

Should we participate in Easter Celebrations?



Should we participate in Easter celebrations? What is the history of Easter and where did celebration of the day originate?

The name "Easter" never appears in the Greek New Testament. It is derived from the Anglo-Saxon *Eostre*, the name of the goddess of spring. By the 8th century this name had come to be applied to the

anniversary of Christ's resurrection. With the passage of time the connection with the goddess was lost, the only remaining meaning being associated with Christ's resurrection. To ask where and when practices originated is only partially valid, for most of our practices in everyday life have antecedents in the ancient world, often from nonbelievers. Over the centuries meanings change. Even the 60-minute hour came from the pagans of ancient Babylonia, and such time calculations play a part in our worship services today as we sense the passing of time.

Easter commemorates the resurrection of Jesus. Unquestionably the resurrection was of enormous importance to the apostolic church, for it figures prominently in the evangelistic messages from the apostles as recorded in the book of Acts. No issue is made about the date when it occurred, however, other than to note in a factual manner that the resurrection occurred on the first day of the week. There is no suggestion that the resurrection made a new day holy. In the Bible is to be found only one holy day of the week, the Sabbath, formed as a part of the creation process by God Himself, and never suspended. For that reason we observe only the Sabbath as sacred or holy time.

It is to be noted that the apostolic church never gave attention to either the date of Christ's birth or the date of His resurrection, other than to note that the latter occurred on a Sunday. Neither of these days was observed by early Christians and if our model is that of the apostolic church we will be guided by the New Testament reports. Indeed, in the third and fourth centuries a tremendous debate arose among Christian churches as to when Easter is to be observed. For the Roman Catholic branch it was largely settled at the Council of Nicaea (AD 325) with a rather artificial formula still followed to this day, which cannot possibly be commemoration of the actual resurrection. In current practice Easter always falls on a Sunday and the Sunday chosen wanders over a period of four weeks ranging from March 22-April 25.

The eastern branch of Christendom selected a different system, so that in the Eastern Orthodox tradition both Christmas and Easter fall on different dates from those in the Western Catholic and Protestant tradition. The point is that the early Christians gave no attention to commemorating the resurrection day of Christ. If they had been serious they would be observing the 17th day of the Jewish month, Nisan, which begins with the first new moon following the spring solstice. Passover among the Jews begins with the 14th day of Nisan. It would not be possible to commemorate the actual day of the month and have it always on Sunday, so the choice was made to have it on Sunday, adjusting the day of the month for convenience.

Given this information, although the resurrection of Jesus is a historical event of huge importance, we have no biblical precedent for making it a special day of celebration. That came in later centuries of Christian history. For this reason Seventh-day Adventists have never given the attention to Easter that other churches do. Our interest is to return to the practices and faith of the early Christian church.

However, we live in a society saturated with celebration of Easter. To a large degree this is driven, as with Christmas, by an opportunity to sell goods to people to mark the day. Clothing, in particular, is associated with Easter, as are toys with Christmas. In an effort to convey the idea that Adventists are believers in the resurrection, a few of our people have introduced Easter observances. They are fearful we will be misunderstood, and for them it is important that we be seen as orthodox and acceptable to the society around us. They conform to customs around us, at times unthoughtfully. Actually this practice conveys another misunderstanding — the idea that we give special significance to Sunday because it was the resurrection day. A few of our churches have introduced Sunday morning services for Easter, which for many Adventists creates problems. We recognize that we are not treating Sunday as holy time, but the public may not catch the subtle difference.

It is important that we encourage the leaders of our congregations to consider all the factors involved when they decide what to do with Easter. Several things are involved and need to be considered before making decisions. Often choices on matters such as this are made with minimal forethought. Always it is appropriate to allow the Scriptures to be our guide and to think carefully about the direction our actions will lead the church.

Although there exists no clear biblical reason for observing Easter as a religious festival, in parts of the world the public is so oriented to Easter observance that it is a time of year when they become open to special studies in the Bible. An opportunity opens to reach out to the public with the fuller message of Christ, often with good response. Under such circumstances Easter and its surrounding events can lend themselves to evangelistic outreach without, however, assigning any special religious meaning to the day itself. Wherever there is opportunity to advance the message of Christ without compromising biblical truth, the "wise as serpents, harmless as doves" counsel of Christ is appropriate.

George W. Reid is retired and is the former director of the Biblical Research Institute based at the General Conference in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Sabbath Together

April 20, 2019

Sabbath School 9:30 AM

Classroom 1 - *Traditional Quarterly*
 Classroom 20 - *Sabbath School at 11:00am*
 Classroom 14 - *Prayer Study - Jan Yates*
 Choir Room - *Bible Study - David Rendon*
 Youth Lounge - *Young Adult 18-35 - Daniel Davis*

Children's Classes:

Cradle Roll - Birth to 3: Classroom 3
 Kindergarten - Age 4 through 1st Grade: Classroom 4
 Primary - Grades 2-5: Classroom 2
 Juniors - Grades 5-8: Classroom 7
 High-School - Grades 9-12: Classroom 9

Classrooms are on the North, South & West Halls

Sabbath Worship Service 11:00 AM

Welcome		Pastor Ray
Call To Worship	<i>We Have This Hope</i>	Hymn 214
Hymn of Praise	<i>Draw Me Nearer</i>	Hymn 306
Children's Story		Archel Burda
	<i>The Lamb's Offering will benefit Church Landscape</i>	
	All children ages 5-14 are now invited to attend Children's Church in the Conference Center - Parental permission is requested	
Praise In Giving	Church Budget	Robert Plant, II
	~~~ <i>Tithe and all offerings also received at this time</i> ~~~	
Offering Response		Hymn 694
	<i>Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow</i>	
Song of Prayer	<i>In The Garden</i>	Hymn 487
Circle of Prayer		Joshua Shetler
Song of Response	<i>Hear Our Prayer, O Lord</i>	Hymn 684
Message in Song		Candy Juma
Message	<b>FOR YOUR FAMILY'S SAKE</b> (Part 2) <b>Learn How To Win A Fight!</b> I Corinthians 13:4 (NIV)	Pastor Ray
Closing Song	<i>At The Cross</i>	Hymn 163
Benediction	Postlude	Pastor Ray

~~~ Please remain seated until your row is dismissed ~~~

Praise Leader: Melwin Paez
Pianist: Emelyn Elaida

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Offering Next Week: Texico Ministries
Speaker Next Week: Dr. Ted Hamilton

Attendance Last Week: 193
 Deacon Today: David Riley

Today's Greeter: Tammy Allen

How To Reach Us

Pastor:

Ray Christman 202.340.5465
 Pastor Email Address: rchristman@texico.org

Board of Elders:

| | |
|---|--|
| Glenn Blake, Chair | 806.790.9549 |
| Luis Moreno | 956.999.3666 |
| Jose Orellana | 817.709.4068 |
| Robert Plant, II | 806.441.1090 |
| Melwin "Bim" Paez | 240.460.7923 |
| Ed Thorne | 806.535.4300 |
| Teddy Tubbs | 806.746.5540 |
| Cindy Riley, Treasurer | 806.928.9713 |
| David Riley, Chair, Board of Deacons | 806.577.2990 |
| Michele Crawford, Chair, Board of Deaconess | 970.901.0987 |
| Kathy Flyger, Church Event/Building Coordinator | 806.535.7770 |
| Church Office | 806.793.8614 |
| Church FAX | 806.799.5136 |
| Church Email Address | lubbockadventist@sbcglobal.net |
| Church Website: | http://www.lubbockadventist.org |
| Marybel Orellana; LJA Principal/Teacher | 817.709.3965 |
| Lubbock Junior Academy | 806.795.4481 |
| Adventist Book Center - Texas | 1.800.333.1844 |
| Texico Conference Office | 1.505.244.1611 |
| Conference Website: | http://www.texico.org/ |

FOR YOUR FAMILY'S SAKE



Friends & Visitors,

I believe with all my heart that God is at work to improve how we feel towards our individual families!

In our current sermon series, **"For Your Family's Sake (Part 2) – Learn How to Win a Fight!"**, we are continuing to learn from God's Word how to maximize this wonderful thing called... family!

"Love is Patient, love is kind ..."

(I Corinthians 13:4, NIV)

Today we're going to examine two questions with the hope of continued growth in one particular area ... communication. These questions are...

How should we communicate with our family when they've hurt us?

And,

How should we approach our family when we're the guilty party having made the mistake?

My prayer is that God will bless each of us along with those that we love the most as we make the commitment to healthy communication!

With love, Pastor Ray



LUBBOCK

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

MISSION STATEMENT

We, as children of the Living GOD, are here to

UPLIFT JESUS CHRIST,

His teachings and His commandments with all our hearts, souls and minds. As redeemed servants of Christ, we are to serve and to prepare all for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ as the Blessed Hope and encouragement for all mankind.

*Mailing Address: P O Box 6277
 Lubbock, TX 79493-6277*

**5302 Elgin Avenue
 Lubbock, Texas 79413
 806.793.8614**

Website: <http://www.lubbockadventist.org>

Prayer Requests

► CHURCH FINANCES

(for God's continual Leading as church and LJA projects are funded)

◆ **Our President, Leaders of our country, Leaders of our Church, our Pastors, Elders, School Teachers and Church Ministry Leaders**

◆ **All Disaster Victims - EARTHQUAKES, FIRES & FLOODS**

◆ **Pray for Christ's followers who are being persecuted and/or killed for their faith world wide.**

- ◆ Debbie Bellknap (Stage-4 Cancer)
- ◆ John Brown (healing)
- ◆ Irma Brown's daughter Rachel
- ◆ David Cartwright (healing)
- ◆ Donna Cartwright (health)
- ◆ Joe Castillo (health/healing)
- ◆ Karen Contreras (health)
- ◆ Michele Crawford's nephew Ryan Conley (healing)
- ◆ Lita Flores (healing)
- ◆ Jaydee Fremgen (health/healing)
- ◆ Johnson Fung (miraculous healing)
- ◆ Margaret Gaines family (grief)
- ◆ Faith Krause (health)
- ◆ Flo McIntire (health)
- ◆ Angel Moreno (Safety & Peace)

- ◆ Debra Murphree's cousin's husband, Randy; and her Aunt's granddaughter, Lexie (both with serious health problems)
- ◆ Sherry Muse (Divine guidance)
- ◆ James Petty (relief from back pain)
- ◆ Jennifer Petty (continued healing)
- ◆ Petty's niece, Lisa Stewart (health)
- ◆ Petty's niece, Melinda (healing)
- ◆ Petty's Grandson, Bryce
- ◆ Petty's neighbor "Luis" (healing)
- ◆ Kathy Phillips (health/healing)
- ◆ Rebekka Plummer's friend "Jesse"
- ◆ Josh Ramirez (spiritual healing)
- ◆ Cindy Riley's brother (praise)
- ◆ Cindy Riley's sister (healing)
- ◆ Esther Slaughter (health)
- ◆ Brenda Stephenson's friend "Kay" (leg amputation)
- ◆ Grace Summerlin (health)
- ◆ MaryAnn Ulery's co-worker, brother & friend (health, guidance & deliverance)
- ◆ Aaron Tygart (healing both spiritual & Physical healing)
- ◆ Kathy Yates brother "Ray" (continued healing)
- ◆ Jan Yates (health)
- ◆ Duane Young Family (healing both physical & Emotional from grief)
- ◆ **Unspoken** prayer requests Healing, finances and families.

Intercessory Prayer

And I sought for a man among them that should make up the hedge and stand in the gap before me for . . .

Name: \_\_\_\_\_
(Optional)

Please stand in the gap for me - that God's divine will be done regarding the following . . .

Fill in your request, tear off, place in the Offering plate, or give directly to the Pastor or to one of the Elders.

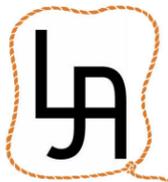
May God Bless You!

Prayer FAX Line 806.799.5136

Email: lubbockadventist@sbcglobal.net

4/20/19

Lubbock Junior Academy . . .



Accepting students for 2019-2020 School year

Student Handbook & Applications are available at the church office.

Lubbock Junior Academy

School Motto

Building A Better World ~ One Child at a time

~ ~ ~ "Like" us on Facebook ~ ~ ~

Please feel free to contact:

Marybel Orellana, M.Ed., Principal and Teacher
Email: morellana@texico.org

Phone or Text 817.709.3965 School 806.795.4481

Connie Buckman - School Board Chair, 817.296.0874
Cindy Riley, Treasurer, 806.928.9713
Glenn Blake, 806.790.9549
or the Church Office, 806.793.8614

CHURCH ROOF LOAN

| 2018 | Payment | Received | |
|------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Jan-June | \$21,264 | \$23,071 | \$1,807 |
| July-Dec | \$21,264 | \$21,934 | \$ 670 |
| Jan 2019 | \$ 3,544 | \$ 3,435 | (\$ 109) |
| Feb 2019 | \$ 3,544 | \$ 2,802 | (\$ 742) |
| March '19 | \$ 3,544 | \$ 3,929 | \$ 385 |
| April 2019 | \$ 3,544 | \$ 1,749 | \$1,795 |

CHURCH FINANCES AT A GLANCE

| TITHE | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|---------|
| | This Year | Last Year | |
| March 2019 | (Jan-March) YTD 2019 | (Jan-March) YTD 2018 | |
| \$25,316 | \$72,597 | \$72,559 | |
| CHURCH BUDGET | | | |
| April 2019 | Required | Received | Need |
| | \$12,330 | \$4,134 | \$8,526 |
| ROOF LOAN | | | |
| Original Roof Loan | (15-Year Note) Monthly Payment | Balance 3/31/19 | |
| \$420,000 | \$3,544/month | \$342,061 | |

~ ~ Thank You For Remembering our Church Expenses ~ ~
A total of \$12,655 is required monthly for every ministry to be fully funded.

Please place your contribution in an offering envelope and designate the ministry to which your offering is to be allocated, Undesignated offerings will go to the Church Budget.

All the ministry efforts of the Lubbock Seventh-day Adventist Church have been made possible by your generous contributions and faithful stewardship. You are deeply appreciated and your financial support is making a significant difference.

For your convenience, there is also a link for online giving, <http://www.lubbockadventist.org>

Upcoming Events

All-Church Sabbath School - Sabbath, April 27, 9:30-9:55am, in the Sanctuary. Leaders: Anita McChesney and Hans Burda

Guest Speaker - Sabbath, April 27, **Dr. Ted Hamilton with AdventHealth**
Dr. Ted Hamilton is a renowned speaker, family medicine physician. He is currently Chief Integration Officer and Senior Vice President of Mission and Ministry for AdventHealth with 47 hospitals across the US.

Fun Run - Sunday, April 28, 10:00am - Leftwich Park Hosted by the Social Committee.

LJA "Week of Prayer" - April 29-May 3, 9:30am With Pastor Bill Kilgore - in the LJA Chapel

Hand-out Literature & LJA Flyer Door-to-Door, with Pastor Kilgore, Students & Volunteers.
Thursday, May 2, 9:30am - Meet in the LJA Classroom

Guest Speaker - Sabbath, May 4, Dr. Bill Kilgore, Retired Theology Professor & Vice-President of Spiritual Development at Southwestern Adventist University.

Sabbath School Council - Sabbath, May 4, Following the Worship Service

YAM Hosts AY - Sabbath, May 4, 6:00-7:00pm in the Youth Lounge. All Adventist Youth, ages 12-17, are invited to join the Young Adult Ministry (YAM) group the first Sabbath of each month from 6 to 7pm.

Men's Breakfast - Sunday, May 5, 9:00am. All men are invited to meet at Golden Corral for Breakfast and Fellowship

Women's Prayer Breakfast - Sunday, May 5, 9:00am. All women are invited to the home of Anita McChesney.

Piano Recital - Sunday, May 5, 3:00-5:00pm in the Worship Center. Everyone is invited to enjoy a recital by Ms. YaLi students. Reception will follow in the Youth Lounge.

LJA Annual Constituency - Thursday, May 9, 6:00pm, in the Conference Center

"Anti-Bully" Report - Thursday, May 9, 7:00pm - Conference Center. Presented by Derral Reeve, for School Board Members, Parents and church family

BAPTISM

Sabbath, May 11, at least three LJA Students will be baptized. If you would like to be baptized please talk with Pastor Ray or one of our Elders.

Welcome

to the Lubbock Seventh-day Adventist Church.
It is good to have you with us today. We pray that our time together assists you in your growth in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

If you are visiting, please speak with one of our Elders or Deacons — who are here to greet you. We are glad you have chosen to worship with us today.

If you are looking for a church home, we pray you will find it with us! We would love to welcome you into our church by baptism, by your profession of faith in Jesus, or by transfer from another Seventh-day Adventist church. Our pastor or church clerk will be happy to help you make membership arrangements.

Today's Events

9:30am - Spanish Worship Service - Classroom 20

9:30am - Sabbath School - Church in Bible Study

11:00am - Divine Worship Service - Worship Center

11:00am - Spanish Divine Worship Service - Room 20

11:00am - Divine Worship Service - Worship Center

5:00pm - Prayer Warriors - Classroom I

7:00pm - "Young Adult Ministries" Vespers - Will meet in the Youth Lounge.

7:00pm - Sundown Vespers - Classroom I

The Joy and Blessing of the Sabbath
Concludes today at 8:22pm
Begins next Friday at 8:26pm

Events This Week

Sunday - April 21 - EASTER Sunday

Monday - April 22
7:00pm - Men's Prayer Ministry - Board Room

Wednesday - April 24
7:00pm - Prophecy Class - Choir Room
7:00-8:00pm - Spanish Prayer Meeting - Classroom 20

Thursday - April 25
9:00am - LJA field trip for Tennis Lessons

Friday - April 27
5:00pm - Dr. Ted Hamilton to speak in Room ABC100 in the Health Sciences Building at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. Brought to you by your Health Ministries Team.

Join us as Dr. Ted Hamilton comes to Texas Tech for AdventHealth. Ted Hamilton is a renowned speaker, family medicine physician of over 49 years, Chief Integration Officer and Senior Vice President of Mission and Ministry for AdventHealth with 47 hospitals across the US.

7:00pm - Prayer Ministry - Board Room

8:26pm the Joy and Blessings of the Sabbath begins.