

INNERGLOW

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH
BOYDEN, IA
LAVONNE SIETSTRA & TERESA HARMS, EDITORS



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From your Church Secretary!

Why did Jesus have to die?

In Awana, I lead the large group for the Sparks. I have 2 classes. The first class consists of all Kindergarteners. They always have a ton of questions! Really, good questions!! Their questions reminded me of an article I saved that answered questions that many people have about being a Child of God. This month I'm sharing the section entitled "Why did Jesus have to die?". Enjoy!!

At the heart of the story of God and His love for the world, we find the cross. We see Jesus willingly going to His death for the sake of the world. We see an innocent person die the death of a criminal. The question we come back to when looking at the horror of the cross is, "Why did Jesus have to die?" Why was Jesus crucified? Why did Jesus suffer like He did? As you read through the story of the crucifixion of Jesus, you may ask yourself, "Why did Jesus do this for me?"

Why was Jesus crucified under the law? "Why did Jesus have to die?" isn't just a major theological question. There's also the practical question, "Why was Jesus crucified under Roman law?" Well, the Jewish high priests were apparently looking for a reason to get rid of Jesus. As the revolutionary leader of a new movement that challenged the religious status quo, He posed a threat to their power. But they couldn't just take action themselves. Ultimately, sentencing was up to Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor at the time. And they needed to provide him with a legal justification for Jesus to be crucified.

The trial of Jesus - A number of witnesses testified against Jesus before the Sanhedrin, a Jewish court. Although the Gospel of Mark says many of them gave false testimony, Jesus didn't confirm or deny their accusations. In fact, Jesus remained quiet through most of His trial, refusing to respond to the charges leveled against Him. But He did respond to one question. Asked, "Are You the Messiah?" He seemed to admit that He was. Caiaphas, the chief priest, called this blasphemy. And then the others agreed that Jesus should be put to death.

Jesus appears before Pontius Pilate - Brought before Pilate, Jesus again remained mostly silent. But to the question, "Are You the King of the Jews?" Jesus responded, "You say so." Pilate wasn't convinced of Jesus' guilt. For a Roman governor like Pilate, preventing unrest and rebellion was the top priority. Religious issues like someone claiming to be a Jewish Messiah would have been secondary concerns. But the Gospels say that the chief priests and elders had riled up a crowd against Jesus. And they called for Jesus's crucifixion. Wanting to diffuse the situation quickly, Pilate relented and handed Jesus over to be crucified.

Why did Jesus have to die for our sins? Understanding the reasons Jesus was crucified from a legal perspective is helpful. But it still doesn't tell us why God would send His only Son to earth to suffer such a painful fate. Why did Jesus actually have to die for us? To answer that question, we have to rewind the story back to the garden of Eden.

How sin keeps us away from God - Ever since Adam and Eve turned their backs on God in the garden of Eden, human beings have been corrupted by sin. We ignore what God wants because we'd rather do what we want. We set our hearts on accumulating power and wealth for ourselves, and we don't take good care of what God gives us. We are too darkened by our sin to find our way back to God on our own. And God's justice requires that there be a price for our sin. Yet despite our flaws, God loves us and wants us to be reunited with Him. Jesus, God's Son, came to earth to make our reconciliation with God possible.

How Jesus reunites us with God through His sacrifice - In Old Testament times, the people of Israel followed a system of sacrifices in order to pay the debt for their sins. God's laws determined what types of sacrifices were required in order to atone for different sins. Most living sacrifices were to be perfect animals without blemish. In the New Testament, Jesus, God's Son, came to earth to reunite us with God through the ultimate sacrifice - His own life.

We could never live a life worthy of God on our own. So Jesus lived a life without sin on our behalf. And then He died the painful death our sins deserve. John 3:17 says, "God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him." By sacrificing Himself for us on the cross, He took the punishment for all of our sins at once. This made Him the ultimate sacrifice - once and for all satisfying the demands of God's justice required. That is why we call Jesus "Lamb of God." In the sacrifice of Jesus' crucifixion we are shown the depths of God's love for us and the lengths taken to save us from our sins. And in Jesus's resurrection we see God's triumph over death, pointing toward the promise of eternal life in God's presence.

The unmatched power of God's grace - Because of the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, our lives will never be the same. This gift that we have been given can never be taken away from us, it will never lose its power, and it will never cease to exist. New life in Christ is the best gift we can ever receive!

Praise & Thanks for...

***the 60th wedding anniversary of Sam & Joan Wiertzema and others celebrating anniversaries – Lifelong love is beautiful!!**

***the sacrament of Profession of Faith for Casey Kooiker and transfer of membership of Beatrice Kooiker – May you feel God's blessings and a part of the family of God!**

***an unexpected phone call from an old friend**

***opportunities to worship freely**

***God's promise at Easter proved faithful and true!**

***the true stories of the Bible**

***that we are not our own, but belong body and soul to our faithful Savior Jesus Christ!**

***Christ the LORD has risen!!! Alleluia!!**

***each member of Boyden FRC**

***the kids and volunteers of Awana**

***signs of spring – robins, flower buds, etc!**

***mission opportunities to take part in worship and glorifying God's name all around the world!!**

***Jesus, His sacrifice to save us all!**

THANK GOD, PRAISE GOD

IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE

Pray for...

***Bev Kooiker, Mary Schafer and others having continuing health issues and for safe travels to and from appointments**

***Seniors – both high school and college as they make decisions about their future, pray that God is part of those decisions**

***Pastor Heath & Wendy and the RCA group in mission in South America and for the pastors and churches who are wanting to join the RCA – May all involved be blessed and steadfast in doing God's work for His glory!**

***a repentant heart**

***the men and women serving our country – May they be safe!**

***the church to guard and spread the truth of the Gospel**

***the special services held during Holy Week**

***our young people and for all of us to continue our walk with Christ and to grow in God's Word**

***warm Spring rains!!**

***the consistory and our congregational family**

***those who do not know the love and hope of life with Jesus – May they open their hearts and minds this Easter season to the joy of Jesus and His resurrection!!!**



SUNSHINE FOR THE MONTH:

Jelly Bean Prayer

Red is for the blood He gave.
 Green is for the grass He made.
 Yellow is for the sun so bright.
 Orange is for the edge of night.
 Black is for the sins we made.
 White is for the grace He gave.
 Purple is for His hour of sorrow.
 Pink is for our new tomorrow.

A bag full of jellybeans,
 colorful and sweet
 is a prayer, is a promise,
 is an Easter treat!

Silly RABBIT

Easter

IS FOR

JESUS

EASTER M & M Poem

These candies tell a story, turn them in your hand in different directions, you will see the "M" becomes a "W", an "E" and then "3".

- "E" is Easter Sunday, the celebration that Jesus Lives
- "M" is for the Mercy & Miracles that He Freely gives.
- "3" to remind us that He rose on the third day.
- "W" stands for worship, and it's in His name we pray.

Easter Scavenger Hunt

sunhatsandwellieboots.com

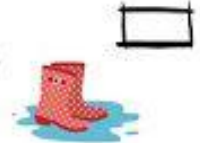
Search for 5 big green leaves.

People used leaves to welcome Jesus
 (Matthew 21:11)



Find a puddle & splash in it.

Jesus washes his friends' feet.
 (John 13:3-17)



Find some sticks & build a mini bug shelter.

Jesus turns the tables.
 (Matthew 21:2-22)



Look for a feather or a bird's nest.

Can you hear any birds?

The crowing cockerel.
 (Matthew 26:69-75)



Find something that has a strong smell.

The gift of expensive perfume.
 (Matthew 26:6-13)



Find 2 twigs & use them to make a cross on the ground.

The saddest day.
 (John 19:25-27)



Look for a branch that has lots of buds.

The story of the Fig Tree.
 (Matthew 24:32-35)



Find some stones & pile them up.

Is this the end?
 (John 19:40-42)



Search for something shiny or reflective.

30 shiny silver coins.
 (Matthew 26:14-16)



Search for the brightest flower.

The best day, Alleluia!
 (John 20:18)



Discover the events of Holy Week on a walk together

HYMN OF THE MONTH: “LEAD ME TO CALVARY”

*“And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him ...”
Luke 23:33 NKJV*

Jennie Hussey was born in Henniker, New Hampshire, on February 8, 1874, and lived most of her life in a farmhouse where four generations of her Quaker ancestors had lived. Much of her time was devoted to her helpless, invalid sister, but Jennie wasn't known to complain or grumble. She displayed a cheerful personality. Whenever weary, she would open her Bible and turn to the story of Calvary, finding there fresh strength.

Jennie eventually became disabled with deformative arthritis, but her attitude remained positive. “Please, Lord,” she said, “make me willing to bear my cross daily without complaining because You bore Yours for me.” It was out of that experience that she wrote, “Lead Me to Calvary,” with its last verse:

*May I be willing, Lord, to bear daily my cross for Thee;
Even Thy cup of grief to share - Thou hast borne all for me.*

When Jennie was baptized in the First Baptist Church of Concord, New Hampshire, she told the pastor, “I've spent so much of my life hidden away in the country, and I'd like to have the opportunity before God takes me home to tell everybody (that) I love Jesus.” Her request was fulfilled in this famous hymn, along with approximately one hundred fifty others that she wrote.

Jennie spent her last years in the Home for the Aged in Concord, New Hampshire, and passed away in 1958. Her remains were taken the seventeen miles back to Henniker, where she was buried in the Quaker Cemetery.

There's an interesting P.S. to her story. Civil War buffs know Jennie Hussey as the author of a famous poem called “The War Dog.” It's the true story of a stray mutt named Sallie who became attached to one of the soldiers from Pennsylvania and followed him into battle. When her master fell in battle, the dog refused to leave his body. Sallie was “adopted” as the mascot of the 11th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers, and she stayed with her soldiers until she was shot and killed at the Battle of Hatcher's Run, Virginia, in 1864. A cast bronze replica of Sallie stands today in Gettysburg National Military Park.

*Sallie was a lady; she was a soldier too -
She marched beside the colors, our own red, white, and blue.
It was in the days of our Civil War that she lived her life so true*



251 Lead Me to Calvary

When they arrived at the place called The Skull, they crucified Him there. Luke 23:33

1. King of my life, I crown Thee now, Thine shall the glo - ry be;
 2. Show me the tomb where Thou wast laid, Ten - der - ly mourned and wept;
 3. Let me like Ma - ry, through the gloom, Come with a gift to Thee;
 4. May I be will - ing, Lord, to bear Dai - ly my cross for Thee;

Lest I for - get Thy thorn - crowned brow, Lead me to Cal - va - ry.
 An - gels in robes of light ar - rayed Guard - ed Thee whilst Thou slept.
 Show to me now the emp - ty tomb, Lead me to Cal - va - ry.
 E - ven Thy cup of grief to share, Thou hast borne all for me.

Chorus

Lest I for - get Geth - sem - a - ne; Lest I for - get Thine ag - o - ny;

Lest I for - get Thy love for me, Lead me to Cal - va - ry.

(segue)



In Years Gone By ...

50 YEARS AGO – April 1975

I was unable to locate the bulletins from 1975. I will continue to look for them for future Innerglows.

25 YEARS AGO – April 2000

A spaghetti supper, baked good auction and slave auction was held at the Demco Center, sponsored by the RCYF, with all proceeds going to the Beek family for handicap accessibility.

The RCYF sponsored a breakfast following the Sunrise Easter Service.

Bailey Marie Jensen, daughter of Travis & Leanne (Chic) Jensen, was born.

Congratulations were shared with Kayla Nelson and Tiffany Vermeer as they made Profession of their Faith.

An All-Church Potluck dinner and wedding shower was held for Youth Advisor Scott Winters and his fiancé Emily Wickenhagen.

10 YEARS AGO – April 2015

Aubrey Lynn Mouw, daughter of Josh & Marissa Mouw, was born.

Zach & Jonah Fedders, sons of Brent & Shari Fedders, made professions of their faith.

A tip night at the Hull Pizza Ranch was held for Doug & Mel Reuvers.

5 YEARS AGO – March 2020

Even though Covid-19 made it so we could not worship together, weekly “bulletins” were sent out to keep communication open between the church and the congregation. On-line services were available through New Life Church in Sioux Center. During Lent, last years’ services were shared on our website.

Thanks and praise were shared for people who continued to mail in offerings.

Darrin Maassen and others from the 2168th Transportation Company from Sheldon were put on active duty to transport medical supplies and equipment across Iowa. Prayers were encouraged!

Larry Sietstra celebrated his 70th birthday and his family requested a card shower for him!

Congratulations to Zach & Kalena (Dekkers) Fedders who were married (outside!).

FUN WITH PICTURES!

**Congratulations to the beautiful little girl we often see “roaming” the church on Sunday mornings and keeping her family on their toes!! She has read 200 books before Kindergarten!!!!
Congrats Grace Mouw!!!**



Fund Balances February 2025

Awana	\$1,937.34
Benevolent Fund	\$20,741.35
Building & Repair Fund	\$9,596.21
General Fund	\$30,948.15
Memorial Fund	\$8,623.32
Mission Fund	\$1,124.19
Women's Ministry	\$3,037.19
Youth Funds	\$2,382.10

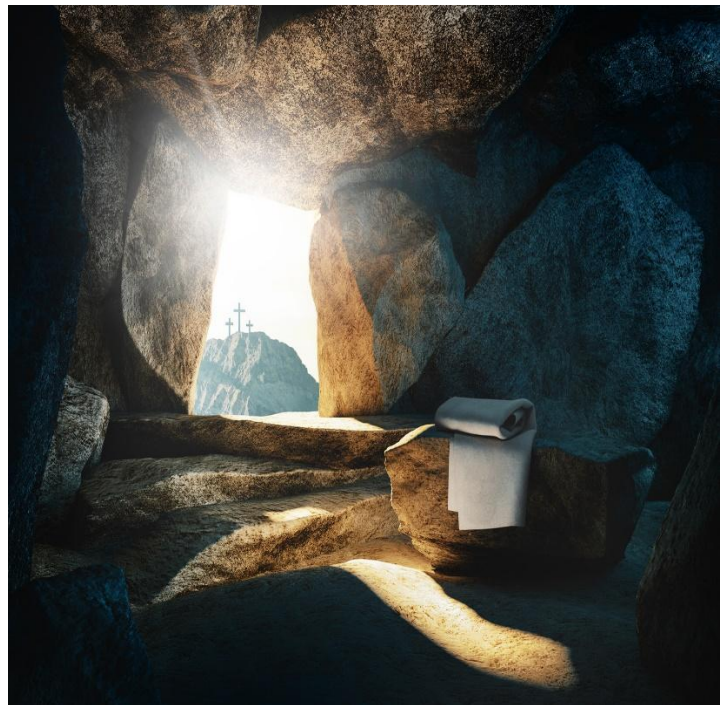
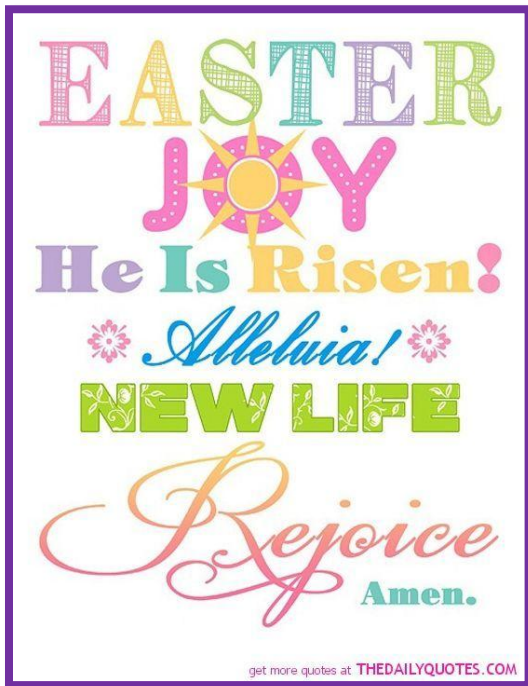


A Prayer for Easter

Lord,
Thank You for spending 33 years with us;
For announcing LOVE from the high heavens;
For introducing LOVE in an obscure manger setting;
For living LOVE in a family framework;
For sharing LOVE with the poor and deprived and diseased;
For showing LOVE to the unlovable and unloving;
For letting little children feel LOVE in Your arms;
For suffering on a cross because of LOVE;
For loosing LOVE upon the world to take up residence in us;
For Your LOVE that will not let us go.
Amen.

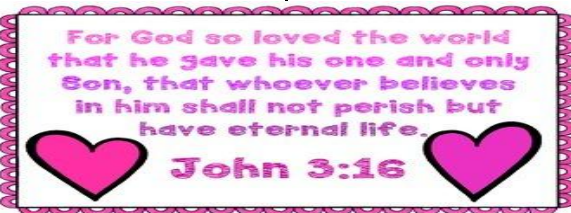






HAPPINESS IS ...

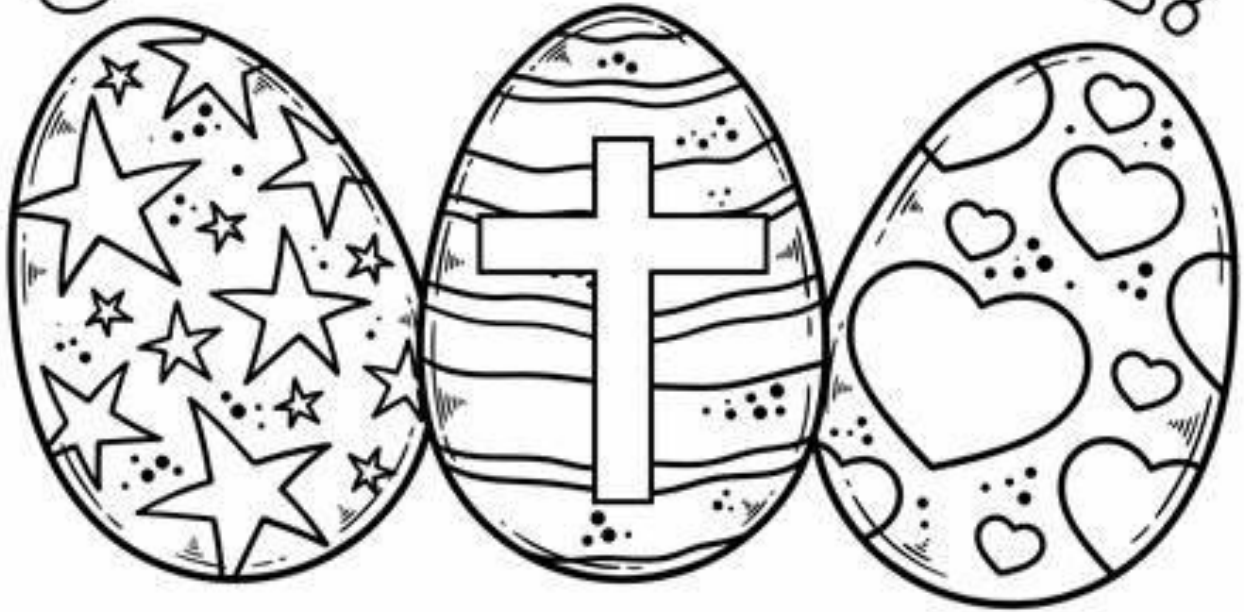


Easter reminds us that hope should never be lost for as dark as the road may seem, there always lies light at the end of it. May all your prayers be fulfilled and may wonderful blessings be upon you and all your loved ones this Easter season and throughout the year!

April

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
		<p>Men's Group 5:30am Evening Ladies' 7pm</p> <p>Dahson De Jong</p>	<p>Awana Carnival!</p>  <p>Trace Van Tilburg</p>		 <p>Jon Huls</p>	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<p>Pastor Doug Van Aartsen</p> <p>Mission Offering</p>		<p>Men's Group 5:30am Evening Ladies' 7pm Elders'/Deacons' Consistory Mtg 8 pm</p> <p>LuEtta Heemskerck</p>		<p>Ladies' Night Out! 5:30/5:45 pm</p>  <p>Sam Wiertzema</p>		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
<p>Palm Sunday!</p> 			<p>Shauna Neuman Roger & Lisa Nelson (42)</p>	<p>Maundy Thursday Service</p> 	<p>Good Friday Service at FRC w/United Presbyt.</p> 	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
<p>Easter Sunday!</p> <p>He is Risen!</p>  <p>Building & Repair Offering</p>	<p>Innerglow news due!</p>	<p>Earth Day!</p>  <p>Jamie Koele</p>		<p>Jacob Guse</p>		
27	28	29	30			
		<p>Kathy Ver Meer</p>				

JESUS IS ALIVE!



EASTER STORY

