



In my first year of seminary, I took a class entitled “Introduction to Worship” taught by Rev. Dr. Joy Schroeder. In our final exam, we were given a calendar on which we had to

figure out the date on which Easter will begin for a given year. It is the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox. It can fall anywhere from March 22 to April 25. Each year since then, I’ve looked up the date on google, because, in all honesty, I’d have to look up the spring equinox and the first full moon anyway.

Easter then extends for 50 days – 7 Sundays. It is common for us to really hype up the first Sunday, because we have just had 40 days of Lent ending with Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. These are deeply moving days in which we reflect on the betrayal, torture, injustice, and execution of Jesus. It makes sense that the first Sunday meant to focus on the resurrection would be a sharp contrast of joy and celebration.

This year, more than most, lent has been hard. It comes at the end (and beyond) of a year of sorrow and isolation. It is unfortunate that we aren’t going to gather in-person for the first Sunday of Easter. Personally, I am sad about this, because it will be my first time preaching for Easter 1. It will also be my first time presiding over communion. My joy and excitement over these things will be tempered by the lack of a visible of a crowd of participants.

On the other hand, we (USA Christians) have gotten into some bad habits where Easter is concerned. We focus our joy and celebration on that first Sunday. Then the second Sunday of Easter is often the lowest attended service of the entire year. There are a lot of protestant churches that only recognize one Sunday as Easter, then go back to normal services in the very next week. In the Lutheran tradition, we do acknowledge that the resurrection is much too big to relegate to one Sunday. But, all too often, that is only acknowledged on the church calendar and with altar linens.

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This year, I see an opportunity to honor the resurrection more thoroughly. As sad as I am to not have you all present for the Easter 1 service, I am excited to see what we can do beyond our usual traditions. Martin Luther said, "Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime." The spring plants will be turning green and flowers will start to bloom during this Easter season. Take time to recognize that God reveals resurrection to us in many more ways than those found in the church sanctuary.

We also have an opportunity to begin gathering again in the church during the seven weeks of Easter. I see a parallel between resuming and resurrection. This month will see the resumption of Heart N Hands volunteering, yoga, and other activities that include people that have been fully vaccinated. As more people get vaccinated and the infection rate goes down, more people will be able to gather. The church will be resurrecting during the Easter season! That is so very appropriate.

See you soon!

Pastor Kimberly



Pastor Kimberly's Office Hours

Monday – Thursday • 9 am – 12 Noon

Pastor Kimberly is also available by appointment, afternoons and evenings

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Laurie's Office Hours

The church office hours remain the same

Monday – Friday • 9 am – 12 Noon

