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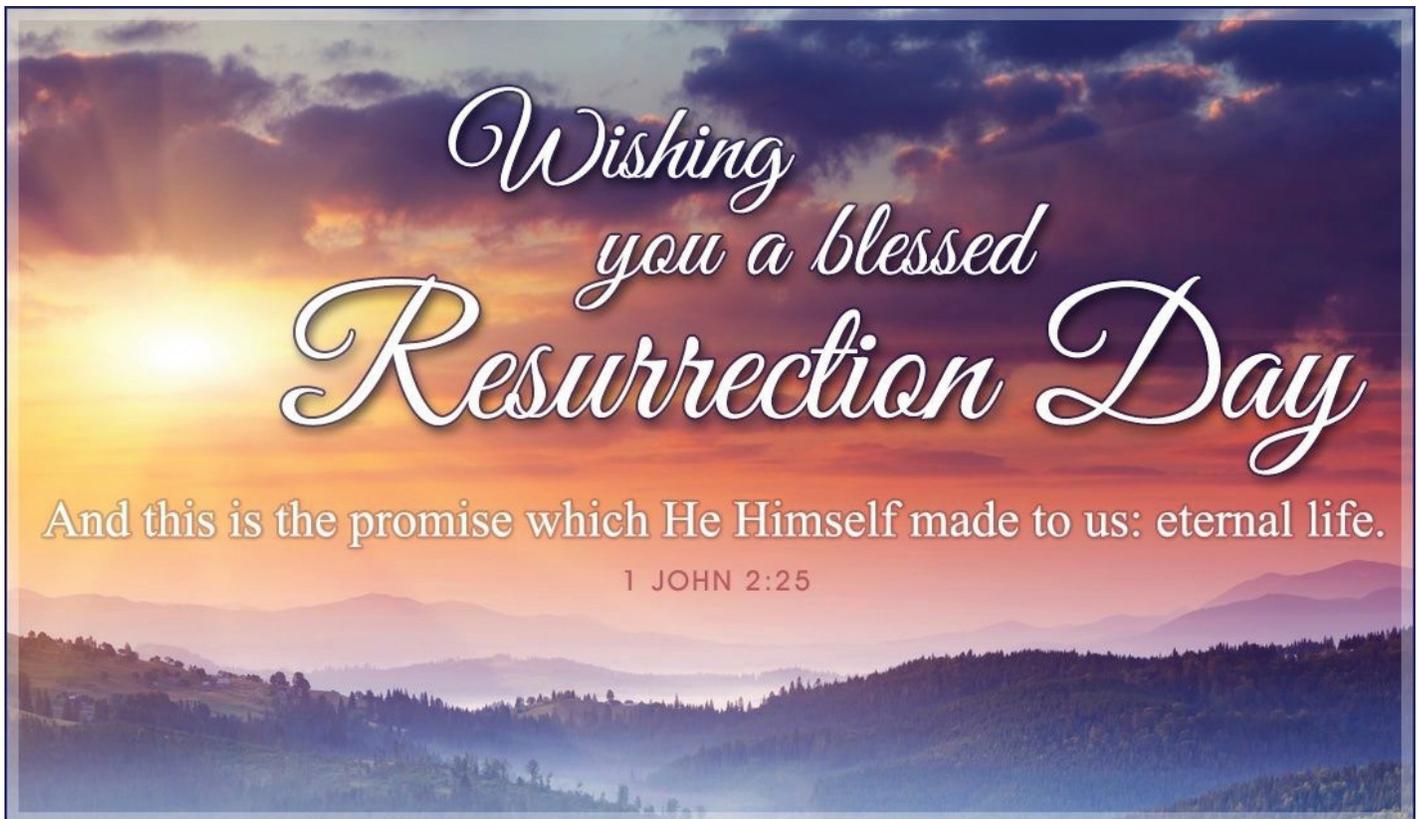
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**OPEN:** Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.

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## Taking the Cure for Sleep Apnea



By Richard P. Holm, MD ~ Prairie Doc® Perspectives

Mr. S had gained some weight. His wife noted his snoring was getting worse and he was having spells when he would stop breathing during sleep. She informed his doctor who prescribed a home overnight oximetry test. This home test showed Mr. S's oxygen levels were dropping dangerously low during much of night. The subsequent full sleep study indicated he would benefit from a continuous positive airway pressure or CPAP device. Five years later, the patient died from a heart attack, and the doctor found out that the CPAP machine stayed under his bed and was rarely, if ever, used. One study showed, despite its benefits, only 30 percent of those prescribed CPAP will actually use it.

An estimated 22 million Americans suffer from sleep apnea and the majority don't know they have it. Their sleep is interrupted by snoring, choking and prolonged spells of low oxygen levels. Their days are troubled by fatigue, sleepiness, often abnormal heart rhythms and heart failure. Their risk of stroke over five years is two to three times higher than usual and risk of all-cause premature death three to five times higher. One estimate is that 38,000 annual deaths in the U.S. will occur from heart disease due to untreated sleep apnea.

Making the diagnosis is challenging. In 2016, we gave a standardized questionnaire to screen for sleep apnea to 67 people who were 70-years-old or older. Following that, we tested all 67 with home overnight oximetry. Of the 67 tested, 42 percent were normal, 31 percent had mild sleep apnea and 26 percent had moderate to severe sleep apnea. Conclusions from my study were that in this older age group, the commonly used screening questionnaires for sleep apnea misses the diagnosis half the time, about one out of four have life-threatening sleep apnea and, in this older population, women and men are equally burdened by this condition.

Anyone with heart disease, high blood pressure, obesity, a history of heavy snoring or observed spells of apnea (and maybe anyone reaching 70) would benefit from a home overnight oximetry test and, if this test is abnormal, from a full sleep study. If CPAP is prescribed, it would be wise for that individual to make every effort to use the CPAP device, knowing that this non-medicinal therapy reduces death rate by three to five times.

Many premature deaths, especially from heart disease, could be prevented by first discovering the diagnosis of sleep apnea and then, when apropos, by taking the CPAP cure.

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## Monday, April 22

No School - Easter Vacation

## Tuesday, April 23

**Cancelled:** Track meet in Groton

7 p.m.: City Council meeting at the Groton Community Center

7 p.m.: School Board meeting at the multipurpose room.

2:15 p.m.: Tour of Kindness program at Groton Area Elementary. Justine Kougal began the Tour of Kindness last year when her daughter turned 2, she was born with Treacher Collins Syndrome, the same as Auggie in the movie Wonder. She is traveling around the Midwest to schools throughout the region to spread the word of kindness and making the choice to Be The Difference and Choose Kind to kids and adults alike. The public is invited to attend.

## Thursday, April 25, 2019

10:00am: Golf: Girls Varsity Meet @ Redfield Golf Course

3:30pm: Track: 7th/8th Meet @ Milbank High School

## Friday, April 26, 2019

1:00pm: Track: Varsity Meet @ Sisseton High School

## Saturday, April 27, 2019

7 p.m.: Prom at Groton Area High School

## Sunday, April 28, 2019

2 p.m. - 5 p.m.: Bridal Shower for Emily Kern at Emmanuel Lutheran Church

5:30 p.m.: Princesses Prom Grand March at the GHS Gym

## Monday, April 29, 2019

2:00pm: Track: 7th/8th Meet @ Redfield Jr-Sr High School

## Tuesday, April 30, 2019

8:30am- 3:30pm: KG Roundup (Screening) at Groton Area Elementary School

1:00pm: Track: Varsity Meet @ Milbank High School

DI Pork Loin Meal, 5-7 p.m., HS Gym.

7:00pm: Middle School Spring Concert

## Wednesday, May 1, 2019

7 p.m.: Carnival of Silver Skates annual meeting at the warming house.

## Thursday, May 2, 2019

10:00am: Golf: Girls Varsity Meet @ Lee Park Golf Course

DI Pork Loin Meal, 5-7 p.m., HS Gym.

7:00pm: High School Spring Concert and Awards Night

## Friday, May 3, 2019

Howard Wood Relays in Sioux Falls

4:00pm: Track: Varsity Meet @ Sisseton High School

7:00pm: FFA Banquet Groton Area High School

## Saturday, May 4, 2019

8 a.m. to 3 p.m.: Groton City-wide Rummage Sale

Howard Wood Relays in Sioux Falls

## Sunday, May 5, 2019

5:00 p.m. Groton Softball, Baseball and T-Ball parent meeting at the Legion

**Come and go Bridal shower for Emily Kern, bride to be of Nathan Skadsen,  
Sunday, April 28 2019 2-5 pm at  
Emmanuel Lutheran Church**

*Upcoming*  
**COMMUNITY  
EVENTS**

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**Groton Area's**

# KG

# Roundup

**has been rescheduled to  
April 30th**

**All scheduled times will stay the same. Please contact Heidi Krueger at the elementary school to confirm this new date.**

**605/397-2317**

## Groton City Notice

**Sump Pumps must  
be discharged  
OUTSIDE!**

**Failure to comply will result in fines.**

## Hiring High Schoolers!

If you are 16 or older and need a summer job, the Groton Rehabilitation Center has the job for you!

During the summer, you can work inside and get some experience for a CNA career in the future!

We are an equal employment opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status or any other characteristic protected by law.



1106 N 2nd Street ~ Groton, SD ~ 605-397-2365

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2018-2019 Tuff Tiger season award winners. (L to R) Mason Locke, Hank Hill, Huntley Overacker, Savannah Rondell, Wyatt Hagan, Keegan Kucker. (Photo from Groton Area Tuff Tiger Facebook Page)

## NOW HIRING!

### Truss Pros

10954 424th Avenue | Britton, SD 57430

Looking for assemblers - both shifts

\* New Starting Wage - \$15/hr day shift and  
\$16/hr night shift  
Overtime Available

#### BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Comprehensive Health,
- Dental & Vision insurance
- Life Insurance
- Short-term Disability and Long-term Disability
- 401k
- Holiday Pay
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- Referral Bonuses

To apply visit [www.uslbm.com/careers](http://www.uslbm.com/careers) or call Diane at 605-448-2929.

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## Today in Weather History

April 21, 2007: Heavy rains of 2 to 2.50 inches caused flash flooding in and around Watertown. Many streets were flooded in town, along with several roads outside of town. A warm front extending across the region was the focus for heavy rain, along with severe weather, during the evening across far north-east South Dakota. Hail up to the size of quarters, along with heavy rains of over 2 inches, caused some flooding mainly in Codington and Hamlin counties.

1885: A tornado struck the town of Denison, Texas in 1883 that destroyed a church. The congregation rebuilt the church. On this date, a second tornado destroyed the newly rebuilt church.

1958 - Portions of Montana were in the midst of a spring snowburst. Snowfall amounts ranged up to 55 inches at Red Lodge, 61 inches at Nye Mine, and 72 inches at Mystic Lake. (David Ludlum)

1967 - Severe thunderstorms spawned 48 tornadoes in the Upper Midwest. Hardest hit was northern Illinois where sixteen tornadoes touched down during the afternoon and evening hours causing fifty million dollars damage. On that Friday afternoon tornadoes struck Belvidere IL, and the Chicago suburb of Oak Lawn, killing 57 persons. (David Ludlum)

1980 - The temperature at International Falls MN hit 90 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1987 - Unseasonably warm weather prevailed from the Gulf of Mexico to New England and the Great Lakes Region, with twenty-nine cities reporting record high temperatures for the date. Afternoon highs of 82 degrees at Caribou ME, 94 degrees at Mobile AL, 95 degrees at Monroe LA, and 93 degrees at New Orleans LA, were records for the month of April. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - After having had just twelve rainouts in the previous twenty-six years at Dodger Stadium, a third day of heavy rain in southern California rained out a double-header at Dodger Stadium which had been scheduled due to rainouts the previous two days. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - The temperature at Las Animas, CO, soared to 100 degrees to establish a state record for April. Twenty-two cities in the central and southwestern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Eight cities equalled or exceeded previous April records. (The Weather Channel) (The National Weather Summary)

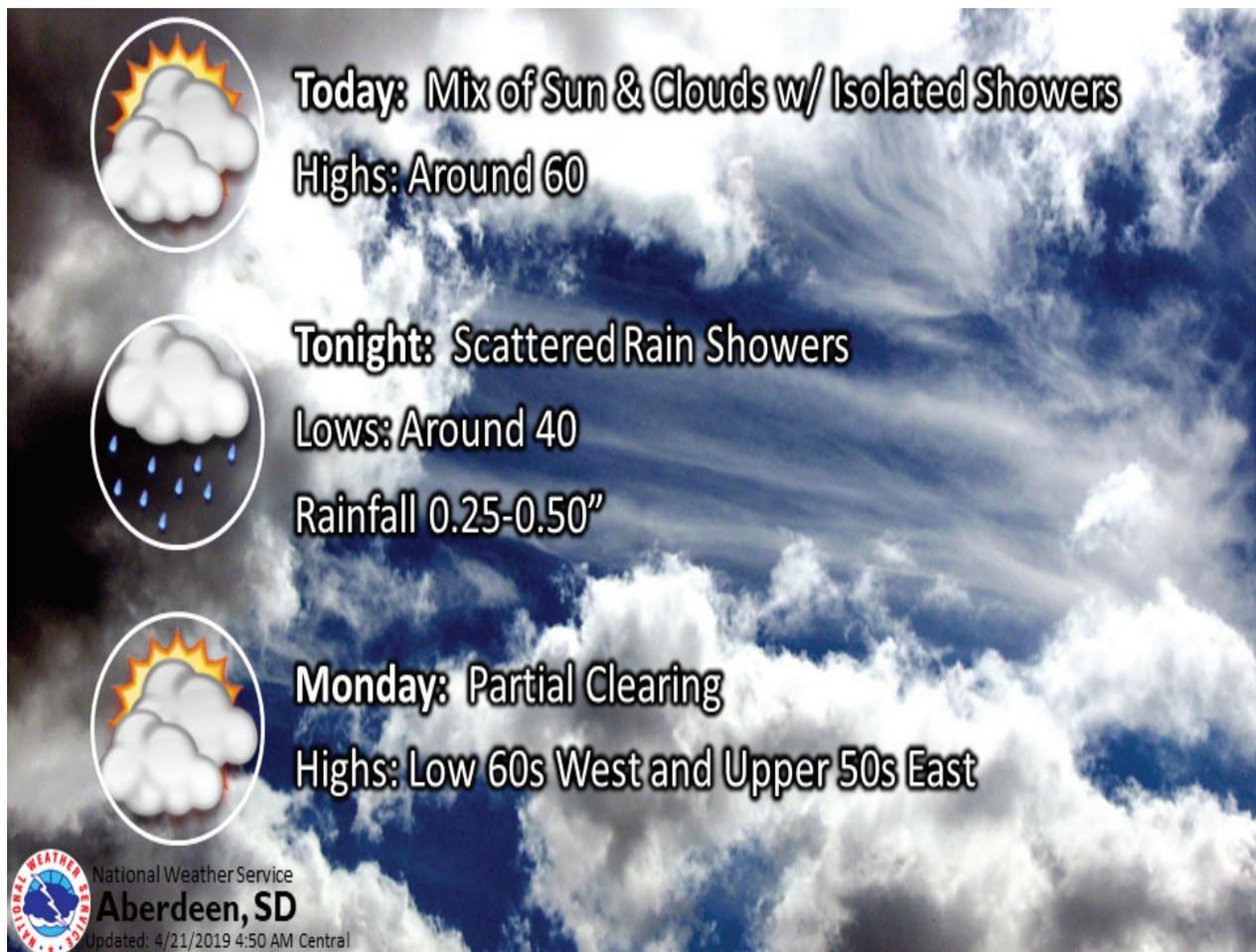
1990 - Afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced golf ball size hail in Oklahoma, and also caused some flash flooding in the state. Thunderstorms over the Southern High Plains produced golf ball size hail at Roswell NM and El Paso TX. Easterly winds and temperatures near zero produced wind chill readings as cold as 50 degrees below zero for the spring festival (Piuraagiaqta) outdoor events at Barrow AK. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2007 - The South Plains and Panhandle of West Texas were hit by an outbreak of severe thunderstorms. Between the hours of 5 and 6 pm, several thunderstorms developed across the western South Plains. Around 7 pm, a supercell produced a tornado which touched down around Fieldton (southwest of Olton) and then moved just south and east of Olton, doing damage to several structures and equipment. The thunderstorm continued to move northeast across northeast Lamb, northwest Hale, southeast Castro and southwest Swisher Counties, producing a long-lived tornado (along with hail up to the size of tennis balls). By 7:45 pm, the storm approached the town of Tulia in Swisher County. A tornado touchdown was reported in the town, causing major damage. The tornadic thunderstorm continued to move northeast across Swisher County over open country through about 8:30 pm. (NWS Lubbock, TX)

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Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
				
Increasing Clouds and Breezy	Chance Showers and Breezy	Partly Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny
High: 59 °F	Low: 42 °F	High: 61 °F	Low: 37 °F	High: 66 °F



**Today:** Mix of Sun & Clouds w/ Isolated Showers  
Highs: Around 60

**Tonight:** Scattered Rain Showers  
Lows: Around 40  
Rainfall 0.25-0.50"

**Monday:** Partial Clearing  
Highs: Low 60s West and Upper 50s East

 National Weather Service  
**Aberdeen, SD**  
Updated: 4/21/2019 4:50 AM Central

Published on: 04/21/2019 at 6:09AM

A weak system to the south means we will see cooler temperatures and rain showers to close out the weekend and for the start of the work week. Readings are expected to gradually warm going into next week however.

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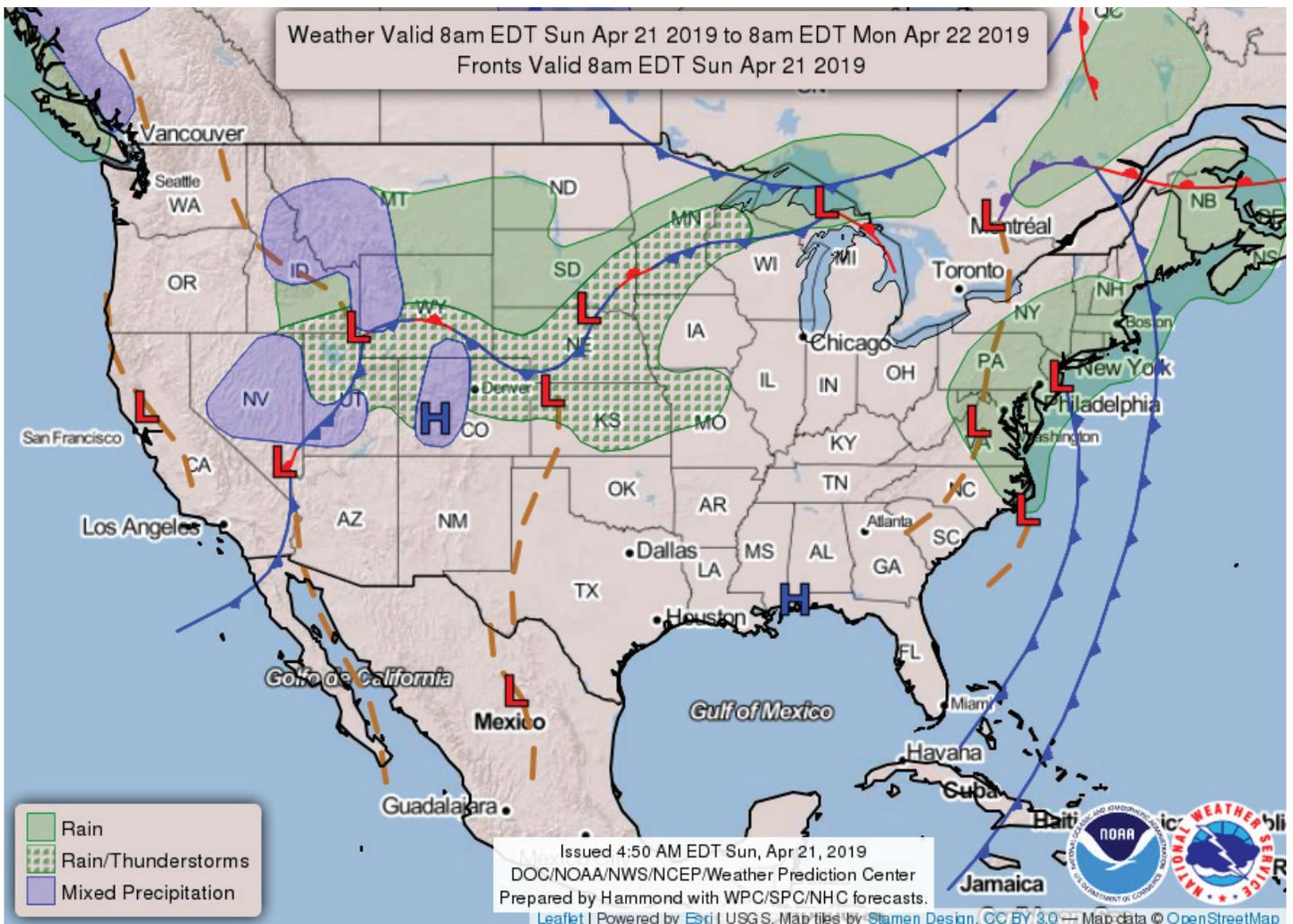
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## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 85 °F at 5:17 PM**  
**Low Outside Temp: 47 °F at 6:48 AM**  
**High Gust: 26 mph at 8:40 PM**  
**Precip: 0.00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 97° in 1980**  
**Record Low: 16° in 1936**  
**Average High: 60°F**  
**Average Low: 34°F**  
**Average Precip in April.: 1.04**  
**Precip to date in April.: 1.42**  
**Average Precip to date: 3.22**  
**Precip Year to Date: 4.46**  
**Sunset Tonight: 8:27 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:37 a.m.**



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## HOW MUCH MORE?

How much more? is a familiar phrase. As in, How much more do you want from me... or How much more of this do you think I can take... or How much more is there in life... or How much more can be done... And, the list could go on and on.

Those three words appear four times in the Book of Proverbs and the words, How much less appears twice. There are several lines of thought about their meaning: Some think they are too good to be true; some think they are overly simplistic; some think their promises are vastly overstated while others think they apply to the spiritual realm alone and are completely future-oriented.

If the righteous receive their due on earth, how much more the ungodly and the sinner, writes Solomon. Is there a simple message in these few words that we may try to complicate for the sake of discussion? Perhaps.

There is a popular opinion among many that some sins are not bad, or that they can sin and get away with it. But, that opinion is not supported by Scripture. Besides, when we want to know what sin is, where it comes from, and what to do about it, we do not go to psychologists or philosophers: We go to Gods Word!

As far as riches and righteousness, sin and unholy living go, Solomon has some advice: The righteous do receive their due on earth; how much more the ungodly! Jesus said: What a man sows he will reap. Sow righteousness reap Gods blessings. Sow evil reap suffering!

God will reward each of us for the way we live - now and in the life to come.

Prayer: Please, Lord, give me a desire to live a righteous life - a life that is worthy of Your unending blessings! May I walk in Your paths and always follow You! In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 11:31 If the righteous receive their due on earth, how much more the ungodly and the sinner!

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## 2019 Groton SD Community Events

- 01/27/2019 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm (Last Sunday of January)
- 03/17/2019 Legion Post #39 Spring Fundraiser (Sunday closest to St. Patrick's Day, every other year)
- 04/13/2019 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 04/27/2019 Fireman's Stag (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- 05/04/2019 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 05/27/2019 Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Program (Memorial Day)
- 06/13/2019 Transit Fundraiser (Thursday Mid-June)
- 06/14/2019 SDSU Golf Tournament at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 06/15/2019 Triathlon (Saturday before Father's Day)
- 06/21/2019 Best Ball Golf Tourney
- 06/22-23/2019 Groton Junior Legion Tournament
- 06/29/2019 Groton U10/U12 Round Robin Tournament
- 07/04/2019 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 07/14/2019 Summer Fest/Car Show (Sunday Mid-July)
- 07/18/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course Pro Am Tournament
- 07/21/2019 Granary Ice Cream Social & Family Music Fest
- 08/02/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course Wine on Nine
- 08/09-11/2019 State Junior Legion Tournament in Groton
- 08/22/2019 First Day of School
- 09/07/2019 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 09/08/2019 Sunflower Classic at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 09/08/2019 Granary Living History Fall Festival
- 10/12/2019 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/11/2019 Lake Region Marching Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/31/2019 Trunk or Treat/Halloween on Main (Halloween)
- 11/09/2019 Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 12/07/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course Holiday Party
- 12/07/2019 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services
- Bingo: every Wednesday, Labor Day-Memorial Day, 6:30pm at the Legion Post #39

## 2020 Groton SD Community Events

- 4/4/2020 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 4/25/2020 Fireman's Stag (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- 5/2/2020 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)

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News from the  Associated Press

## SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) \_ These South Dakota lotteries were drawn Saturday:

Dakota Cash

15-21-23-25-29

(fifteen, twenty-one, twenty-three, twenty-five, twenty-nine)

Estimated jackpot: \$287,000

Lotto America

02-27-32-36-50, Star Ball: 8, ASB: 2

(two, twenty-seven, thirty-two, thirty-six, fifty; Star Ball: eight; ASB: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$18.6 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$192 million

Powerball

03-27-30-63-65, Powerball: 1, Power Play: 3

(three, twenty-seven, thirty, sixty-three, sixty-five; Powerball: one; Power Play: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$136 million

## South Dakota wants to buy part of abandoned Black Hills mine

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota wants to purchase part of an abandoned mine site at the Black Hills National Forest where the Environmental Protection Agency has been conducting a cleanup for nearly two decades.

Ryan Brunner, the state commissioner of school and public lands, recently met with the national forest's advisory board about the former Gilt Edge Mine near Lead, the Rapid City Journal reported.

South Dakota already owns most of the land within the cleanup boundaries of the mine site, but there are still some parcels that are part of the national forest or privately owned, Brunner said.

The state is interested in consolidating its ownership of the land because federal law says the site will be the state's responsibility after the EPA cleanup is complete, he said.

"If we have to manage it, it would make sense that we're the owner," Brunner said.

Brunner said the land sale would need congressional legislation, which hasn't been drafted yet.

Brohm Mining was the last company that mined for gold at Gilt Edge. The company declared bankruptcy in 1999, leaving behind 150 million gallons of acidic water that was laden with contaminants, such as arsenic and lead.

The EPA added the mine to its National Priorities List in 2000, making its cleanup eligible for funding from the federal Superfund program. The federal agency has been covering some areas of exposed rock with dirt and vegetation, as well as treating polluted water.

The EPA has estimated that roughly \$120 million has been spent on cleaning up the site, as of last fall. Most of the money came from federal funding, while some came from settlements with the mine's past operators and the state of South Dakota.

The EPA last year approved a deal to allow Canada-based Agnico Eagle Mines to conduct a water pollution study at the site, which included drilling holes to find the source of toxic cadmium contamination in Strawberry Creek. In exchange, Agnico can take core samples from the mine to decide whether it's interested in re-mining.

Gregg Loptien, the U.S. exploration manager for Agnico, said he wasn't aware of the state's proposal to purchase more land within the cleanup boundaries of the mine. He said the company is focused on its

ongoing drilling operation.

Information from: Rapid City Journal, <http://www.rapidcityjournal.com>

## As Russia probe began, Trump called on spy chiefs for help

By **DEB RIECHMANN** and **SUSANNAH GEORGE** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two months before special counsel Robert Mueller was appointed in the spring of 2017, President Donald Trump picked up the phone and called the head of the largest U.S. intelligence agency. Trump told Mike Rogers, director of the National Security Agency, that news stories alleging that Trump's 2016 White House campaign had ties to Russia were false and the president asked whether Rogers could do anything to counter them.

Rogers and his deputy Richard Ledgett, who was present for the call, were taken aback.

Afterward, Ledgett wrote a memo about the conversation and Trump's request. He and Rogers signed it and stashed it in a safe. Ledgett said it was the "most unusual thing he had experienced in 40 years of government service."

Trump's outreach to Rogers, who retired last year, and other top intelligence officials stands in sharp contrast to his public, combative stance toward his intelligence agencies. At the time of the call, Trump was just some 60 days into his presidency, but he already had managed to alienate large parts of the intelligence apparatus with comments denigrating the profession.

Since then, Trump only has dug in. He said at a news conference in Helsinki after his 2017 summit with Russian leader Vladimir Putin that he gave weight to Putin's denial that Russia meddled in the 2016 election, despite the firm conclusion of U.S. intelligence agencies that it had. "I don't see any reason why it would be" Russia, Trump said. And earlier this year, Trump called national security assessments "naive," tweeting "perhaps intelligence should go back to school."

Yet in moments of concern as Mueller's investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election got underway, Trump turned to his spy chiefs for help.

The phone call to Rogers on March 26, 2017, came only weeks after then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions had angered Trump by stepping aside from the investigation. James Comey, the FBI director who would be fired that May, had just told Congress that the FBI was not only investigating Russian meddling in the election, but also possible links or coordination between Moscow and the Trump campaign.

The call to Rogers and others like it were uncovered by Mueller as he investigated possible obstruction. In his 448-page report released Thursday, Mueller concluded that while Trump attempted to seize control of the Russia investigation and bring it to a halt, the president was ultimately thwarted by those around him.

The special counsel said the evidence did not establish that Trump asked or directed intelligence officials to "stop or interfere with the FBI's Russia investigation." The requests to those officials, Mueller said, "were not interpreted by the officials who received them as directives to improperly interfere with the investigation."

During the call to Rogers, the president "expressed frustration with the Russia investigation, saying that it made relations with the Russians difficult," according to the report.

Trump said news stories linking him with Russia were not true and he asked Rogers "if he could do anything to refute the stories." Even though Rogers signed the memo about the conversation and put it in a safe, he told investigators he did not think Trump was giving him an order.

Trump made a number of similar requests of other top intelligence officials.

On March 22, 2017, Trump asked then-CIA Director Mike Pompeo and National Intelligence Director Dan Coats to stay behind after a meeting at the White House to ask if the men could "say publicly that no link existed between him and Russia," the report said.

In two other instances, the president began meetings to discuss sensitive intelligence matters by stating he hoped a media statement could be issued saying there was no collusion with Russia.

After Trump repeatedly brought up the Russia investigation with his national intelligence director, "Coats

said he finally told the President that Coats's job was to provide intelligence and not get involved in investigations," the report said.

Pompeo recalled that Trump regularly urged officials to get the word out that he had not done anything wrong related to Russia. But Pompeo, now secretary of state, said he had no recollection of being asked to stay behind after the March 22 meeting, according to the report.

Coats told Mueller's investigators that Trump never asked him to speak with Comey about the FBI investigation. But other employees within Coats' office had different recollections of how Coats described the meeting immediately after it occurred.

According to the report, senior staffer Michael Dempsey "said that Coats described the president's comments as falling 'somewhere between musing about hating the investigation' and wanting Coats to 'do something to stop it.' Dempsey said Coats made it clear that he would not get involved with an ongoing FBI investigation."

For complete coverage of the Mueller report, go to <https://www.apnews.com/TrumpInvestigations>

## Accuracy at core of Supreme Court case over census question

By MARK SHERMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Justice Elena Kagan's father was 3 years old when the census taker came to the family's apartment on Ocean Parkway in Brooklyn, New York, on April 10, 1930.

Robert Kagan was initially wrongly listed as an "alien," though he was a native-born New Yorker. The entry about his citizenship status appears to have been crossed out on the census form.

Vast changes in America and technology have dramatically altered the way the census is conducted. But the accuracy of the once-a-decade population count is at the heart of the Supreme Court case over the Trump administration's effort to add a citizenship question to the 2020 census.

The justices are hearing arguments in the case on Tuesday, with a decision due by late June that will allow for printing forms in time for the count in April 2020.

The fight over the census question is the latest over immigration-related issues between Democratic-led states and advocates for immigrants, on one side, and the administration, on the other. The Supreme Court last year upheld President Donald Trump's ban on visitors to the U.S. from several mostly Muslim countries. The court also has temporarily blocked administration plans to make it harder for people to claim asylum and is considering an administration appeal that would allow Trump to end protections for immigrants who were brought to this country as children.

The citizenship question has not been asked on the census form sent to every American household since 1950, and the administration's desire to add it is now rife with political implications and partisan division.

Federal judges in California, Maryland and New York have blocked the administration from going forward with a citizenship question after crediting the analysis of Census Bureau experts who found that a question would damage the overall accuracy of the census and cause millions of Hispanics and immigrants to go uncounted. That in turn would cost several states seats in the U.S. House and billions of dollars in federal dollars that are determined by census results.

The three judges have rejected the administration's arguments that asking about citizenship won't harm accuracy and that the information is needed to help enforce provisions of the federal Voting Rights Act.

The Census Bureau's consistent view since the 1960 census has been that asking everyone about citizenship "would produce a less accurate population count," five former agency directors who served in Democratic and Republic administrations wrote in a Supreme Court brief.

No population count is perfect, and census designers strive to create a questionnaire that is clear and easy to answer.

In older censuses, a government worker known as an enumerator would visit households and record information. In modern times, people fill in their own forms on paper or electronically.

But the potential for errant answers is ever-present, said Debbie Soren, the treasurer of the Illinois

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chapter of the Jewish Genealogical Society.

"Sometimes people didn't always want to be forthcoming, including in their ages, for whatever reason. Sometimes there might be a language barrier. Or the person reporting the information might not be the best one to report it," Soren said.

It seems likely that the census taker himself was responsible for the confusion in Robert Kagan's citizenship status. Dozens of families who lived near the Kagans have similar crossed-out entries in the citizenship column.

While Kagan's father was born in the United States, her grandfather, Irving Kagan, was a Russian immigrant who had submitted his paperwork to become an American citizen, the 1930 census shows. By 1940, Irving Kagan was a citizen. The old census forms, through 1940, can be searched on ancestry.com. The 1950 census will become public in 2022.

If past census reports leave a wide berth for error, they still hold a wealth of information, said Sharon DeBartolo Carmack of Salt Lake City, the author of "You Can Write Your Family History."

Before 1960, the census often asked where people were born and, if abroad, whether they were U.S. citizens. "It's wonderful to us as researchers, even though we don't like the politics, don't like the motivation," Carmack said.

Kagan is among seven of the nine justices whose ancestors told census takers they were immigrants who had become American citizens. They came from England, Germany, Ireland, Italy and Russia, like so many others seeking a better life.

The fathers of Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Samuel Alito were immigrants from Russia and Italy, respectively.

In the 1910 census, Patrick Kavanaugh, the great-grandfather of Justice Brett Kavanaugh, was living in New Haven, Connecticut, an iron worker who had become a citizen after leaving Ireland in the 1870s.

By 1900, the English-born great-grandmother of Chief Justice John Roberts and the German-born great-grandfather of Justice Stephen Breyer also were U.S. citizens.

Two of Justice Neil Gorsuch's great-great grandfathers, Alex Tiehen and Hugh O'Grady, lived in Nebraska, according to the 1900 census. Tiehen came from Germany in 1845 and O'Grady emigrated from Ireland two years later. By the turn of the last century, both reported they were U.S. citizens.

There are two justices with very different paths to American citizenship. Justice Clarence Thomas is the descendant of slaves and Justice Sonia Sotomayor's Puerto Rican ancestors became American citizens under a 1917 federal law. Spain ceded the territory to the United States after the Spanish-American War.

The case is Department of Commerce v. New York, 18-966 .

## Explosions kill at least 140 in Sri Lanka on Easter Sunday

By **BHARATHA MALLAWARACHI** and **KRISHAN FRANCIS** Associated Press

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — At least 140 people were killed and hundreds more hospitalized with injuries from eight blasts that rocked churches and hotels in and just outside of Sri Lanka's capital on Easter Sunday, officials said, the worst violence to hit the South Asian country since its civil war ended a decade ago.

With a curfew imposed, police conducted a search operation on the outskirts of Colombo, where the latest of eight blasts took place. After police moved into Dematagoda, at least two more blasts occurred, with the occupants of a safehouse apparently blasting explosives to prevent arrest.

Defense Minister Ruwan Wijewardena described the attacks as a terrorist incident, and blamed religious extremists. Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said he feared the violence could trigger instability in the country and its economy.

Since the end of the country's 26-year civil war, in which the Tamil Tigers, a rebel insurgency from the ethnic Tamil minority, sought independence from ethnic Sinhala Buddhist majority Sri Lanka, there has been sporadic ethnic and religious violence.

But the scale of Sunday's bloodshed recalled the worst days of the war, when Tigers and other rebels set off explosions at Sri Lanka's Central Bank in downtown Colombo, at a busy shopping mall, an important

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Buddhist temple and tourist hotels.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for Sunday's blasts.

Wickremesinghe said his government would "vest all necessary powers with the defense forces" to take action against those responsible for the attacks, "regardless of their stature."

Two of the blasts were suspected to have been carried out by suicide bombers, a senior official told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak with reporters. Worshippers and hotel guests were among the dead, the official said.

A National Hospital spokesman, Dr. Samindi Samarakoon, told The Associated Press that they received 47 dead there, including nine foreigners, and were treating more than 200 wounded.

Countries around the world condemned the attacks, and Pope Francis added an appeal at the end of his traditional Easter Sunday blessing to address the massacre.

Speaking from the loggia of St. Peter's Basilica, Francis said, "I want to express my loving closeness to the Christian community, targeted while they were gathered in prayer, and all the victims of such cruel violence."

"I entrust to the Lord all those who were tragically killed and pray for the injured and all those who are suffering as a result of this dramatic event," the pope added.

Sri Lanka, an island nation at the southern tip of India slightly larger than West Virginia, has a long history with Christianity. Christian tradition holds that St. Thomas the Apostle visited Sri Lanka and southern India in the decades after the death of Christ.

The majority of the island's Christians are Roman Catholic.

St. Anthony's Shrine and the three hotels where the blasts took place are in Colombo, and are frequented by foreign tourists.

Local TV showed damage at the Cinnamon Grand, Shangri-La and Kingsbury hotels.

The Shangri-La's second-floor restaurant was gutted in the blast, with the ceiling and windows blown out. Loose wires hung and tables were overturned in the blackened space.

A police magistrate was at the hotel to inspect the bodies recovered from the restaurant. From outside the police cordon, three bodies could be seen covered in white sheets.

Alex Agieleson, who was near St. Anthony's Shrine, said buildings shook with the blast, and that a number of injured people were carried away in ambulances.

Other blasts were reported at St. Sebastian's Church in Negombo, a majority Catholic town north of Colombo, at Zion Church in the eastern town of Batticaloa and at a guesthouse in Dehiwala. St. Sebastian's appealed for help on its Facebook page.

The explosion ripped off the roof and knocked out doors and windows at St. Sebastian's, where people carried the wounded away from blood-stained pews, TV footage showed.

The Archbishop of Colombo, Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith, called on Sri Lanka's government to launch a "very impartial strong inquiry" and to punish those found responsible "mercilessly because only animals can behave like that."

There was an outpouring of condemnation from around the world following the attacks.

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern condemned the "devastating" attacks, and referred to the March 15 shootings at two mosques in the New Zealand city of Christchurch in which 50 died.

"New Zealand condemns all acts of terrorism and our resolve has only been strengthened by the attack on our soil," Ardern said. "New Zealand rejects all forms of extremism and stands for freedom of religion and the right to worship safely."

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan called the blasts "an assault on all of humanity," while Russian President Vladimir Putin denounced them as "cruel and cynical."

British Prime Minister Theresa May said on Twitter, "We must stand together to make sure that no one should ever have to (practice) their faith in fear."

Foreign tourists on the Classic Sri Lankan tour hurriedly took to their cellphones to text family and loved ones around the world that they were OK after the blasts.

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The group was on a 15-day tour of the tropical island nation, seeing sites including huge Buddhist monuments, tea plantations, jungle eco-lodges and famed sandy beaches.

The tour started last week in Negombo, a majority Catholic town north of Colombo where one of the blasts hit a church. It was to end in Colombo, but tour operators said the group may change its itinerary and decide to skip Colombo in light of the attacks.

As the nearest major town to the country's main airport, Negombo is a gateway for many travelers visiting Sri Lanka. Although not among the country's top beach destinations, it is home to plenty of hotels and resorts popular with foreign visitors.

Sri Lankan security forces in 2009 defeated Tamil Tiger rebels who had fought to create an independent homeland for the country's ethnic minority Tamils. The U.N. initially estimated the death toll from 26 years of fighting to be about 100,000 but a U.N. experts' panel later said some 45,000 ethnic Tamils may have been killed in the last months of the fighting alone.

Government troops and the Tamil Tigers were both accused of grave human rights violations, which prompted local and international calls for investigations.

## **Pope denounces 'cruel violence' of Sri Lanka Easter attack**

**By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press**

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis denounced the "cruel violence" of the Easter Sunday slaughter of Christians and foreigners in Sri Lanka as he celebrated the most joyful moment on the Christian liturgical calendar by lamenting the bloodshed and political violence afflicting many parts of the world.

Francis skipped his homily during Easter Mass but delivered his traditional "Urbi et Orbi" (To the city and the world) speech highlighting conflicts in the Mideast, Africa and the Americas and demanding that political leaders put aside their differences and work instead for peace.

"May the one who gives us his peace end the roar of arms, both in areas of conflict and in our cities, and inspire the leaders of nations to work for an end to the arms race and the troubling spread of weaponry, especially in the economically more advanced countries," Francis said from the loggia of St. Peter's Basilica overlooking the flower-decked square below.

In a special appeal at the end, Francis lamented the "grave attacks" on Sri Lankan hotels and churches, which occurred just as the Christian faithful were celebrating Easter Mass that marks the resurrection of Christ following his crucifixion.

"I want to express my loving closeness to the Christian community, targeted while they were gathered in prayer, and all the victims of such cruel violence," Francis said. "I entrust to the Lord all those who were tragically killed and pray for the injured and all those who are suffering as a result of this dramatic event."

More than 130 people were killed and hundreds wounded following near-simultaneous blasts at three Sri Lankan churches and three hotels frequented by foreigners.

In his roundup of global conflicts, Francis warned that the world was increasingly becoming resigned to the ongoing conflict in Syria. He called for a "renewed commitment for a political solution" that would respond to Syrians' need for freedom, peace and justice and allow for millions of refugees to return home.

In Yemen, he lamented how children in particular are "exhausted by hunger and war," while in North Africa, Libyans are enduring a fresh round of fighting between rival forces battling for control of Tripoli, the capital

"I urge the parties involved to choose dialogue over force and to avoid reopening wounds left by a decade of conflicts and political instability," he said of Libyan leaders.

Francis said he hoped the political and religious leaders of South Sudan would open a "new page in the history of the country" and work for reconciliation. Francis hosted South Sudan's president and opposition leader for a remarkable retreat at the Vatican earlier this month, during which the pope bowed down and kissed their feet, begging them to work for peace.

And history's first Latin American pope also offered prayers for Venezuelans and Nicaraguans experiencing political and economic hardship and "all those who lack the minimal conditions for leading a dignified

and secure life due to a crisis that endures and worsens.”

The Vatican said popes sometimes either deliver an off-the-cuff homily on Easter Sunday or skip it altogether, given the lengthy speech and blessing that follows.

The 82-year-old Francis has just completed an exhausting few days of Holy Week commemorations, including travelling to a prison outside Rome to wash the feet of inmates on Holy Thursday, presiding over the Way of the Cross procession at Rome’s Colosseum on Good Friday and celebrating the Easter Vigil late Saturday night in St. Peter’s Basilica.

## **Columbine honors 13 lost with community service, ceremony**

**By KATHLEEN FOODY Associated Press**

LITTLETON, Colo. (AP) — Community members in suburban Denver marked the 20th anniversary of the Columbine High School shooting Saturday with a remembrance ceremony that celebrated the school’s survival and by volunteering at shelters, doing neighborhood cleanup projects and laying flowers and cards at a memorial to the 13 people killed.

“We’re changed,” Dawn Anna, whose daughter Lauren Townsend was among the students killed in the school’s library, said before a crowd of more than 2,000 gathered in a park near the high school. “We’re weaker in some places, but hopefully we’re stronger in most of them. Our hearts have giant holes in them. But our hearts are bigger than they were 20 years ago.”

The events ended a three-day slate of somber gatherings honoring the victims and lending support to their families, survivors of the April 20, 1999, attack and the school’s students and staff. The decades since have brought similar violence at schools in America, and some survivors and victims’ families have found themselves acting as a support system for those affected by other tragedies.

Speakers on Saturday portrayed healing and recovery as the result of daily work — not a destination to be arrived at in a set amount of days, weeks or years.

Forgiveness, though, is achievable, said Patrick Ireland, a student who became known as “the boy in the window” when cameras captured him dangling from a second-story window before falling during the 1999 school shooting. He re-learned to walk and talk with months of physical and cognitive therapy.

“Our innocence was stolen,” Ireland said. “How can that ever be repaid? But forgiveness is a process. It takes time. It takes practice, repetition, translating that rhythm into moving.”

The afternoon ceremony at times had the feel of a reunion. Former students introduced classmates to their husbands or wives and the crowd jumped to their feet when a retired teacher led a call-and-response cheer of the school’s mantra.

“We are” Ivory Moore yelled, his voice straining.

“Columbine!” the crowd replied, some pumping their fists in the air.

There were tears too, particularly as photos of the victims at various ages flashed across a projector screen during a video that featured current Columbine students pledging to honor them with community service each year on April 20.

At the ceremony’s end, Frank DeAngelis, the school’s principal at the time of the shooting, read the 13 names aloud in a wavering voice. A bell rang 13 times, and white doves soared into the cloudy sky for each individual.

Starting in the morning, a steady stream of visitors stopped at a memorial that sits on a hill overlooking the school. The site includes an oval outer wall of stone with plaques featuring quotes from officials and Columbine students and teachers, and an inner ring with plaques for each person killed.

People walked silently through, occasionally stopping to hug a friend or wipe away tears.

Sharon and David Hampton brought white roses to place at the memorial, which opened to the public in 2007. They have lived in the area for more than 30 years and watched three sons graduate from Columbine.

None were enrolled at the time of the massacre. Sharon Hampton was a preschool teacher at a nearby elementary school. On Saturday, she wore a black T-shirt reading “Be kind,” a message she wants people to remember on the Columbine anniversary.

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"Take time," she said, as tears came to her eyes. "We all face challenges. Try to understand. We can lean into that each day and help one another."

Other visitors left cards, bouquets and seed packets for columbines, the Colorado state flower, around the memorial plaques. Sheriff's deputies patrolled the area on foot and by bike on a warm day as Little League games went on at nearby fields.

Also Saturday, Columbine students, staff and others took part in community service projects, including cleaning up neighborhoods, volunteering at homeless shelters and doing spring cleaning at the homes of senior citizens.

The days surrounding the anniversary remain emotionally fraught for survivors of the attack, including hundreds who escaped the building without physical wounds. Some describe their response to the month as an "April fog," dominated by their memories of the sunny Tuesday two decades ago that shocked the world.

This week brought a new burden as federal authorities led a manhunt for a Florida teen "infatuated" with the shooting.

On Tuesday, authorities published her name and photo after learning she was obsessed with Columbine and had traveled to Colorado and bought a gun. They said she had not made specific threats, but dozens of schools, including Columbine, locked their doors.

More than 400,000 kids stayed home Wednesday when schools shut down across the metro area. The 18-year-old was found dead of an apparent suicide that morning in the foothills west of Denver, about 40 miles (64 kilometers) from Columbine.

Long-planned events marking the anniversary continued as scheduled, beginning with a Thursday evening church service and a community vigil Friday night at the memorial. Security remained heightened at Denver-area schools through the week.

## Democratic hopefuls demur on pursuing Trump post-White House

By HUNTER WOODALL Associated Press

AMHERST, N.H. (AP) — Some Democratic contenders for president aren't saying whether they would reopen investigations into President Donald Trump if they were to oust him from the White House in 2020.

Their reluctance comes as some liberals, including fellow 2020 challenger Sen. Elizabeth Warren, have increased the pressure on Democratic leaders to pursue impeachment following the release of a redacted version of the Mueller report.

During recent stops in early-voting states, two U.S. senators in the race and South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg wouldn't say whether they'd press the Justice Department to reopen investigations into Trump.

"Well, let's see because when I'm elected president that will still be about two years from now, so ask me that question then," Sen. Kamala Harris of California said Saturday while campaigning in South Carolina.

Sen. Cory Booker of New Jersey and Buttigieg focused on existing investigations of the president. Campaigning in Nevada on Friday, Booker said it's premature to say whether he would instruct his attorney general to reopen the Trump investigations if he's elected president.

"You are talking about January 2021," Booker told reporters in Reno. "We have a lot of investigations that are going on right now."

Buttigieg echoed that sentiment Friday as he prepared to campaign in New Hampshire this weekend, saying that "it depends what the basis for it is."

"It's certainly the case that there are various unanswered questions," he said. "I don't know that that has to happen from a president directing an attorney general to do something, though, because a lot of this just works through the legal system."

A voter attending a house party for Warren in New Hampshire on Saturday thanked her for calling for impeachment. However, some Democratic voters are wary of how impeachment could embolden Trump supporters.

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Associated Press writer Juana Summers in Orangeburg, South Carolina, and Scott Sonner in Reno, Nevada, contributed to this report.

## **Pope during Easter vigil: reject the 'glitter of wealth'**

**By FRANCES D'EMILIO Associated Press**

VATICAN CITY (AP) — At an Easter vigil in St. Peter's Basilica, Pope Francis on Saturday encouraged people to resist cynicism or pursuing the "glitter of wealth," and to avoid seeking life's meaning in "things that pass away."

"Do not bury hope!" Francis exclaimed, after noting that when things go badly, "we lose heart and come to believe that death is stronger than life."

"We become cynical, negative and despondent," Francis added.

For Christians, Easter is a day of joy and hope, as they mark their belief that Jesus triumphed over death by resurrection following crucifixion.

"Sin seduces; it promises things easy and quick, prosperity and success, but leaves behind only solitude and death," the pope said. "Sin is looking for life among the dead, for the meaning of life in things that pass away."

Encouraging the faithful, Francis said: "Why not prefer Jesus, the true light, to the glitter of wealth, career, pride and pleasure?"

At the start of the ceremony on Easter's eve, Francis, dressed in white robes, slowly carried a lit candle up the aisle of a darkened St. Peter's Basilica. At the chant in Latin for "light of Christ, the basilica's lights were suddenly switched on in a dramatic tradition.

Arrayed before the steps of the altar was a row of cardinals, wearing ivory robes. Behind them in the pews sat diplomats with their spouses and thousands of rank-and-file Catholics, tourists and pilgrims among them.

Among those in the basilica were eight adults who were baptized by the pope during the Mass. The Vatican said these new faithful are from Italy, Albania, Ecuador, Indonesia and Peru. From a shell-shaped silver dish, Francis poured holy water over the bowed heads of the three men and five women, after they walked up to him, one by one, and listened to him calling their first names.

On Sunday, Francis celebrates Easter Mass in late morning in St. Peter's Square and gives a speech from the basilica balcony. Known by its Latin name "Urbi et Orbi" (to the city and to the world), the speech is an occasion to reflect on the world's war-ravaged and other tense spots while paying tribute to Catholics' practicing their faith sometimes in the face of persecution or other difficulties.

Frances D'Emilio is on twitter at [www.Twitter.com/fdemilio](http://www.Twitter.com/fdemilio)

## **United Methodists edge toward breakup over LGBT policies**

**By DAVID CRARY AP National Writer**

NEW YORK (AP) — There's at least one area of agreement among conservative, centrist and liberal leaders in the United Methodist Church: America's largest mainline Protestant denomination is on a path toward likely breakup over differences on same-sex marriage and ordination of LGBT pastors.

The differences have simmered for years, and came to a head in February at a conference in St. Louis where delegates voted 438-384 for a proposal called the Traditional Plan, which strengthens bans on LGBT-inclusive practices. A majority of U.S.-based delegates opposed that plan and favored LGBT-friendly options, but they were outvoted by U.S. conservatives teamed with most of the delegates from Methodist strongholds in Africa and the Philippines.

Many believe the vote will prompt an exodus from the church by liberal congregations that are already expressing their dissatisfaction over the move.

Some churches have raised rainbow flags in a show of LGBT solidarity. Some pastors have vowed to defy the strict rules and continue to allow gay weddings in Methodist churches. Churches are withholding

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dues payments to the main office in protest, and the UMC's receipts were down 20 percent in March, according to financial reports posted online.

"It's time for some kind of separation, some kind of amicable divorce," said James Howell, pastor of Myers Park United Methodist Church in Charlotte, North Carolina, who posted a video assailing the proposal for its "real meanness."

The UMC's nine-member Judicial Council convenes a four-day meeting in Evanston, Illinois, on Tuesday to consider legal challenges to the Traditional Plan. If the plan is upheld, it would take effect for U.S. churches on Jan. 1. If parts of it are struck down, that would likely trigger new debate at the UMC's next general conference in May 2020.

The UMC's largest church — the 22,000-member Church of the Resurrection with four locations in the Kansas City area — is among those applying financial pressure. Its lead pastor, Adam Hamilton, says his church is temporarily withholding half of the \$2.5 million that it normally would have paid to the UMC's head office at this stage of the year.

"We'll ultimately pay it," Hamilton said. "But we want to show that this is the impact if our churches leave."

Hamilton is among the opponents of the Traditional Plan leading an initiative dubbed UMC-Next that seeks the best path forward for those who share their views. Clergy and activists in the alliance have met in Texas and Georgia, and a bigger meeting is planned for May 20-22 at Hamilton's megachurch.

Hamilton, in a telephone interview, said two main options are under consideration.

Under one scenario, many centrists and liberals would leave en masse to form a new denomination — a potentially complex endeavor given likely disputes over the dissolution process.

Under the other option, opponents of the Traditional Plan would stay in the UMC and resist from within, insisting on LGBT-inclusive policies and eventually convincing the conservatives that they should be the faction that leaves under what's envisioned as a financially smooth "gracious exit."

"There's a sense that some conservatives have been wanting to leave for a long time," Hamilton said. "They're tired of fighting about it."

Formed in a merger in 1968, the United Methodist Church claims about 12.6 million members worldwide, including nearly 7 million in the United States.

While other mainline Protestant denominations have embraced gay-friendly practices, the UMC still bans them, though acts of defiance by pro-LGBT clergy have multiplied. Many have performed same-sex weddings; others have come out as gay or lesbian from the pulpit.

Enforcement of the bans has been inconsistent; the Traditional Plan aspires to beef up discipline against those engaged in defiance.

Traditional Plan supporter Mark Tooley, who heads a conservative Christian think tank, predicts that the UMC will split into three denominations — one for centrists, another oriented toward liberal activists and a third representing the global alliance of U.S. conservatives and their allies overseas.

"It's a question of how long it takes for that to unfold — and of who and how many go into each denomination," Tooley said. "A lot of churches will be irreparably harmed as they divide."

Scott Jones, bishop of the UMC's Houston-based Texas conference, says churchgoers in his region are divided in their views, but a majority supports the Traditional Plan's concepts.

"I have urged all of us to love each other, listen to each other and respect each other, even if we disagree," said Jones, who holds out hope that the UMC's disparate factions can preserve some form of unity.

Ann Craig of Newburgh, New York — a lesbian activist who has advocated for greater LGBT inclusion in the UMC — thinks a breakup can be avoided, though she's unsure what lies ahead.

"We expect something new to happen, but what that change should be or will be has not jelled yet," she said. "I don't think we're going to break up — it's so cumbersome to figure out a way to divorce."

The crisis is being followed closely at Methodist-affiliated theology schools based at universities with LGBT-inclusive policies. There are 13 UMC-connected theology schools around the country.

"There's a lot of turmoil and distress," said Mary Elizabeth Moore, dean of Boston University School of Theology. "We're trying to find a future that will be less destructive than where we are now."

## 2020 campaign trail runs through churches in South Carolina

By MEG KINNARD Associated Press

NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — By now, most Democratic presidential candidates have polished their stump speeches. But when they're in South Carolina, they may need to add in a sermon.

In a large and diverse primary field, White House hopefuls are angling to develop relationships with black churches. That's because success in South Carolina, home to the nation's first Southern presidential primary, could come down to connecting with politically influential churchgoing African Americans.

"Candidates recognize that black churches are the places to be seen and heard," said Bobby Donaldson, a professor of civil rights history at the University of South Carolina. "If you're trying to find a captive and captivating audience, then the black church is the perfect place to get your message across."

Some 2020 candidates are already working to build their relationships with this community. Sen. Kamala Harris of California will attend an Easter service on Sunday in Columbia at a church whose pastor is a lawmaker who recently endorsed her campaign. She swung through a fellowship hall in North Charleston earlier this year and visited churches last fall to rally voters ahead of the midterms.

Sens. Cory Booker of New Jersey and Bernie Sanders of Vermont attended a Martin Luther King Jr. Day event at a historic black church in Columbia, and both have held campaign events in fellowship halls at black churches around the state. In the past week, Sanders held a town hall in a black church in Spartanburg with members of the state's Legislative Black Caucus.

Former Housing and Urban Development Secretary Julián Castro, former Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper and former Texas congressman Beto O'Rourke have also visited black churches. And in one of her visits to three Charleston-area black congregations in February, Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand of New York gave a sermon of sorts, summoning a fiery cadence that spurred shouts of "Amen!" from the crowd of several hundred.

"I love the fact that your Bibles are under your seat," she told congregants at Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist. "When you go on a plane and they say your life preserver is under your seat — OUR life preservers are under our seat!"

Gillibrand said she felt she had been well received, but some observers say such moments can be awkward.

"It seems very, for lack of a better term, inauthentic," said Jalen Elrod, a black voter and first vice chairman of the Greenville County Democratic Party. "She'd be better served if she came and said, 'Here's what I'm about. Here's what I'm trying to support.'"

Still, the visits allow candidates to introduce themselves to voters. They can also potentially elevate their standing with voters if they secure an official endorsement from church leaders.

That may be part of Harris' calculus, with her announcement last month of an endorsement from Darrell Jackson. The longtime state senator is also pastor of Bible Way Church of Atlas Road, a Columbia congregation that's seen as among the most influential in the black community. That's where she'll attend Easter services on Sunday.

But Antjuan Seawright, a South Carolina political consultant and fifth-generation member of the African Methodist Episcopal church, notes that an endorsement from a pastor is no guarantee of securing his parishioners' support.

"Just because the pastor endorses doesn't mean the congregation follows," Seawright said. "The sheep don't always follow the shepherd because people have evolved, and they've become more independent in their thought."

While the pathway through the black church is a tricky one to navigate, it's hard to avoid. Jaime Harrison, who chaired the state party in the 2016 presidential cycle and is mulling a challenge to U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, said that as candidates get past their introductory visits to South Carolina, voters will be watching their moves carefully.

"You expect people to come and visit your church or come to the local NAACP and be the keynote speaker," said Harrison, also associate chairman of the Democratic National Committee.

Regardless of their approach, Seawright urged white candidates to strive to make authentic connections

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and develop policy proposals that back up whatever overtures they're making as they visit the state's parishioners.

"People want authenticity, people want genuineness, and they want honesty," Seawright said.

Meg Kinnard can be reached at <http://twitter.com/MegKinnardAP>

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, April 21, the 111th day of 2019. There are 254 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 21, 1789, John Adams was sworn in as the first vice president of the United States.

On this date:

In 1509, England's King Henry VII died; he was succeeded by his 17-year-old son, Henry VIII.

In 1836, an army of Texans led by Sam Houston defeated the Mexicans at San Jacinto, assuring Texas independence.

In 1910, author Samuel Langhorne Clemens, better known as Mark Twain, died in Redding, Connecticut, at age 74.

In 1918, Manfred von Richthofen, 25, the German ace known as the "Red Baron" who was believed to have downed 80 enemy aircraft during World War I, was himself shot down and killed while in action over France.

In 1926, Britain's Queen Elizabeth II was born in Mayfair, London; she was the first child of The Duke and Duchess of York, who later became King George VI and the Queen Mother.

In 1930, fire broke out inside the overcrowded Ohio Penitentiary in Columbus, killing 332 inmates.

In 1942, the first edition of "The Stranger" (L'Etranger), Albert Camus' (al-BEHR' kah-MOOZ') highly influential absurdist novel, was published in Nazi-occupied Paris by Gallimard.

In 1975, with Communist forces closing in, South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu resigned after nearly 10 years in office and fled the country.

In 1976, clinical trials of the swine flu vaccine began in Washington, D.C.

In 1977, the musical play "Annie," based on the "Little Orphan Annie" comic strip, opened on Broadway, beginning a run of 2,377 performances.

In 1998, astronomers announced in Washington that they had discovered possible signs of a new family of planets orbiting a star 220 light-years away, the clearest evidence to date of worlds forming beyond our solar system.

In 2016, Prince, one of the most inventive and influential musicians of modern times, was found dead at his home in suburban Minneapolis; he was 57.

Ten years ago: Calling on Americans to volunteer, President Barack Obama signed a \$5.7 billion national service bill tripling the size of the AmeriCorps service program. The sole survivor of a pirate attack on an American cargo ship off the Somali coast was charged as an adult with piracy in federal court in New York. (A prosecutor said Abdiwali Abdiqadir Muse (AHB'-dih-wah-lee AHB'-dih-kah-dir moo-SAY') had given wildly varying ages for himself before finally admitting he was 18. Muse later pleaded guilty to hijacking, kidnapping and hostage-taking and was sentenced to more than 33 years in prison.)

Five years ago: More than 30,000 people defiantly ran the Boston Marathon a year after the deadly terrorist bombings; American Meb Keflezighi (keh-FLEZ'-gee) won the men's race in 2:08:37 while Kenya's Rita Jeptoo successfully defended her title, finishing in a course-record 2:18:57. Win Tin, 85, a prominent journalist who became Myanmar's longest-serving political prisoner after challenging military rule, died in Yangon.

One year ago: North Korea announced that it would suspend nuclear tests and intercontinental ballistic missile launches ahead of its summits with South Korea and the United States. Barbara Bush was

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remembered as the “first lady of the Greatest Generation” during a funeral in Houston attended by four former U.S. presidents and hundreds of others. Actor Verne Troyer, best known for his role as “Mini-Me” in the “Austin Powers” movies, died in Los Angeles at the age of 49; a coroner later ruled that the death was suicide by alcohol intoxication.

Today’s Birthdays: Britain’s Queen Elizabeth II is 93. Actress-comedian-writer Elaine May is 87. Actor Charles Grodin is 84. Actor Reni Santoni (REH’-nee san-TOH’-nee) is 81. Anti-death penalty activist Sister Helen Prejean is 80. Singer-musician Iggy Pop is 72. Actress Patti LuPone is 70. Actor Tony Danza is 68. Actor James Morrison is 65. Actress Andie MacDowell is 61. Rock singer Robert Smith (The Cure) is 60. Rock musician Michael Timmins (Cowboy Junkies) is 60. Actor-director John Cameron Mitchell is 56. Rapper Michael Franti (Spearhead) is 53. Actress Leslie Silva is 51. Actor Toby Stephens is 50. Rock singer-musician Glen Hansard (The Frames) is 49. Actor Rob Riggle is 49. Comedian Nicole Sullivan is 49. Football player-turned-actor Brian White is 46. Olympic gold medal pairs figure skater Jamie Sale (sah-LAY’) is 42. Rock musician David Brenner (Theory of a Deadman) is 41. Actor James McAvoy is 40. Former NFL quarterback Tony Romo is 39. Actor Terrence J is 37. Actress Gugu Mbatha-Raw is 36. Actor Christoph (cq) Sanders is 31. Actor Frank Dillane is 28. Rock singer Sydney Sierota (Echosmith) is 22.

Thought for Today: “I am a great believer in luck, and I find the harder I work the more I have of it.”  
— Stephen Leacock, Canadian economist and humorist (1869-1944).

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## Resurrection Day!

A florist mixed up two orders on a busy day. One was to go to a new business, the other to a funeral. The next day, the guy with the new business stormed into the shop. "What's the big idea? The flowers that arrived for our reception said, 'Rest in peace.'" The florist responded, "Well, if you think that's bad you should have seen the people at the funeral who got the flowers that said, 'Good luck in your new location.'"

Today marks the end of Holy Week and the beginning of a new promise! Jesus Christ is risen from the grave. The coldness of death could not overcome Him.

Hank Williams "House of Gold."

People steal, they cheat and lie  
For wealth and what it will buy  
Don't they know on the judgment day  
That their gold and silver will melt away

I'd rather be in a deep, dark grave  
And know that my poor soul was saved  
Than to live in this world in a house of gold  
And deny my God and doom my soul

Jesus said, come on to me  
I'll break sin's chains and set you free  
I'll carry you to a home on high  
Where you'll never, never die

What good is gold and silver, too  
When your heart's not good and true  
Sinner hear me when I say  
Fall down on your knees and pray

Jesus died there on the cross  
So this world would not be lost  
Sinner hear now what I say  
For someday you 'll have to pay

What good is gold and silver too  
If your heart's not good and true  
Sinner, hear me when I say  
Fall down on your knees and pray

There is nothing Earthly about this week. Even the deep, dark grave could not contain the Son of God, no matter what the plans of the dark side are. We hear the joyful proclamation: "This is the night when Jesus Christ broke the chains of death and rose triumphant from the grave." We celebrate the Resurrection mystery of our redemption.

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We sing again Alleluia as we celebrate the joy of Christ's Resurrection.

The Resurrection of Jesus brought something radically new to human history and to creation. It is an event unlike any other. It far surpasses even the great miracles Jesus performed when he raised the dead, like Lazarus.

It is also interesting to note the contrast of Jesus' birth, death and his resurrection.

Look at his birth:

Luke 2: 13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

Matthew has some very vivid descriptions of what happened at death.

Matthew 27: 50 And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.

51 At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split 52 and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. 53 They came out of the tombs after Jesus' resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

54 When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "Surely he was the Son of God!"

And his Resurrection.

Matthew 28:1-10 New International Version (NIV)

1 After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

2 There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. 4 The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

5 The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. 6 He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

8 So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9 Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

Go into the stores and you will see "Happy Easter"

More important than the question of how the word Easter originated is what it means to us today. When you think of the word Easter, what do you see?

dyed eggs.

Easter bunny.

egg hunts.

Easter baskets.

pastel colors.

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chocolate bunnies.

Lent.

Jesus's tomb.

Wow - Easter gets a little fuzzy when you think of it that way. Easter, to Christians, is actually Resurrection Day - the anniversary of the day Jesus rose in triumph from the grave, claiming victory over death. Because He lives, so can you and I, through simple faith in Him. God provided Himself the sacrifice. Thanks to Him, you and I have the hope of eternal life with Him.

In an attempt to honor God, many have desired to move away from the term Easter, using Resurrection Day in its place.

What do you think of when you hear Resurrection Day?

What could be more fitting or clearer than to simply refer to the day on which we celebrate the risen Lord as Resurrection Day? I can think of no better solution to this topic, but I am aware that many Christians will continue to use the term Easter with a clear conscience. I trust that as this topic is discussed, Christians will seek to keep their focus on the fact that they serve the resurrected Christ—one who has conquered death on their behalf. This reality is what we celebrate on Easter . . . I mean, Resurrection Day.

The resurrection of Jesus means that the kingdom of God is set loose among the kingdoms of the world, that the power of love is at work in the very midst of massive systems that are fueled by the love of power, that the power of life can be experienced and expressed even in the most life diminishing conditions.

A living faith in the resurrection of Jesus means confessing Jesus as Lord. Confessing Jesus as Lord means faithfulness to God's household, not to empire. It means participating in a nonviolent social revolution that recognizes the dignity of every human being and all creation, and that is viewed as a threat by every social system that operates on the power to control and establish a pecking order.

The resurrection of Jesus means that no matter how long it takes or what form it takes, the power of love will ultimately prevail.

Talk about the power of the Resurrection!

As there story goes, one evening in a Russian city a prominent intellectual was speaking to a large audience. The speaker was a member of the Communist party and his topic concerned religious belief in a Communist society. In great detail he explained Marx's contention that religion is nothing more than the opiate of the people. He elaborated by saying that in a classless Communist society, people were equals and had no need for some fairy tale to bring them hope. After his speech, he asked for questions. An elderly Russian priest with a long grey beard raised his hand. The priest asked if he could make a comment. Sure that he could outwit the priest, the speaker invited him to the podium to use the microphone. When he arrived at the microphone, the priest carefully looked over the audience. Raising his head, in a booming voice, the priest exclaimed, "Christ is risen!" The audience stood in unison and responded, "Indeed, he is risen!" And the priest returned to his seat.

The stone is rolled away. You remember the disciples were in a locked room. John 20:19 "On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

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So if Jesus can mysteriously enter a room with locked doors, why would he need the stone rolled away? The angels could have stood outside and informed everyone that Jesus was no longer there. But you see, we needed to look into the tomb. We needed to go inside to see for ourselves that Jesus' body was no longer there. God had this perfectly orchestrated for us to see.

Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat. But if it dies, it bears much fruit. (John 12:24)

## **The resurrection of Jesus means that He can be trusted absolutely.**

Jesus promised His disciples that He would be crucified, would die and then rise again (Matthew 16:21, 17:23, 20:19; John 10:17-18). His resurrection means, among other things, that His Word can be trusted.

If Jesus has spoken truthfully with respect to this—the greatest of all miracles—then we can be sure that all of His other teachings are reliable.

## **The resurrection of Jesus means our sins have indeed been forgiven.**

Christ's sacrifice for sin has been accepted by God.

This is what Paul means when he says that Christ was resurrected for our justification (Romans 4:25). Through faith in Christ, I can stand before God as righteous as Jesus Himself—because the righteousness in which I stand before God actually is Jesus Christ's own righteousness given to me. Now sin is as powerless to condemn me as death is now powerless over the Lord Jesus!

## **The resurrection of Jesus means that Satan has been defeated.**

The New Testament teaches us that the death of Jesus was a conflict with Satan. Our Lord described His experience on the cross as the hour of the power of darkness (Luke 22:53). There He battled with the one who has the power of death, the devil (Hebrews 2:14). He disarmed the evil rulers and authorities, and He triumphed over them (Colossians 2:15).

In this respect, Jesus was like a deep-sea diver who disappears into the dark depths of the ocean leaving little sign that he will re-emerge. We wait, and wait, and wait. Suddenly the diver reappears with the precious item he has been searching for raised triumphantly in his right hand. His work is accomplished! So said Peter on the Day of Pentecost: "God raised [Jesus] up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it" (Acts 2:24). In death Christ has defeated the one who has the power of death (Hebrews 2:14).

Every day, as I face a sometimes-hostile world, I need to say to myself: "Remember Jesus . . . risen." He has conquered all of our enemies; we have nothing to fear.

## **The resurrection of Jesus means that new life is possible.**

The Christian life is more than believing certain things about Jesus—it is fellowship with Him, a friendship, a grow-

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ing knowledge and intimacy with Jesus as risen Savior and Lord.

Paul's favorite way of describing what it means to be a Christian is the phrase "in Christ." That expression means that through faith we are united to Christ, the Spirit of Christ indwells us, and all His resources are ours.

Because Christ is risen, we can live in Him—dependent on His living presence, drawing from our union with His glorious Person!

**The resurrection of Jesus means that the last enemy—death itself—is defeated.**

We are familiar today with the fear shared by many scientists that we are in danger of doing irreparable damage to the ozone layer around our planet. We have created a "hole" that we may not be able to reverse or repair.

Jesus did something much more devastating in His resurrection. He created a hole in death that death can never repair. He broke its power, once and for all. Its ability to hold in death those who belong to Christ has been irreparably damaged.

Jesus' resurrection guarantees our resurrection. Of course, a time lapse exists between His resurrection and ours. But His resurrection is the firstfruits of the final harvest, and it guarantees that it will be brought in at His coming (1 Corinthians 15:23).

No wonder Simon Peter could write: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead"

(1 Peter 1:3).

## **Psalm 16**

**A musical of David.**

- 1 Keep me safe, my God,  
for in you I take refuge.**
- 2 I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord;  
apart from you I have no good thing."**
- 3 I say of the holy people who are in the land,  
"They are the noble ones in whom is all my delight."**
- 4 Those who run after other gods will suffer more and more.  
I will not pour out libations of blood to such gods  
or take up their names on my lips.**
- 5 Lord, you alone are my portion and my cup;  
you make my lot secure.**
- 6 The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;  
surely I have a delightful inheritance.**
- 7 I will praise the Lord, who counsels me;  
even at night my heart instructs me.**

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8 I keep my eyes always on the Lord.

With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

9 Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;

my body also will rest secure,

10 because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,

nor will you let your faithful one see decay.

11 You make known to me the path of life;

you will fill me with joy in your presence,

with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!

By Paul Irvin Kosel. Buffalo Lake Lutheran Church, rural Eden / Heaven Bound Ministries, Pierpont. April 20-21, 2019