

Living Faith @



Dear Faith Shapers,

Happy April and Happy Easter! “*Christ is Risen – Alleluia!*” Speaking of “Alleluia,” did your church bury the “Alleluia” during Lent? Some churches abstain from saying or singing ‘Alleluia’ during Lent. “Burying” the Alleluia or hiding it is a great visual for both children and adults - but to be clear, this is not a required liturgical practice! It’s simply another way to remind us of the solemnity of Lent, which always leads us to the joy of the resurrection as we once again proclaim: “*Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed! ALLELUIA!*”

As a pastor, (and a grandma!) I love getting brightly colored artwork from children. I have included this coloring page that celebrates the Risen Christ! Have your children or Sunday School class color it or decorate it however they want to, and then have them give it to the pastor – they will love it!

A black and white line drawing of a sun rising over a horizon. The sun is partially obscured by the horizon line, with rays emanating from behind it. The text is overlaid on this background.

CHRIST
IS RISEN!

ALLELUIA!

Did you know that the month of April is also "National Humor Month?" Larry Wilde, author and humorist, started National Humor Month in April 1976. He created this day as a way to bring public awareness of the therapeutic value of humor. (nationaltoday.com)



Some churches celebrate the Sunday following Easter with *Holy Hilarity/Holy Humor Sunday; God's Laughter Sunday; or Bright Sunday.* It is believed to have come from early church theologians (like Augustine and Gregory of Nyssa) who mused that God played a practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead.

The Sunday after Easter is often labeled "Low Sunday" because of low attendance. This might just be the "spark" we all need to keep the joy of Christ's resurrection going throughout the whole Easter season - *Laughter is the best medicine - and so good for the soul!*

Here is a great resource for celebrating *Holy Humor* either in Sunday worship, or with your family throughout April - and beyond: <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/search?q=Holy+Humor+>



This information is prepared for you by the Northeastern Iowa Synod – Home Life Network for use by families and local congregations. Like our page on Facebook and our posted resources will appear in your newsfeed. Our page is [Home Life « NORTHEASTERN IOWA SYNOD \(neiasynod.org\)](http://HomeLife«NORTHEASTERNIOWASYNOD(neiasynod.org))

