

The Abiding Grace Connection

Easter Victory...

Have you heard of March Madness? If you're a basketball fan (and maybe even if you aren't) you know what March Madness is. It's all the buzz and excitement over the NCAA Basketball Tournament. Some experts estimate that by the time you are reading this, it will have cost companies \$3.8 billion in lost employee productivity because of all their time spent predicting, watching and talking about this tournament. Why? I think it is all about the upsets, the improbable victories, the excitement of those celebrations. It is fun to watch. But imagine this – wouldn't it be even better to be there, on the court, in on those celebrations?

"Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

- I Corinthians 15:57

Here's the good news: You are. Even though our sins, our imperfections, had fouled us out of any kind of victory, our perfect substitute **Jesus stepped in** and lived a perfect life for us and paid for our penalties with his sufferings and death we'll be contemplating on Good Friday. And then, when it looked like he had lost, he rose! He declared his victory (and our victory) over death. He gave us victory over our guilt, victory over sin and shame. And he gave us a whole new life – living as champions, representing Him.

Come and celebrate with us this Easter. Your kids will hear all about this victory at **Easter 4 Kids** (see box), and all of us can celebrate the battle on **Good Friday** (7:30pm service) and the victory on **Easter Sunday**. On Easter, we'll start singing some Easter hymns at 10:15, the service will start at 10:30, and then we'll have an **Easter Egg Hunt** for the kids and a light lunch and fellowship for everyone.

Not one of those basketball players would give up a moment of celebrating their victory on the court, and that's just a game. God has given us an eternal victory. Come celebrate with us! In Christ - Pastor Scharf

Parents: Do you want your children to have the joy and peace found only in God's Word? Not sure how to start? How about:

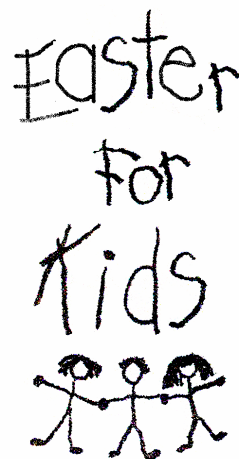
Songs

Saturday
April 4th
10am -
2pm

Crafts

Ages
3-10

Fun



God's Word

Hosted at:
Total
Childcare
Experience
(see map
on back)

Games

This is our gift to the community!
Contact Pastor Jonathan Scharf at
770-385-7691 to register or for more
information.

Abiding Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church ...
... where families connect

Email Extra

(A little something not available in the print edition.)

Learning from Jesus' miracles.

The Ultimate Miracle

“Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said” (Matthew 28:5,6)

Alfred Hitchcock once wrote a story about a woman who murdered her husband and was sentenced to life in prison. She was determined to escape.

As her prison bus approached the penitentiary, she saw an elderly prison groundskeeper filling up a grave in a cemetery outside the prison walls. Immediately, she plotted her escape.

Once inside, she befriended the groundskeeper. He was going blind and needed eye surgery. “I’ll give you the money for your surgery if you’ll help me escape,” she said. He agreed.

This was the plan. The next time she heard the death bell toll, she would sneak down to the workroom where the casket was prepared. She would slide inside with the body and pull the cover closed. The groundskeeper would wheel the casket out to the cemetery, lower it into the grave and cover it with dirt. But that night, when nobody was watching, he’d return and dig up the casket and set her free.

One night the death bell tolled. The plan was executed. The woman waited for the man to dig up the grave as planned. However, several hours passed, and no one showed up to rescue her.

In complete panic, she reached into her pocket for a match. Once lit, she glanced at the corpse beside her and saw that it was the old man himself.

Her only hope lay buried right next to her! This woman had placed her hope in another human being who she thought would be able to save her. But he went to his grave and ended up taking her with him.



But imagine if that had been part of the plan. Imagine if he intended to come back to life and free them both from the grave. That would have been brilliant, except for one small detail—it’s not possible! Or is it?

Religious leaders of all different religions make similar promises. They say they will help us escape death. But friends, every religious leader in history is in his grave right now except one, and that’s Jesus Christ. His tomb is empty. He is not there because he lives! Since Jesus is God, he has the power to overcome the grave.

That's why Jesus' resurrection is the ultimate miracle. You can place all your trust in him to rescue you from death, because he’s been in the casket, but he came back out again. His death paid for your sins, and his resurrection guarantees that you will live with him forever!

Come worship your risen Savior with us this Easter!