



Metro Lutheran
Positive Parenting
April 2010

EASTER TRADITIONS

Last year, I thought very intentionally about our Easter traditions. My daughter-in-law's beloved father died of cancer just before Ash Wednesday, so the Lenten journey was mindful of a very personal stake in the resurrection. Our daughter-in-law hosted an early Easter dinner for her family last year. It had always been at her parents' home; this was the year for a new tradition. They lit a candle on each table to remember this amazing man.

Our family's Easter Sunday tradition has been to worship together, to celebrate the resurrection in the return of the alleluias, and to go directly to the cemetery, just minutes away, where my parents are buried. There, we gather each

year to tell two generations of our family the stories of the grandparents and great-grandparents they will not know in

this life, whose lives and stories have shaped all of us.

Yes, we do share an Easter dinner, so later in the afternoon, our family reassembled after naps to have dinner.

There

was an Easter egg hunt in the yard for our two grandchildren, five and three last Easter, followed by opening Easter baskets. These baskets had only a small curtsy to candy, and a number of items to help tell the story that changed all of human history. One was an alphabet book, based on Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. One was a foam carton of "Resurrection Eggs," each one holding a symbol of Holy Week, to help the children learn the story and be looking for the symbols that tell the story. Each child received an Easter Cube, which opens to tell the story in pictures and just a few words. This is a grandmother who is always thinking about providing "faith groceries."

Easter Monday, I sent the following email to my family:

Dear ones,

I woke up this morning, still feeling all of your loving presence in the house. Initially, I thought, "I love this house!"

Then, I realized that I don't love the house (oh, I like it very, very much); I love our family and every single moment of

every single day I know that what I love is this family, this collection of such incredible individuals. Thank you for making time together yesterday - at church, at the cemetery, at our home for dinner - a priority. I love you, each and all. My heart is full and so thankful.

All love,

Mom

This year, there is a new baby, who will need to hear the stories of Jesus, of faith family. Now, an older brother and

sister are being prepared to know the stories and to share them. I think this is part of what Jesus meant when his last words commanded all of us to "Go, make disciples."

How will you do that this season?

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

1. Plan ahead. For whom will you light a candle, in memory and appreciation, this Easter?
2. If graves aren't close by, frame pictures or put out memorabilia of those you have loved. Set aside some time on Easter to tell those stories.
3. In prayer today, thank God for those who have shaped you, who are now with God.
4. If you are filling Easter baskets for those you love, what could you place in the basket that helps them know and tell the story of Jesus' death and resurrection?
5. Tell your children (or grandchildren) your treasured Easter memories. What a wonderful way to link the generations, to help them know you, to pass on the things that stirred faith in you.