

27 weeks before *Reformation Sunday*

REFORMATION HISTORY FACT

AMPLE EGGS AND HAPPY HEARTS

Martin Luther and his namesake college in Iowa share the fact that each has embraced the Easter egg hunt. Luther College hosts a Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt. Back in the 16th century, Luther himself was equally enthusiastic.

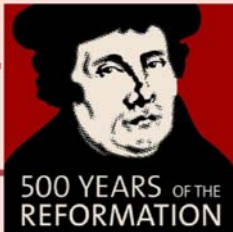
Students at Luther College gather at 9 p.m. and, using flashlights, seek out the colored and decorated eggs. An unusual twist on an otherwise common event.

Medieval Christianity had strict fasting rules during Lent. As a result, there was usually an abundance of eggs accumulated by Easter morn. Their ready availability along with colorful dyes led to the ritual, with finding the eggs simulating opening the tomb to discover the "good news" of the risen Christ.

According to Lizette Larson-Miller, professor at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California, the custom of sponsoring such events among Protestants grew during the Reformation period: "We know that Martin Luther had Easter egg hunts where the men hid the eggs for the women and children, and it probably has this connection back to this idea of eggs being the [empty] tomb."

As a parent himself, Luther worked to expand this old tradition.

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Presented by the Johnsons,
St. Mark's Lutheran Church in
Springfield, Virginia and



Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

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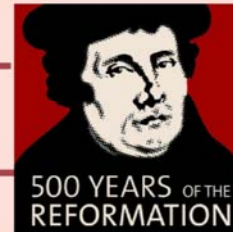
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