

The great Pretzel making event of Palm Sunday 2016 was a tremendous success! Wow! I didn't count the pretzels or even the trays, but baking continued all through church. Thanks to all who came and rolled pretzels, boiled, salted, sugared and baked, and also to those who helped with crafts and to all who helped wipe up and clean up and supervised. The morning could not have happened without each and every one of you. Also thanks to Sarah P and Kelli M., who came and set up the operation on Saturday. What a joy it was to arrive to the complete set up early Sunday morning. As many as there were, most of the pretzels were eaten by the end of Coffee hour. I saved some extras (froze) for a Sunday School snack later.

Our "Make a Joyful Noise to the Lord" Palm Sunday procession was delightful, as Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem on a donkey. Special thanks to Natalie and Henry H for portraying the donkey and Jesus during our triumphant entrance into church. And thanks to all the palm wavers and musicians who made the entrance truly jubilant. Many of the older people commented on the happy group of children who made music for the procession.

Joyful **Palm Sunday** and **Easter** bookend Holy Week, which is a deeply sad time. Using the Resurrection Eggs in Sunday School, we learned that many sad things happened to Jesus. We learned about the last supper as it relates to communion, today. We learned that Jesus friends betrayed and denied him. He was hurt by soldiers and hung on a cross, and died. But the children also know that Jesus came alive again, and was not in the tomb when his friends went to find him. You might use a children's book to introduce this discussion with your children at home. While it is easy to celebrate the newborn baby at Christmas, Holy Week is a difficult story to tell. Yet this is the real story of Christianity.

Several books I like for young children are:

"Lily's Easter Party" by Crystal Bowman, "Benjamin's Box" by Melody Carlson (both are based on Resurrection Eggs which we have used in Sunday School), and a very simple "The Easter Story" by Patricia A. Pingry. Many books and the Resurrection Eggs are available online. Understanding Jesus sacrifice to offer us everlasting life is an important part of developing an understanding of Christian faith. It is this understanding that sustains us through the loss of loved ones throughout our lives.

Next Sunday at 9AM we meet again in the Sunday School area. Help is welcome to hide eggs, while the younger classes review the Easter story. Then the **Great Egg Hunt**. Please bring your own baskets if you can remember.... we have some at SS, if you don't. Pastor plans a Children's participation in the late service.

Also remember there are two services next week and Pancake Breakfast is served with a free will offering. As always extra hands make lighter work.

Have a blessed Holy Week.

Lydia Wisloski

SS Supt

Published 3/23/2016