **Next Step Class:** Wednesday, March 17, 6:00–9:00 PM. Learn more about our church and membership. If you plan on attending, please sign up at the Information Desk or fill out the Bulletin tear-off corner.
- **Sportsmen's Banquet:** Saturday, March 20, 6:00 PM Social Time, 6:30 PM Dinner and Program. Calling all outdoorsmen and women . . . don't miss an evening of awesome wildlife mounts, door prizes, raffles, dinner, guest professional angler and more! Tickets (\$10) are on sale today in the Foyer.
- **Cancellation Information:** If the Worship Services or church activities are cancelled, information will be available through KTIS Radio (98.5 FM or www.ktis.fm), the church's web site (www.BrooklynParkChurch.org) and the church's voicemail system.

For more information on other church news, see *News & Notes*.

Following the One I Love, #24

Pastor Rick Ensrud

Mad Man or God-Man

John 10:22–42

The curtain reopens to a winter set during the Feast of the Dedication in Jerusalem. There in Solomon's porch (vv 22–23), among the elegantly roofed and magnificent 40-foot stone pillars, rabbis walked with their students, discussing and debating the hot theological issues of the day. The debate on this day was again centered around the question of who was this person called Jesus. Was He a crazy person making outrageous claims, or was He the Messiah? In the midst of this discussion, Jesus speaks some powerful words of comfort to anyone who has called on Him!

I. The Setting (John 10:22–23)

1. The Feast of Dedication is today's Hanukkah.
2. The people celebrate a great time in history, but so many are missing history in the making before their very eyes.
3. Two reasons for Jesus' return to Jerusalem:
 - To continue teaching on *The Shepherd of Israel* motif.
 - To prepare for His final return to Jerusalem as the Lamb of God, slain for the sins of the world.

II. The Dialogue (John 10:24–30)

1. The people surround Jesus and again ask, "Who are you really?" (v 24)
2. Jesus gives three reasons for their unbelief: (vv 25–26)
 - Not for lack of information, but a lack of understanding.
 - They have already rejected His works as being from God.
 - They are not His sheep!
3. A marvelous word on assurance to those who are His sheep (vv 27–29)
 - How can you tell a true Christian from a mere professing Christian?
 - They are drawn to what Jesus says.
 - They know they belong to Jesus.
 - They obey what Jesus says.
 - What makes a person experience these three things?
 - Because they have eternal life.
 - Because they have security of the future.
 - Because they are protected by God.
4. A clear statement of identity (v 30)

III. The Rejection (John 10:31–38)

1. The people clearly understood He was equating Himself to be God. (vv 31–33)
2. His proof text: Psalm 82
 - "God has taken his place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods he holds judgment." Psalm 82:1 (ESV)
 - "I said, 'You are gods, sons of the Most High, all of you; nevertheless, like men you shall die, and fall like any prince.'" Psalm 82:6–7 (ESV)

IV. The Escape (John 10:39–42)

1. Jesus was untouchable until He was ready to go to the cross. (v 18)
2. Jesus retreats before He advances. (vv 40–42)

APPLICATION:

I. Jesus never loses control!

1. No one overrules His will.
2. No one overpowers Him.
3. No one nullifies what He has achieved.
4. No one takes away those He has bought.

II. Jesus keeps His own safe and secure.

1. Our safety depends on His grip on us.
2. His hold is permanent and tight.

III. Have you acknowledged, understood and experienced the power of Jesus?

Weekly Calendar

(For more details, visit www.BrooklynParkChurch.org.)

Sunday, February 28

5:30 PM *Alpha, Freedom & Bible Overview*

Monday, March 1

7:00 PM *Community Bible Study*

Tuesday, March 2

5:45–7:00 AM Intercessors' Prayer Time
5:15 PM Prayer Gathering/W. Foyer/Join us!
6:00 PM Support Group Meal and Worship
6:30 PM *Quilters' Fellowship*
7:00 PM Support Group Meetings

Wednesday, March 3

5:45–7:00 AM Intercessors' Prayer Time
6:30 PM Kids *K.Z. Disciples*
Grades 7–12 Small Groups
Women's Bible Study

Thursday, March 4

9:15 AM Women's Bible Study

Friday, March 5

Saturday, March 6

8:00 AM *Spring Spruce Up*

Stewardship Matters

2009–2010 Annual Budget:	1,493,000
Budget needed fiscal year-to-date:	976,208
Giving/Revenue year-to-date:	885,179
Difference in budget needed and giving YTD:	(91,029)
Weekly budget needed:	28,712
Amount received February 21:	34,684
4 <i>Our Future</i> (Capital Campaign) Commitments:	1,100,000
4 <i>Our Future</i> Giving:	472,508

Next Step Class

You are invited to attend the *Next Step Class* on Wednesday, March 17, from 6:00–9:00 PM, to explore ministry and membership at BPEFC. We highlight our Core Values, Beliefs, Missions, Local Ministries, Steps to Membership, and create a Personal Ministry Profile based on your personality, possessions (gifts and abilities) and passion (to help you select a place of service). After attending the class, you have the opportunity to join the church.

Yes! I'm/We're interested in attending the class on March 17.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

(Place form in the Offering or turn in at the Information Desk.)