

Dear Parents,

We are very excited about the arrival of spring and are anxiously waiting for Easter. We want to share with you how our school involves children in this time of celebration.

1. We will be celebrating Palm Sunday by reenacting the story of Jesus' arrival to the city with songs and palm branches.

2. We will be emphasizing these points with the older children: "Easter comes each year in the springtime. For people who love Jesus, it is an especially happy time when we remember the stories of when Jesus was living on earth, of people He helped, and the way He showed people how to love one another. There were some people who did not understand who Jesus was, so they killed Him, but because God's love is stronger than death, Jesus did not stay dead. He is alive, loving us, and wanting us to love one another."

With the younger children we will talk more about how Easter is a happy day in the spring for people who love Jesus, and that God loves you very much.

We will not be dwelling on death, but we will be stressing the happiness that Jesus' followers have at Easter. Young children do not have the mental growth to yet understand death and the importance of Christ's suffering and death that we adults do. Therefore, we need to understand our young children, be respectful of where they are developmentally, and model our faith in concrete ways. Young children can experience the mystery and joy of the celebration of Easter, and we want to enable them to grow in their understanding. Questions about death will be answered simply and concretely. This is a good time to learn that death is a part of the cycle of life.

3. We will be talking about new life in spring with seeds, flowers and

baby animals. Each classroom will have a butterfly garden with live caterpillars that will come out of their chrysalis in May. Please have your child bring in any signs of Spring to share with his/her class. We know that Spring always comes each year just as God promised.

4. We will not be emphasizing the Easter Bunny at school. How your family chooses to celebrate Easter at home is a family choice.

5. On Monday April 9th (the first day back after spring break), we would like for each child to bring to school one fresh blooming flower. Then at 11:30, we will be having a short worship service in the sanctuary and flowering of the cross with the children. You are invited to attend if you would like. We need the flowers when the children arrive so they can be prepared with a florist pick to go into the moss. The twos and threes who come on Tues/Thurs and their parents are invited to join us even though it isn't a school day for them. Teacher will bring the children into the sanctuary or outside in the courtyard depending on the weather, and we will meet you there. Because this is a time of worship, we ask that you not videotape. Pictures may be taken afterwards.

6. If you would like to provide a special snack for your child's class, please talk with your child's teacher. This will help us keep from having too much snack all on the same day.

7. Remember: We will be closed for Spring Break from March 31st – April 8th!

Happy Easter! Alice Patton