

# Shepherd's Staff

April 2026

*We gather to worship, we go to serve our Lord.*

**"You will be my witnesses...to the ends of the earth!"**

*Parkersburg Christian Reformed Church*

*Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m. ~ Church School 10:45 a.m*



## Easter Bunnies, Colorful Eggs...and a Forgotten Truth

**Source:** <https://becomingchristians.com/2026/03/14/easter-bunnies-and-eggs/>

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Walk through any store as Easter approaches and you will see the same things every year. Chocolate bunnies. Brightly colored eggs. Pastel decorations. Baskets filled with candy.

It looks cheerful. Fun. Almost magical.

But if we stop and ask one simple question, something feels strange. What do rabbits and eggs have to do with the resurrection of Jesus?

The honest answer is simple. Nothing. Not even a little. And that realization opens the door to a deeper and more important conversation.

### The Curious Symbols of Easter

Rabbits are known for one thing. Reproduction. They multiply quickly. Eggs represent fertility and new life. These symbols were used long before Christianity spread through Europe. In many ancient cultures, spring festivals celebrated fertility, renewal, and the rebirth of nature after winter. Rabbits and eggs were natural symbols of those ideas. That is why they became connected to spring celebrations.

But the resurrection of Jesus is not about seasonal fertility. It is about victory over sin and death. It is about redemption. It is about the Lamb of God giving His life for humanity.

Two very different meanings.

Yet over time, these spring traditions were absorbed into what many now call Easter. And the result is a holiday filled with symbols that have nothing to do with what the Bible actually teaches.

### The Problem Few Christians Talk About

Here is the uncomfortable truth. The Bible never commands believers to celebrate Easter.



You will not find instructions for Easter sunrise services. You will not find Easter egg hunts. You will not find chocolate bunnies. But you will find something else. A very specific day God commanded His people to observe. Passover.

### **The Day Jesus Actually Observed**

The night before His crucifixion, Jesus gathered with His disciples for a meal. It was not an Easter celebration. It was Passover.

Scripture tells us: “Then came the Day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover must be killed.” (Luke 22:7, NKJV)

During that meal, Jesus gave new meaning to the bread and wine. “And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.’” (Luke 22:19, NKJV)



Notice something important.

Jesus did not say, “Celebrate my resurrection with eggs and rabbits.” He told His followers to remember His sacrifice through the Passover symbols. That moment became the foundation of the New Covenant observance practiced by the early church.

### **The Powerful Meaning of Passover**

Passover is not just an Old Testament ritual. It points directly to Jesus. The apostle Paul makes this connection crystal clear: “For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.” (1 Corinthians 5:7, NKJV)

Think about that. Jesus is the Passover Lamb. Just as the lamb’s blood protected Israel in Egypt, Christ’s sacrifice delivers us from sin and death.

That meaning is deep. Sacred. Profound. And unlike bunnies and eggs, it comes straight from Scripture.

### **When Tradition Replaces Truth**

Over the centuries, many traditions slowly replaced the biblical observance. Cultural customs blended with Christian language. Eventually the original meaning faded for many people. What remained was a holiday that often feels more like a spring festival than a remembrance of the Messiah’s sacrifice.

Children wake up excited for candy. Families decorate eggs. Stores sell rabbits. Meanwhile the true story of redemption quietly fades into the background. That should make us pause. Not out of anger. But out of love for truth.

### **Rediscovering What Jesus Actually Did**

Imagine celebrating the way Jesus and His disciples did. A quiet evening. Bread and wine. A solemn remembrance of the Lamb of God who gave His life.

No distractions. Just gratitude. Reverence. Reflection.

It brings the focus back where it belongs. On Christ. On the cross. On the incredible price that was paid for our salvation.

### **A Question Worth Asking**

If Jesus kept Passover...

If the apostles kept Passover...

If the early believers kept Passover...

Then why don't more Christians today?

Sometimes the most powerful spiritual step we can take is simply returning to what Scripture actually says. Not what culture says. Not what tradition says. But what God established.

### A Gentle Invitation

This is not about judging anyone. Most people celebrate Easter with sincere hearts. They love Jesus and want to honor Him. But sincere hearts still deserve the truth. And the truth is beautiful.

God already gave us a day that perfectly explains the sacrifice of Christ. Passover. It tells the story of redemption better than any bunny or egg ever could.

Maybe this year is the perfect time to look again at the Scriptures. To ask questions. To rediscover the biblical holy days. And to remember the Lamb who was slain for us.

Because when we return to God's appointed times, something powerful happens.

Our faith becomes deeper.

Our worship becomes richer.

And the story of Jesus shines brighter than ever.



4/4 Kevin Meester  
4/5 Shelly Meester  
4/8 Mary Johnson  
4/10 Michael Allspach  
4/22 Paul Bruns



4/30 Rollyn & Kathy DeGroot

