



SUNDAY SCHOOL
Make the Connection

Easter Attendance Reporting Guidelines

Easter is an important time in the church as many visitors will be attending in celebration of Christ's resurrection. This gives the church an opportunity to develop contacts from those who may already have an interest in your church but are not yet regular attenders.

The Easter attendance figures are indicators of the following:

- potential growth of the local church.
- the church's outreach in the community.

Easter attendance figures also provide local churches with a challenge to follow up with visitors until they become Christians and active participants in the local church.

Which events count toward Easter worship attendance?

When reporting Easter attendance, please make all reasonable efforts to count each person only once, in order to gain the most accurate statistics as possible. Therefore, only certain services are to be included in the Easter Sunday attendance report.

The following shall be included in the attendance count for Morning Worship attendance:

- Easter Sunday morning regular services
- Easter Sunday morning sunrise services
- Saturday services **only if the service is being held as an alternative to a Sunday morning service.**

Do **not** include attendance from the following in Easter Sunday attendance:

- Special Holy Week services such as Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday.
- Easter Sunday evening services.
- Special services for Easter dramas or cantatas, unless it is during the Easter Sunday morning service (or a Saturday service held as an alternative to the Sunday morning service).

Reporting Instructions for Local Churches:

- Report your March Sunday School & Discipleship Ministries average, current Responsibility List figure, and Morning Worship average to the zone or district as you do each month.
- Also report your church's Easter Sunday School & Discipleship Ministries attendance and Morning Worship attendance. If your church did not hold Sunday School on Easter Sunday, please make note of that in your report.
- If questions arise, contact your district Sunday School & Discipleship Ministries chairperson or statistician.

Reporting Instructions for District Leadership:

Several weeks before Easter, inform all churches on your district to report Easter statistics. These statistics include Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries attendance and Morning Worship attendance figures for Easter Sunday morning.

What if a church doesn't hold Sunday School on Easter?

For churches which do not hold Sunday School on Easter Sunday, report their total for Morning Worship as a "Combined/Unified" Service (i.e. they have combined their morning worship with Sunday School).

Instructions for reporting local churches with 1000+ on Easter Sunday:

If a local church on your district reports 1,000 or more in attendance on Easter Sunday (whether in morning worship or in Sunday School) please provide the following information for that church on the reporting form:

- Attendance
- Church Name
- Location (City, State/Province)
- Senior Pastor's Name

What if a local church does not report Easter attendance?

- Contact the church and request the stats.
- If you do not receive an attendance report for Easter by the deadline, use the attendance reported by that local church from the previous Easter. (If you don't have the previous year's Easter attendance, use their monthly average for the month.)
- Do not use a zero (0) in the case of a non-reporting church because this indicates that no one was in attendance on Easter Sunday!

When is the Easter report due?

Report Easter Sunday statistics with the normal monthly statistical report following the last Sunday of the month.

How do I submit the Easter report?

Complete the Easter Reporting Form. Electronic versions of this form will be e-mailed to SDMI district chairs and statisticians the week before they are due. Completed electronic forms may be e-mailed to sdmi@nazarene.org; paper forms may be faxed to 1-913-577-0866.

If you have questions

If you have questions about these reporting guidelines for Easter attendance, contact the Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International office at 1-800-221-6317 or sdmi@nazarene.org.

These and other reporting guidelines are available at www.nazarene.org/ssm/statistics.

Important for Calculating March/April 2009 Monthly Averages:

Comparing Monthly Averages:

Since Easter is in April in 2009 but was in March in 2008, the following yearly comparisons should be made:

- For March 2009, compare with April 2008 (comparing Easter month to Easter month)
- For April 2009, compare with March 2008 (comparing non-Easter month to non-Easter month)