

INNERGLOW

*First Reformed Church
Boyden, IA*

LaVonne Sietstra & Teresa Harms, Editors



April 2026



This month's article is entitled "After Easter." It comes from the CRC Network. It was written last year, April 2025. It reminds us of what we are called to do as Christians after the Easter holiday is over. I pray that you enjoy it. Teresa

After Easter

The trumpets have quieted. The lilies, once brilliant white on Easter morning, are starting to brown at the edges. The pews are a little emptier now than they were on Easter morning. And yet – the resurrection still calls.

After Easter, the question is no longer just *what do we believe* – but *how do we walk with Jesus now that death is defeated?*

This, perhaps, is one of the great questions of the Christian life. Jesus came, Jesus died, Jesus rose again – and we're stuck down here? What are we supposed to do now?

The truth, however, is that walking with Jesus is not a one-day street. It is dusty roads and aching feet. It is the heavy scent of sweat and bread shared at simple tables. It is listening for His voice in the hush before dawn, seeing glimpses of His glory in the ordinary – in the garden soil under our nails, in the crackling fire, in the tear tracks on a friend's face.

Think of Mary Magdalene, stunned in the garden, mistaking the risen Jesus for the gardener. Or Peter, shoulders slumped by the shoreline, smelling fish roasting on coals as Jesus invites him to love again. After the resurrection, the walk with Jesus became deeply real for these people – tender, raw, and full of second chances.

But then, the actual, physical, blood-and-bones Jesus left them. Can you imagine how that would have felt? To walk for years with Christ, to go through the grief and amazement and confusion and amazingness of that first Easter morning, only to have to suddenly live the rest of your life without the physical presence of Jesus?

...To walk with Jesus after Easter is to accept the invitation to new life – not someday, but today. It means choosing walking in forgiveness when bitterness feels easier. Speaking truth when silence would be safer. Loving our enemies when hatred is the easier path. It is a road paved with small, daily resurrections: moments when hope is chosen over despair, when life bursts out of dead ground, when Christ's risen life pulses through our own tired veins.

... Sometimes it's just hard to keep walking, isn't it? Sometimes the empty tomb almost feels like a farce. But it isn't. I know it isn't, because the story of God's work in the universe doesn't end there. It keeps going, even though it's hard and uncomfortable and we have no idea, really, of the specifics of what comes next. Or where we will be called next.

So we stand at the edge of the empty tomb, the morning mist still clinging to our skin, the stone rolled aside. The question is open, lingering in the cool, fragrant air: Where will we walk with Jesus next?

➔ Where YOU Lead I will follow ➔

Praise & Thanks for...

***those celebrating anniversaries and birthdays of many years**

***grace that is sufficient when healing doesn't come**

***Jesus' victory over the grave!**

***forgiveness of our sins**

***the cross and the empty tomb!**

***prayer warriors**

***God's love to all people**

***God has a plan for our lives – Jesus came to this earth to die for the sins of the world**

***those planning and carrying out the activities of Holy Week**

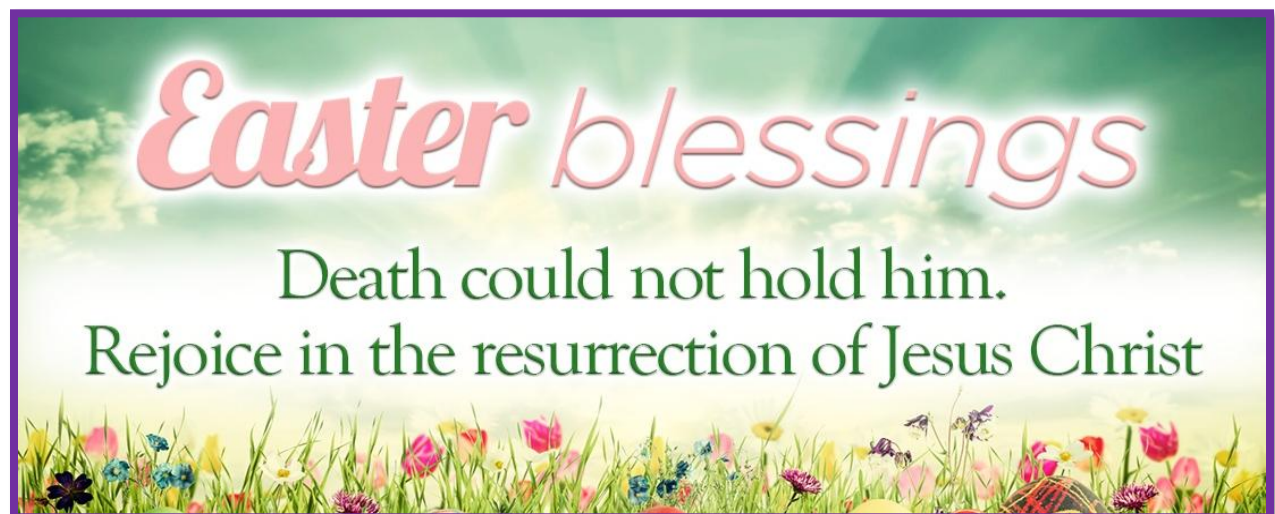
***opportunities to worship**

***answered prayers**

***Elders and Deacons as they give of their time**

***each member of Boyden First Reformed Church**

***those who have faithfully served at Awana**



Pray for...

- *comfort for those families who have lost loved ones – Mike and Angela and the Kooiker family for the loss of Beverly; Chris Diekevers' family and the De Groot for the loss of Gert.**
- *strength and traveling mercies of those living with continuing health issues and traveling for treatments – Josh Hoekstra, Peg Noack, Mary Schafer**
- *Seniors – both high school and college as they make decisions about their futures**
- *the Holy Week services**
- *the buildings & grounds committee**
- *personal family needs, concerns and/or disappointments**
- *our missionaries – Barry & Terry Bruce and Way Out Ministries, Seung and Amy Kim, and JJ Ten Clay and the refugee ministry of the RCA**
- *our service men and women and their families**
- *guidance and discernment that God's will to be done for the future of our church**
- *each family member by name**
- *the consistory to seek God's guidance in all their decisions**
- *the Awana volunteers and kids**

**"God is good; God is great
and prayers are always
answered."**

Answers to last month's "What's Inside" – 1 b, 2 c, 3 b, 4 a, 5 a, 6 c, 7 b, 8 a

FUN FACTS

ABOUT EGGS

How egg-citing!

1

An average hen lays **300-325 EGGS** a year

2

As a hen grows older she produces **LARGER EGGS**

3

Eggs contain the **HIGHEST QUALITY PROTEIN** you can buy

4

LEFTOVER EGG WHITES can be frozen in a zip lock bag until you're ready to use

5

To tell if an **EGG IS FRESH** place it in a glass of water and if it sinks, it's still good

6

If an egg is **ACCIDENTLY DROPPED** on the floor, sprinkle it heavily with salt for easy clean up

EGG
Hack



HYMN OF THE MONTH: *“WERE YOU THERE?”*

“Therefore, since Christ suffered in His body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin.” 1 Peter 4:1

Suffering is something we all must endure; the tool unwillingly used to strengthen ourselves in various areas of life. Greatest of all forms of suffering is suffering for God - that is, to use our suffering to learn how to rely on His strength rather than ours. *Were You There* is the product of men and women who used their suffering for just that.

Were You There is one of the most famous Spirituals: Biblical songs created by African slaves in America. Slaves could have blamed their woes on God - and surely, some did - but many chose to draw closer to Him, desperate for the hope only He can give. Men can take away many freedoms, but the freedom to seek after God is something that can never be stolen.

Spirituals were created by those slaves who longed for God, utilizing music to spread Biblical themes and stories. Indeed, storytelling and preaching are powerful methods, but music is the premier tool to weave themes and stories into the mind and soul. Through this tool, slaves of that age ended up creating two genres of music that forever changed American music. In the fields the songs were often sung in a somber and mournful way; thus began the blues style. In the church, the songs were sung in an uplifting and joyful way; thus began the gospel music style. Here lies the beauty of Spirituals: the product of a unified group that suffered together and praised God all the more for it.

Were You There falls into the blues category. The purpose of the lyrics is to recall the suffering Christ endured, which serves to remind that suffering in God’s eyes is not the lot of the cursed, but the blessed. It is a message we must hold fast to when we ourselves are called to suffer, an inevitability of the Christian walk.



Were You There

African American Spiritual

Eb
Bb
Cm
Gm/Bb
Eb

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
 Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
 Were you there when they pierced Him in the side?
 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
 Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

4

Gm
Cm
Bb/D
Eb
Bb

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
 Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
 Were you there when they pierced Him in the side?
 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
 Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

9

Eb/G
Ab
Eb
Ab
Eb

Oh, _____ some - times it

12

G/B
Cm
Ab
Eb/G
Ab
Bb

caus - es me to trem - ble, trem - ble, trem - ble.

16

Ab
Eb/Bb
Bb
Cm
Gm/Bb
Eb

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
 Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
 Were you there when they pierced Him in the side?
 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
 Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

In Years Gone By ...

50 YEARS AGO – April 1976

There was an RCYF Roller Skating Party at Sioux Falls sponsored by Classis West Sioux.

There was an open house for the 80th birthday of Mrs. John Dokter at the community building.

Congratulations were extended to Mrs. Paul Van De Hoef for her 83rd birthday.

The following individuals were received as members through the Profession of their Faith – Gary Blankers, Lorraine Humme and Bruce Ver Meer.

Virginia (Moss) De Groot was received through the transfer of her membership.

25 YEARS AGO – April 2001

The following individuals and families were received through transfer of their membership – Teresa Harms and her son Benjamin, Wayne and Lucy Steenhoven, and Dennis & Sue Schmidt with their children Justin and Adrianna.

Congratulations to Iva Rensink who celebrated her 100th birthday. In her honor, during the offering, the church played a recording of her singing a vocal solo.

The RCYF held a sunrise service for Easter.

Congratulations to Dwayne and Backy Hansmann on the birth of their daughter Madysen. They were received as members along with their sons Matthew and Adam.

Lila Sietstra was employed as the new church secretary.

Sympathy wishes were extended to the family of Alvina Den Hartog (mother of Brenda Van Der Brink).

10 YEARS AGO – April 2016

The Consistory attended a retreat in Orange City.

The Secret Sister ministry began at Boyden FRC.

An Awana Live-Stream event was held that could be viewed here at Boyden FRC.

5 YEARS AGO – April 2021

Sympathy wishes were extended to the family and friends of Trudy Blankers; LaVonne & Larry Sietstra for the passing of her mother Jacoba Rens; and to Laryl & Brenda De Wild for the passing of his brother Jarvis.

A volunteer mowing schedule was put in place for the church and parsonage.

The consistory held an informational meeting regarding the future pastoral leadership of FRC.



Beverly Ann Kooiker

March 22, 1963

March 5, 2026

Beverly was a devoted wife, a loving mother, and a proud grandmother whose vibrant spirit touched everyone who knew her. She lived her life with energy, honesty, and heart. Known for being outspoken and full of life, Beverly had a way of making people laugh, speaking her mind with love, and bringing warmth to every room she entered.

Her greatest joy in life was her family. She shared 43 years of loving marriage with her husband, Michael, and together they built a life centered on love, laughter, and family. Her grandchildren were the light of her life, and she treasured every moment spent with them.

Beverly is survived by her husband, Michael; her four children, Angela, Steven, Danielle (Todd Diekevers), and Samantha; her cherished grandchildren, Greyson, Everly, Spencer, Leah, Jackson, Cole, and Trace; her mother, Arlene Houtsma; and her parents-in-law, Alvin and Sally Kooiker.

She was preceded in death by her father, Howard Houtsma, and her beloved grandchild, Kit Kooiker.

Though her time here was far too short, Beverly's legacy lives on through the family she loved so deeply and the many memories she created with those around her. Her strength, humor, and vibrant personality will be remembered always.

She will be deeply missed and forever loved.

Always and Forever
LOVE



Gertrude (Meendering) De Groot

August 12, 1924

March 15, 2026

Gertrude De Groot, the daughter of John and Jessie (Kooima) Meendering was born on August 12, 1924, in Rock Valley, Iowa. She graduated from Rock Valley High School in 1942. After graduating she attended summer school at Westmar College in LeMars and obtained her teaching certificate. She taught country school for five years.

On June 4, 1947, Gert was united in marriage to Thomas De Groot in Rock Valley. The couple moved to the De Groot family farm near Boyden and in 1976, they moved into town. Thomas suddenly passed away on March 7, 1976. Gert remained at home in Boyden until moving to Fieldcrest Assisted Living in 2022. She passed away at Good Samaritan Society in George on Sunday, March 15, 2026, at the age of 101 years, 7 months and 3 days.

Gert was an active member of First Reformed Church in Boyden being involved in Bible study, teaching Sunday School and catechism as her faith was very strong. She also enjoyed gardening, growing flowers, crocheting, traveling and especially enjoyed being with family, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Left to cherish her memories are her three children and their spouses, John and Virginia De Groot of Sheldon, Elaine and Jerry Diekevers of Hospers, and Deanna and Kerry Dahl of George; seven grandchildren, Greg De Groot of Rock Rapids, Scott De Groot of Omaha, Nebraska, Dawn De Groot of Orange City, Iowa, Chad (Emily) Diekevers of Hospers, Corey (Billie) Diekevers of Hospers, Chris (Sarah) Diekevers of Boyden, Curtis (Darci) Diekevers of Urbandale, Iowa; eleven great grandchildren, Brody and Lily De Groot, Slater and Easton Diekevers, Dani (Aaron) Wright, Ella, Colton and Adalyn Diekevers, Ryker, Attleigh, and Dempson Diekevers; sisters, Jo Mulder, Alberta Hall, and Ruth (Ralph) Hollander; also other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband of 28 years, Thomas, great granddaughter, Autumn Diekevers, sisters, Fanny DeBoer, Janice Meendering, Jeannetta Meendering, Marian Kroon, brother, Jake Meendering, sisters-in-law, Jan Meendering, Willemina Moss, brothers-in-law, Louis DeBoer, Fred Mulder, Robert Hall, Henry Kroon and Henry Moss.

Blessed be her memory

“A Wonderful Way to Explain Death”

www.facebook.com/Incredible

A sick man turned to his doctor, as he was preparing to leave the examination room and said, “Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side.” Very quietly the doctor said, “I don’t know.”

“You don’t know? You a Christian man, do not know what is on the other side,” exclaimed the patient.

The doctor was holding the handle of the door; on the other side came a scratching and whining, and as he opened the door, a dog sprang into the room and leaped on him with an eager show of gladness.

Turning to the patient, the doctor said, “Did you notice my dog? He’s never been in this room before. He didn’t know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here, and when the door opened, he sprang in with no fear. I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I know one thing ... I know my Master is there and that is enough!”



“Be the Donkey”

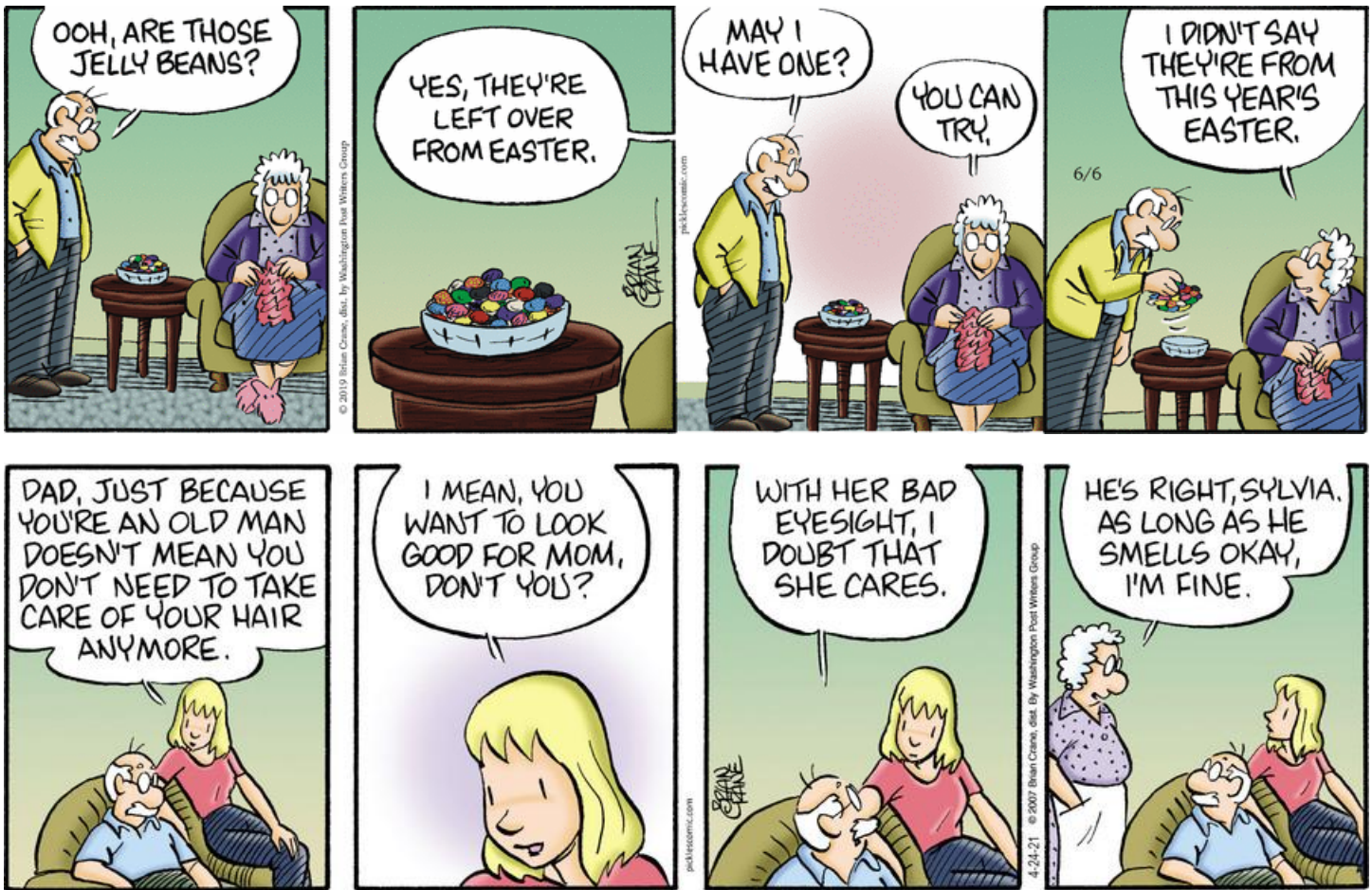
Corrie Ten Boom, a devout Christian who helped shelter hundreds of Jewish people from Nazis during World War II, was asked how she stayed humble despite her fame.

“When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday on the back of a donkey, and everyone was waving palm branches and throwing garments onto the road and singing praises, do you think that for one moment it ever entered the head of that donkey that any of that was for him?” she replied. “If I can be the donkey on which Jesus Christ rides in His glory, I give Him all the praise and all the honor.”

Jesus told His followers they’d need to carry (or “take up”) their cross. But how well do you carry your Savior? How do you bring Him into a world that desperately needs the good news of this gospel?



HAPPINESS IS ...



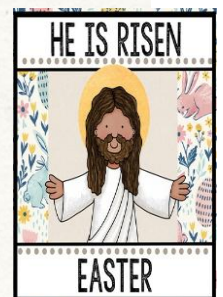
Wasn't it Smart of God to ...

- ... give us receding hairlines instead of advancing ones.
- ... make our eyes blink so we can moisten them as well as understand how quickly life goes by.
- ... make our fingernails grow four times faster than our toenails.
- ... make our arms foldable for staying warm and for showing coolness during a spat.
- ... give us ear wax instead of ear honey.
- ... make our stomachs with folds that expand as they fill up so we don't explode if we cave and eat that third piece of cake.

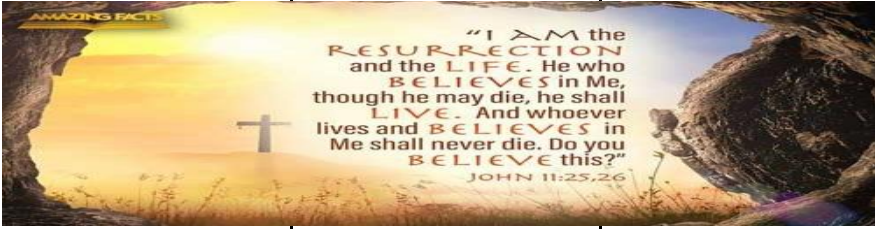
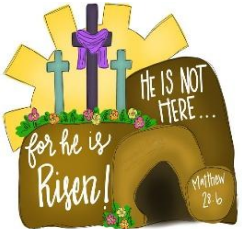






SILLY RABBIT EASTER

◆ ◆ is for Jesus ◆ ◆



April

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|--|---|--|---|---|
|  | | | | | | |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| Easter Sunday!! Mission Offering <small>Jon Huls</small> | Special Congregation Meeting 7 pm Church basement | Men's Group 5:30am Evening Ladies' 7pm <small>Pastor Heath & Wendy gone</small> | <small>to South America ~~~~~ LuEtta Heemsker</small> | Maundy Thursday Supper at 6:30 Worship 7/7:15 pm Holy Communion <small>Trace Van Tilburg</small> | Good Friday Worship at UP 7:00 PM <small>Braelynn Schafer</small> |  |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| <small>Pastor Doug Van Aartsen</small> ~~~~~ | | Men's Group 5:30am Evening Ladies' 7pm Elders'/Deacons' Consistory Mtg 8 pm <small>Pastor Heath & Wendy return</small> | <small>Pastor Heath & Wendy return</small> | <small>Shauna Neuman</small> <small>Roger & Lisa Nelson (43)</small> |  | |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| <small>Rev. Dr. John Hartog III</small> Building & Repair Offering <small>Shirley Baartman</small> | Innerglow news due! <small>Shirley Baartman</small> | Men's Group 5:30am Evening Ladies' 7pm | Earth Day!  | <small>Jamie Koele</small> | <small>Jacob Guse</small> | |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | |
| |  | Men's Group 5:30am Evening Ladies' 7pm <small>Kathy Ver Meer</small> | |  | | |

Easter Activity Sheet

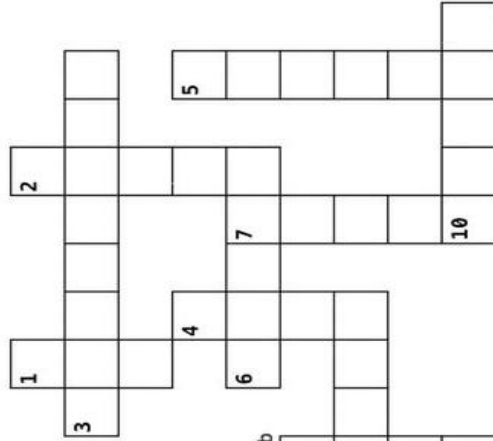
"He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay."
Matthew 28:6 (NIV)

Across

- The place where Jesus was crucified
- The book that tells the story of Easter
- Believing in Jesus and His resurrection
- Jesus rose after ____ days

Down

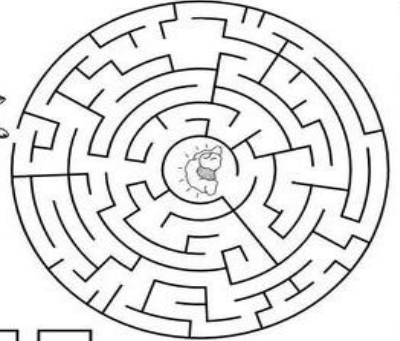
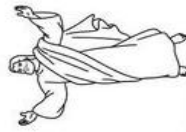
- Easter is a time of ____ and celebration
- The large rock that was rolled away from Jesus' tomb
- Jesus ate this with His disciples after He rose
- Jesus had ____ disciples
- Jesus is the ____ of the world
- She was the first to see Jesus after He rose



- celebrate
- palm
- faith
- saviour

C H N P X R I N H C R R
 T H A V A T M A L E U Z
 Z L M R F M R A C L O W
 M L O Z S L M S H E I I
 C J B T E B L U R B V M
 F A I T H R F S I R A I
 N N P N S N E E S A S R R
 R W U S T Q U J T T E A
 E Z O P W W O W O E V C
 R R W R N M U X K I U L
 C D F C C N E S I R C E
 R E D E E M E D O N J E

- | | | | |
|----------|---------|-------|---------|
| redeemed | Christ | lamb | crown |
| cross | rejoice | risen | miracle |



CHRIST IS RISEN

