



# CHURCH OF GOD BANNER



[www.onalaskachurchofgod.com](http://www.onalaskachurchofgod.com)

APRIL, 2009

FIRST CHURCH OF GOD: 3RD. AVE. & HWY. 508 ONALASKA, WASHINGTON 98570

## EASTER COOKIE RECIPE!

*Esther Massey*

Making cookies with your children to teach the true meaning of EASTER!

*The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, Who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14*

**You Need**

**Help & permission from Parents!**

**1- cup whole pecans**

**1-teaspoon vinegar**

**3 egg whites**

**pinch of salt**

**1-cup sugar**

**zipper baggie**

**wooden spoon**

**tape**

**Bible**

### **EASTER COOKIES:**

Preheat the oven to 300 (this is important-don't wait 'til you're half-done with the recipe)

1. Place the pecans in the baggie and let the kids beat them with the wooden spoon to break them into pieces. Explain that after Jesus was arrested, He was beaten by the Roman soldiers. Read **John 19:1-3**

2. Put the vinegar into a mixing bowl. Let each child smell the vinegar. Explain that when Jesus was on the cross and He became thirsty, He was offered vinegar to drink. Read **John 19:28-30**

3. Add the egg whites to the

vinegar. The eggs represent life. Explain that Jesus gave His life so that we could have life. Read **John 10:10-11**

4. Sprinkle a little salt into each child's hand and let them taste it.

Put the rest into the bowl. Explain that this represents the salty tears shed by Jesus' followers, and the bitterness of our own sin.

Read **Luke 23:27**

5. So far the ingredients are not very appetizing. Add 1 cup of sugar. Explain that the sweetest part of the story is that Jesus died because He loves us. He wants us to know and belong to Him. Read **Psalms 34:8** and **John 3:16**

6. Beat the egg whites with a mixer on high speed for 12 to 15 minutes, until stiff peaks form. Explain that the color white represents the purity in God's eyes of those whose sins have been cleansed by Jesus. Read **Isaiah 1:18** and **John 3:1-3**

7. Fold in the broken nuts. Drop by teaspoons onto a wax paper cookie sheet. Explain that each mound represents the rocky tomb where Jesus body was laid to rest. Read **Matthew 27:57-60**

8. Put the cookie sheet in the oven, close the door and turn the oven off.

9. Give each child a piece of tape and seal the door. Explain that Jesus tomb was sealed. Read **Matthew 27:65-66**

10. Go to bed. Explain that they may feel sad to leave the cook-

ies in the oven overnight and that Jesus followers were in despair when the tomb was sealed. Read **John 16:20-22**

11. On Easter morning, open the oven and give everyone a cookie. Notice the cracked surface and take a bite. The cookies are hollow! ON THE FIRST EASTER, Jesus' followers were amazed to find His tomb

empty. Read **Matthew 28: 1-9**



## WHAT IS EASTER?

*Esther Massey*

Easter is a celebration of Jesus' resurrection from death. Jesus gave his life to conquer the death of sin in this world so that we may live. Did you know that you can have a personal Easter; your own resurrection within your soul?

Without Jesus in our life we are as walking dead men because the sin of this world brings death to our being. This sin is what zaps the life right out of our bodies. Are you willing to put your love into action?

Do you want to live in faith and hope surrounded by joy and triumph in your life? Confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord of your life and you shall have power over sin. Through the power of His resurrection, you will have strength when troubles come. Easter is God's love in action.

## **THUNDERING LEGION**

In her book *"My Heart's Cry"*, Anne Graham Lotz tells the following story:

"Years ago, during the days of the powerful Roman Empire, there existed a special forces—type unit referred to as the Thundering Legion. This elite group of fighting men had greatly distinguished itself on the battle field. It was led by a young commander, Camidus, who, in the course of his daily affairs, heard that God loved him and had sent His own Son, Jesus Christ, to die as a sacrifice for his sin, then had risen from the dead to give him eternal life.

The young commander was so impacted that he was converted, placing his faith in Jesus Christ. He then shared his newfound faith with his regiment, and each of the thirty-nine soldiers under his command placed his faith in Jesus Christ alone for salvation. At the very time the regiment became more and more vocal about their faith in Jesus Christ, the Roman emperor

became more and more insistent that he, the emperor, be recognized and worshiped as a god. In the end, an ugly confrontation took place when the regiment was commanded by the acting Roman governor to sacrifice to idols. The entire regiment refused.

All forty professional fighting men were arrested by other soldiers and sent to a remote northern province. There they were called

upon to renounce their faith in Jesus Christ once and for all. Again, each one refused. As punishment for their faith, the forty soldiers were marched out onto the surface of a frozen lake, stripped of all their clothes, and loosely tied by a rope that encircled the neck of each and was strung from man to man. The men were then told they would be left on the lake until they froze to death. However, if any man changed his mind, all he had to do was to slip the rope up and off his neck, walk to the shore, renounce his faith to the guard, and enter a steaming hot bath in order to recover from the exposure.

As the guard went back to his post to warm himself by his fire and to watch the forty nude men shivering in the freezing air, he heard them begin to chant: "Forty soldiers, we stand strong in the strength of Christ and Christ alone." The chant continued until the darkness descended, bringing with it plummeting temperatures. In the frozen bleakness the chant became weaker, and then faded altogether. In the middle of the night, one of the freezing soldiers struggled to lift his arms,

then unwrapped the rope from his neck and stumbled to the shore. In a barely audible voice, he told the guard he could not stand the cold any longer and renounced his faith in Jesus Christ. He then fell into the warmth of the steaming Roman bath. As the guard returned to his post, he strained his ears to hear a sound coming from across the surface of the frozen lake: "Thirty-nine soldiers, we stand strong in

the strength of Christ and Christ alone." He held his breath to listen more carefully—then heard it again! This time the chant was repeated louder and with more strength. The guard was stunned! Who could provoke such conviction and commitment from such men? The guard knew it was Jesus! Slowly but surely, the guard walked across the surface of the lake to where the thirty-nine men were still standing. He quietly stripped off his clothes, stepped into the line of soldiers, wrapped the rope around his own neck, took the place of the soldier who had gone to shore and shouted, "I am a Christian." The chant rang out once more, only this time it was stronger and louder than it had been before: "Forty soldiers, we stand strong in the strength of Christ and Christ alone." When the sun rose early the next morning, forty soldiers lay dead on the frozen surface of the lake, and forty conquerors had joined the ranks of heaven.

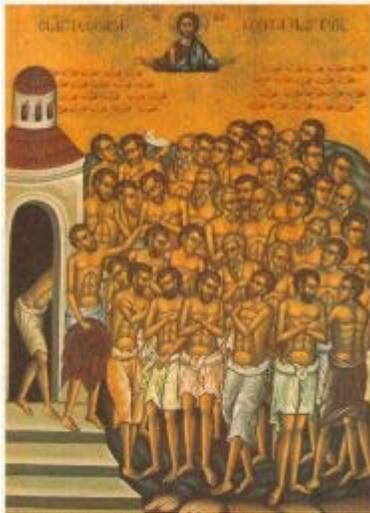
Oh, Brothers and Sisters may each of us stand strong and unified when facing persecution just as these dear men did! I love true stories like this, don't you? I'm telling this story to you today because in the days ahead I want to encourage all of you in the faith.

This true story reminds me that no matter how much we go through even to the point of death that when we shine the light of Christ like the Thundering Legion did our worst hour can become our finest hour for the glory of God.

Remember that during our times of refining and facing turmoil, and persecution that we will only shine if we already reflect Jesus.

Brothers and Sisters we stand strong in the strength of Christ and Christ alone!!!

◆ Received from Mary Warner



# ALASKA'S HAPPENINGS

## LOVE IN ACTION

Esther Massey

**SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 AM**  
**MORNING WORSHIP 11:00 AM**  
**EVENING WORSHIP 6:00 PM**

~  
**TUESDAYS**

KID'S CLUB  
 3:30 — 4:30 PM

~  
**WEDNESDAYS**

BIBLE STUDY  
 7:00 PM

~  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 4**

MEN'S BREAKFAST  
 8:00 AM

~  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 11**

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING  
 9:00 AM

~  
 LADIES LUNCHEON  
 12:00 NOON

~  
**FRIDAY, APRIL 24**

ALL CHURCH GAME NIGHT  
 6:30 PM

**MONDAY, APRIL 20**

TEA & PRAISE  
 @  
 VALLEY OF BLESSING  
 MINISTRIES  
 10:00 AM



**MISSION MOUNTAIN  
 MUSIC  
 CONCERT**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 18  
 6:00 PM**

**FELLOWSHIP TO  
 FOLLOW**

*INVITE A FRIEND  
 PLEASE BRING FINGER FOOD*

Easter reminds me of a time where my little 6 year old son, Jasper was willing to give his life for his brother, Sammy. Sammy was terminally ill and we needed to find a bone marrow match. Jasper entered the laboratory with the nurse to give a sample. Upon his return, the nurse told us that Jasper thought he was giving all his blood and even his life so that his little brother, Samuel may live. He was willing to sacrifice his own life for his brother. He put the love of his heart into action.

What is sacrifice? Sacrifice is when grandma reaches out to help raise her grandchildren. Sacrifice is when a father takes food off of his plate to feed a hungry child. Sacrifice is when a mother surrenders sleep to care for the needs of a child. When we truly love someone we are willing to sacrifice ourselves for them. This is what God, our Heavenly Father did by giving His only son, Jesus to be our sacrifice for us. God put His love into action.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

**EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 12**

SUNRISE SERVICE  
 @  
 HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL FIELD  
 7:00 AM

~  
**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15**

SENIORS ON THE GO  
 12:00 NOON

~  
**THURSDAY, APRIL 16**

AMERICAN LEGION  
 6:00 PM

## BLOSSOMING THE CROSS



Once again this year we will be blossoming the Cross. We have enjoyed doing this for the past 12 years. We will put up the cross on Wednesday and then on Easter Sunday, following the morning service we will go outside and put flowers on the cross showing that



the grave and has given us

Jesus has risen from new life in Him.

We have used some past 12 years and are would like to help re-ers, please bring them our community that

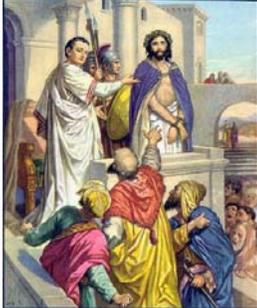


of the same flowers for the in need of new ones. If you store our supply of silk flow-next Sunday. Let us show JESUS LIVES.

## **NOBODY CAME TO JESUS DEFENSE**

Mary Warner

As we approach Easter I would like to encourage each of us to read one of the four gospels. Concentrate on Jesus as you



do. During His trial not one person stepped forward to testify on His behalf, not one person could stand up and say what Jesus had done for them, that always makes me cry. Think of how many lives He had touched by this time in His earthly ministry and not one person could come forward on His behalf, not even His family members. Many things might have prevented them from coming forward, such as fear of their lives or what others would think of them, regardless I just find that heart-breaking. Oh, wonderful, wonderful Jesus facing the last hours of His life on earth alone, except for His Father. How can we ever explain His limitless love? I like how Anne Graham Lotz puts it:

***"He forgives and He forgets,  
He creates and He cleanses,  
He restores and He rebuilds.  
He heals and He helps,  
He reconciles and He redeems,  
He comforts and He carries,  
He lifts and He loves.  
He is the God of second  
chance,  
the fat chance,  
the slim chance,  
the no chance...  
Keep on praising Him...  
He discharges debtors,  
He delivers captives,  
He defends the feeble,***

***He blesses the young,  
He serves the unfortunate,  
He regards the aged,  
He rewards the diligent  
He beautifies the meek."***

## **EASTER TIDBITS**

Easter was early last year, March 23. Easter is always the 1st Sunday after the 1<sup>st</sup> full moon after the Spring Equinox which is March 20.

This dating of Easter is based on the lunar calendar that Hebrew people used to identify Passover, which is why it moves around on our Roman calendar.

Based on the above, Easter can actually be one day earlier (March 22) but that is pretty rare.

Here's the interesting info.



This year is the earliest Easter any of us will ever see the rest of our lives!

And only the most elderly of our population have ever seen it this early (95 years old or above!). And none of us have ever, or will ever, see it a day earlier!

Here are the facts:

- ◆ The next time Easter will be this early (March 23) will be the year 2228 (220 years from now). The last time it was this early was 1913 so if you're 95 or older, you are the only ones that were around for that!).
- ◆ The next time it will be a day

earlier, March 22, will be in the year 2285 (277 years from now).

◆ The last time it was on March 22 was 1818. So, no one alive today has or will ever see it any earlier than this year!

◆ Received from Ruth Bushnell

## **LOVE INC. NEEDS HELP**

Ever since the flooding of December 2007, our furniture ministry has struggled to have enough to help people in a reasonable length of time.

Unfortunately, we have come to a point where our supply of essential items such as beds, dressers, kitchen and/or dining room tables and chairs, couches, lamps etc is basically nonexistent. This morning I spoke with a woman who has been waiting for a bed since late November.

Once again, God's people are the only solution. We are asking your Church body to help with furniture donations. Rather than sell their good usable furniture at a fraction of it's value, donate it to Love INC. Our volunteers will pick it up, and we will be happy to furnish them with a tax receipt letter so they can deduct it's fair value. Just have them call us at **748-8611**. They will be a blessing to someone in need.

Paul Bonner



Q  
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Z



Last month's winner was Mildred Dunham who was first to come up with Jubal who was the father of the harp and organ (pipe). This is found in the 4 chapter of Genesis and the 21 verse.

Here is the quiz for April.

*I wrote him a letter  
And told him I would win  
And if he tried to keep me out  
It would be harder for him.*

*I told the people to give up  
And come and follow me  
Do not trust your God to deliver  
you,  
For He can't set you free.*

*But the people failed to listen  
To any words I had said,  
I knew that in a very short time  
They all them would be dead.*

*My army it was strong  
And filled with mighty men,  
It would not be very long  
And I would soon be within.*

*There was one slight problem in  
my plan  
And it wasn't long before I found it  
out.*

*The God they trusted in  
Sent angels to put my army in a  
roul.*

*I went back home  
My head I hung in shame,  
I went into the house of my god  
And there I died in pain.*

Now tell me my name if you think

*you can  
And make sure you spell it right  
And the name of the King I sent the  
letter to  
And a candy bar will be within your  
sight.*

## **GROWING OLD IS AN ART**

A distraught senior citizen phoned her doctor's office. "Is it true," she wanted to know, "that the medication you prescribed has to be taken for the rest of my life?"

"Yes, I'm afraid so," the doctor told her.

There was a moment of silence before the senior lady replied, "I 'm wondering, then, just how serious is my condition because this prescription is marked 'NO REFILLS'".

An older gentleman was on the operating table awaiting surgery and he insisted that his son, a renowned surgeon, perform the operation.

As he was about to get the anesthesia, he asked to speak to his son. "Yes, Dad, what is it?"

"Don't be nervous, son; do your best and just remember, if it doesn't go well, if something happens to me, your mother is going to come and live with you and your wife."

◆ Received from Marcie Eidsmoe

## **THEN THE FIGHT STARTED.**

My wife sat down on the couch next to me as I was flipping the channels.

She asked, 'What's on TV?'

I said, 'Dust.'

And then the fight started...

My wife was hinting about what she wanted for our upcoming anniversary. She said, 'I want something shiny that goes from 0 to 200 in about 3 seconds.'

I bought her a scale.

And then the fight started...

When I got home last night, my wife demanded that I take her someplace expensive - so I took her to a gas station...

And then the fight started....

My wife and I were sitting at a table at my high school reunion and I kept staring at a drunken lady swigging her drink as she sat alone at a nearby table.

My wife asked, 'Do you know her?'

'Yes,' I sighed, 'She's my old girlfriend... I understand she took to drinking right after we split up those many years ago, and I hear she hasn't been sober since.'

'My goodness!' says my wife, 'who would think a person could go on celebrating that long?'

And then the fight started...

My wife is standing looking in the bedroom mirror. She is not happy with what she sees and says to me 'I feel horrible; I look old, fat and ugly. I really need you to pay me a compliment.'

I replied, 'Your eyesight's perfect.'

And then the fight started.

I took my wife to a restaurant. The waiter, for some reason, took my order first. "I'll have the strip steak, medium rare, please."

He said, "Aren't you worried about the mad cow?"

"Nah, she can order for herself."

And then the fight started.

◆ Received from James Sparks