MEANING
• Comes from the name Eostre, the Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring, fertility and new beginnings.
• Signals the welcoming and celebrating of spring and marks the beginning of the agricultural cycle.
• Marks the vernal equinox in some modern neopagan traditions.
• A time of new beginnings and of life emerging from the grips of winter.

WHEN
• Celebrated around March 20th when the day has roughly an equal amount of sun and darkness.
• Please note: Precise celebration dates can vary based on tradition and the related agricultural milestones of the local region. Celebrations may occur on the astrologically precise quarter and cross-quarter days, the nearest full or new moon or the nearest weekend.

COMMON PRACTICES
• Outdoor meditation, planting of seeds, and simple rituals to welcome the spring are common.
• Eggs, typically painted, symbolize new life. Many families also incorporate seasonal candy, such as peeps and chocolate rabbits.
• Some modern neopagans celebrate the festival by choosing a man and a woman to play the roles of the god and goddess.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?
Email: inclusion@msu.edu

Ostara
Germanic
Ow·sta·ruh

• When appropriate, reasonable accommodations should be discussed in advance between students and instructors.

FOR MORE INFO VISIT:
provost.msu.edu

Type of Calendar:
Wheel of the Year (solar)