

*"Serving all people by sharing God's Word
and Gift of Grace"*

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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HE IS RISEN!!!

And my life was changed. Has your life changed???

Grace Lutheran
Church

April 2019

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Blessing of the Palms

Sunday April 14, 2019

10:30 Worship

Monday in Holy Week

Home Devotions - Read John 12:1-11

Prayer: *O God, your Son chose the path which led to pain before joy and the cross before glory. Plant the cross in our hearts, so that in its power and love we may come at last to joy and glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Tuesday in Holy Week

Home Devotions - Read John 12:20-36

Prayer: *Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you. Grant that our love may not grow cold in your service and that we may not fail or deny you in the hour of trial. Amen.*

Wednesday in Holy Week

Home Devotions - Read Mark 14:1-11

Prayer: *Almighty God, your Son our Savior suffered at the hands of men and endured the shame of the cross. Grant that we may walk in the way of his cross and find the way of life and peace; through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Maundy Thursday Service

with Holy Communion

Thursday April 18, 2019

7:00 P.M.



Good Friday Services

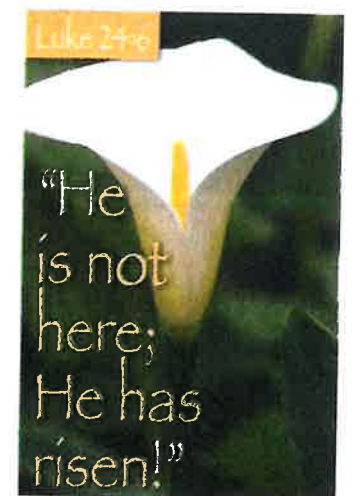
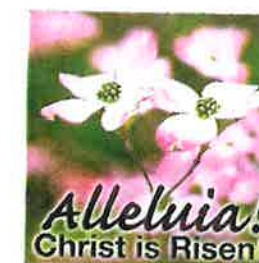
Friday April 19, 2019

7:00 P.M.

Sunday April 21, 2019

Easter Sunrise Service 7:00 A.M.

Worship with Holy Communion 10:30 A.M.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
10 7:30pm-Worship **Committees and Council meet following worship	1 8am-MBS 9:30am-LBS 10am-Worship Re-broadcast	2 5:30pm-'Men of Courage' 8pm-AA mtg.	3 10am-Worship 1:55pm-Jr.-Sr. RT 6:15pm-Supper 6:30pm-Choir 6:30pm-Rebroadcast 7:30pm-Worship	4 3:30pm-NALCW	5	6 8am-First Communion Class 9:30am- Rebroadcast
7 9am-ABS 9:15am-Sunday Sci 10:30am-Worship w/Holy Comm. / First Communion 2-4pm-Youth Group	8 8am-MBS 9:30am-LBS 10am-Worship Re-broadcast	9 7pm-'Women of Grace' Bible Study 8pm-AA mtg.	10 10am-Worship 12pm-AA mtg. 1:55pm-RT Classes 6:15pm-Supper 6:30pm-Choir 6:30pm-Rebroadcast <i>Continued Above</i>	11 3:30pm-NALCW	12	13 9:30am- Rebroadcast
14 Palm Sunday 9am-ABS 9:15am-Sunday Sci 10:30am-Worship w/Holy Comm. 2-4pm-Catechism	15 8am-MBS 9:30am-LBS 10am-Worship Re-broadcast	16 5:30pm-'Men of Courage' 8pm-AA mtg.	17 12pm-AA mtg. 1:55pm-Jr.-Sr. RT 6:30pm-Choir 6:30pm-Rebroadcast	18 7pm-Maundy Thursday Worship w/Communion	19 7pm-Good Friday Worship w/Communion	20 9:30am- Rebroadcast
21 EASTER 7am-Sunrise Service w/ Comm. 10:30am-Easter Worship w/ Comm.	22 8am-MBS 9:30am-LBS 10am-Worship Re-broadcast	23 7pm-'Women of Grace' Bible Study 8pm-AA mtg.	24 12pm-AA mtg. 1:55pm-RT Classes 6:30pm-Choir 6:30pm-Rebroadcast	25 2pm-Hope Circle 6:30pm-Rebecca Circle	26 2pm-Mission Circle	27 9:30am-Rebroadcast
28 9am-ABS 9:15am-Sunday Sci 10:30am-Worship 2-4pm-Catechism	29 8am-MBS 9:30am-LBS 10am-Worship Re-broadcast	30 8pm-AA mtg.	Greeters: 7th: Ryan & Rhonda Breitbach 14th: Tyler & Ann Brekken	21st: Bob & Trudy Carlson 28th: Jason & Nicki Carlson		

CIRCLES
 Hope at the church
 Rebecca at the church
 Mission at the church

Ushers :
 Dave Hamre
 Nicolas Walk
 Jim Tadmam
 Carr Smeby
 Joe Shimpa
 Joe Sandberg family

Communion Assistants:
 Jeff & Kris Norres

Altar Flowers:
 Rebecca Circle

Altar Guild:
 Maxine Walter

R= Reader
 V= Video
 A= Acolyte

APRIL 7th:
 R~ Rita Trandem
 V~ Dylan Hagen
 A~ Isabelle Ostena and Tabitha Bratager
 APRIL 14th:
 R~ Betty Lundin
 V~ Shayna Juve
 A~ Melissa Pries and Emily Strom
 APRIL 21st:
 R~ Dorothy Sandberg
 V~ Lily Pries
 A~ Kyra Stuhang and Dylan Hagen
 APRIL 28th:
 R~ Jason Carlson
 V~ Paige Breitbach
 A~ Kianna Tadmam and Clare Stuhang



The Grace 'Men of Courage' will meet on April 2nd and 16th at 5:30 PM, at Grace Church. All men are welcomed to join this group.

GRACE CHURCH

March 3rd:
 Attendance~ 65
 Offering~ \$4,432.96

March 17th:
 Attendance~ 91
 Offering~ \$2,947.82

March 10th:
 Attendance~ 57
 Offering~ \$1,292.16

March 24th:
 Attendance~ 115
 Offering~ \$2,925.46

APRIL GREETERS

7th: Ryan & Rhonda Breitbach
 14th: Tyler & Ann Brekken
 21st: Bob & Trudy Carlson
 28th: Jason & Nicki Carlson



The Grace Council will meet in regular session on Wednesday April 10th at 8:00 PM at the church. Committees will meet at 7:30 PM or at their discretion. Please note that all Council meetings are open to members of Grace Church.

North American Lutheran Church Women of Grace

The Grace NALCW will meet on Thursday April 11th at 3:30 PM. Group #1 will serve from 4:30-6:30 PM. Members of Group #2 are Wendy Lee, Rosie Kolstad, Tina Farrell, Julie Clementson, Joanne Sannes, Marie Hamre, and Ginnie Farrell.

**Please note change in serving time.*

Circle Meetings

Hope Circle: Thursday April 25th 2:00PM at the church.
Rebecca Circle: Thursday April 25th at 6:30PM at the church.
Mission Circle: Friday April 26th at 2:00PM at the church



Electronic Fund Giving



Giving Options

Not only can you give through your offering envelope on Sunday morning, but our church offers other options to receive your offering:

Automatic Giving – You can set up monthly or weekly automatic deductions from your bank account. Contact the church office (218-687-4035) for a form to complete.
 Online Giving – There are several links throughout our website (www.gracechurcherskine.org) that will allow you to give a one-time or regular donation from your bank account, credit card, or debit card.
 Mobile Giving – You can utilize your mobile device and scan the following code –



Benevolence Ideas

Our church has several special funds to meet needs that can't be met through our General Fund. Currently, these special funds are: Building Improvements, Grace Youth Group, Joy Ride Fund, Oil Candle, Sunday School Improvements/Supplies, Sunday School Outreach, Video Ministry, Vacation Bible School, Worship Hearing Aids, 'Men of Courage' Men's Group, and Shoebox Funds. In addition, our church houses the Grace Food Shelf and we ask for donations on their behalf as well as for the After School Backpack Program. Finally, our church is a part of the Grace Cemetery Association and we ask for donations on their behalf for the maintenance of the Synod, Pioneer, and Fairview Cemeteries in rural Erskine. Please contact Jim Ferden if you have any questions.

February 2019 Financial Summary

Congregational Offering to the General Fund - \$9,359.24

Expenses:

- Administrative - \$5,999.22
- Education - \$314.17
- Mission Outreach - \$876.00
- Pastoral - \$5,642.89
- Worship - \$672.27

Total Expenses - \$13,504.55



Happy
★
Easter

(Luke 24:7) - Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.

Jesus died on a cross for your sins. He was layed in a tomb and on the third day he rose again.



APRIL ACOLYTES

7th: Izabelle Ostenaar and Tabitha Bratager

14th: Melissa Pries and Emily Strom

21st: Kyra Stuhaug and Dylan Hagen

28th: Kianna Tadman and Clare Stuhaug

APRIL VIDEO TECHS

7th: Dylan Hagen

14th: Shayna Juve

21st: Lily Pries

28th: Paige Breitbach



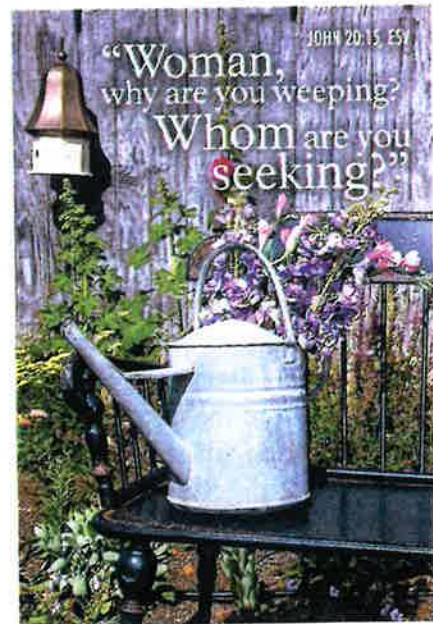
REMINDER – Please save your grocery receipts from Groceries Plus in Erskine and Jered's Grocery in McIntosh. Both stores are donating 1 percent of the total purchases to the mission trip youth. There is a container for the receipts at the church in the hallway by the coat racks.



On Sunday April 7th, we will celebrate First Communion during the 10:30 AM Worship Service. Several of our young people have met with Pastor Baker and are now ready to receive their first communion.



Lenten meals are served each Wednesday evening through Lent, from 6:15-7:15 PM. There is no meal served during Holy Week. Everyone is invited



EASTER STORY COOKIES

YOU NEED:

- 1 Cup Whole Pecans
- 1 tsp. Vinegar
- 3 Egg Whites
- Pinch of Salt
- 1 Cup Sugar
- Zipper Baggie
- Wooden Spoon
- Tape
- Bible

Preheat oven to 300 degrees. (this is important – don't wait until you're half done with the recipe!)

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

Let each child smell the vinegar. Put 1 tsp. vinegar into mixing bowl. Explain that when Jesus was thirsty on the cross, He was given vinegar to drink. Read John 19:28-30

Add egg whites to vinegar. Eggs represent life. Explain that Jesus gave His life to give us life. Read John 10:10-11

Sprinkle a little salt into each child's hand. Let them taste it and brush the rest into the bowl. Explain that this represent the salty tears shed by Jesus' followers and the bitterness of our own sin. Read Luke 23:27

So far the ingredients are not very appetizing.

Add 1 c. 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 Psalm 34:8 and John 3:16.

Beat with a mixer on high speed for 12 – 15 minutes until stiff peaks are formed. 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.

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

Put the cookie sheet in the oven, close the door and turn the oven OFF. Give each child a piece of tape and seal the oven door. Explain the Jesus' tomb was sealed. Read Matthew 27:65-66

GO TO BED! They may feel sad to leave the cookies in the oven overnight. Explain that Jesus's followers were in despair when the tomb was sealed. Read John 16:20 and 22.

On Easter morning, open the oven and give everyone a cookie. Notice the cracked surface and take a bite. The cookies are hollow! Explain that on the first Easter, Jesus' followers were amazed to find the tomb open and empty. Read Matthew 28:1-9.

THE RESURRECTION

*We hold so close to our hearts
The cross where Jesus died,
But so much more than the blood-stained cross
Is that Jesus came back to life*

*The stone's been rolled away;
The tomb lay open and bare —
They looked for Him, and then
the angel said
That He is no longer here*

*Oh what joy they must have felt
To see Him just once more,
To eat with Him, to drink with Him,
To receive Him back as Lord*

*So much did He accomplish
Through His death upon the cross
And in His rising from the dead,
He reconciled us back to God*

*Nothing else could bridge the gap
That sin had wrenched apart —
Now we can freely go to God
And receive Christ in our hearts.*

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GRACE COUNCIL, continued-Trustees:

Hired the Amish to remove snow from the flat roofs on church and on the parsonage roof.

Ryan fixed the leak in the parsonage washer. Also fixed was the problem in the basement.

Pastor reported that there seems to be a new crack in the ceiling of the parsonage and it needs to be looked at.

Pastor reported that lights in the church need to be replaced in several areas.

3 volunteers needed for Wakefield installation on Saturday, March 23. We will post it in the church bulletin.

Deacons:

Communion helpers for the current time have been filled.

Pastor reminded us again that there is Lenten worship Wednesday morning and evening.

Andrew will be gone for a couple of weeks and Kim will replace him.

We will have a full Easter Week worship schedule.

Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Sunrise with Communion, Easter

Call Committee Report:

Congregational workshop went well and the committee will meet this week to start going over the information collected.

Pastor recommends that the Executive committee start compiling some of the Profile information regarding pastor salary, specs on membership, giving, etc.

Pastor also suggested, if possible, to have the Profile done by Palm

Sunday and Easter for the congregation to review.

Old Business:

Update regarding Wakefield visit. Wakefield will be here on Saturday to install. Three volunteers needed.

New Business:

Update preferred e-mail addresses for the Council.

Please contact Kim if you are not receiving e-mails and info from Jason. We want to make sure we have your correct address and preferred method of contact.

Approve church cancellation policy

Jason has written a policy for cancellation procedure. Pastor would like added that when cancelling the pastor could also get additional input from the President or designee in making the decision. This wording will be added to the policy. Patti moved to accept the amended policy. Marc seconded. Motion carried.

Menu advertising for the church is a discussion that will be tabled until the Retreat.

Council Retreat possible topics.

Church attendance, continue work on getting a variety of church leaders if possible, look at policies that need to be in place, and set up a time table for the reviewing of topics and policies that are renewed each year prior to their renewal date.

Possible date for Retreat— Saturday morning on April 13.

Coffee from 8:30-9:00 with meeting to start at 9:00.

Announcements

Next meeting April 10 after Lenten worship.

Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,

Yvonne Halverson

HE HAS
RISEN
JUST AS
HE SAID.

Matthew 28:6



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Letter to my sponsor

Tanggal (Date) 12/12-2018



SHALOM RANGGA SANGAT BERSYUKUR ADA KESEMPATAN MENULIS SORAK KEPADA FRIENDS. HALO ADA KAPA SAMOGA DAJAM KE GOGAN YANG BAIK RANGGA JUGA OGILH KADA AN BAIK. BISAOLA RANGGA BAWASALASAI MENGIKUTI UJIAN AKIR SA MAJELAS DAN DI PPA BARU SELASA Y MERA YAKIN IBA DAT NATAH BERSAMA KEMAN KEMAN, ORANG KUA DANSTAF DI PPA, KUMI SANGAT BERSUKSES DAJAM PERAYA ANINI. SUNGGU SUDA SAMAKIN TERASA HATI INI SANGAT GEMBIRAH KARANA DAMAI NERAT ADA DINGLI. BADAU MALA SUWASANA NATAH DINGGAS FPI QNAS? PASTI SARE DANMAN YANNGEAN. RANGGA MUNGULAP KUN BANGGA TERI MAKASI KARANA SUDA MENGIKUTI MAJELAS HADIRAH NATAH BUAT RANGGA. WA DI YA HINI RANGGA AKAN DA RGE NAKUN PIHA DI YANATAH NANTI TERIMA KASI SUDA BERBAGI PANGGA SUDYA TERIMA KASI RUPA BERBAGI RANGGA SUNGGU MAHA MBBAL SUKA CITA KUMI KE LUHRA. SAYA YA BERDO E KIRI MEGA TUHUN Y ASUS MAH BARKATI

Translation

December 12th 2018. Shalom! I am so grateful to get the chance to write to you all now, dear friends! Hello, how are you all doing now? Hope, you all are doing well now. I am doing well too now. At school, I have just finished with the final exam. At the project also, I have just had the pre Christmas celebration together with my friends, parents and project staffs. We all were so happy in this celebration. Christmas feeling is truly in the air now! My heart is truly so happy because the peace of Christmas is in my heart! How is Christmas at your country too, dear friends? I bet, it is so fun and merry! I also want to say thank you so to you for giving me Christmas Gift. I will use the gift for Christmas day later on. Thank you so for sharing with me! Thanks a lot! It is truly brings such a joy to our family! I pray, may Lord Jesus bless you for all your kindness to me, dear friends!



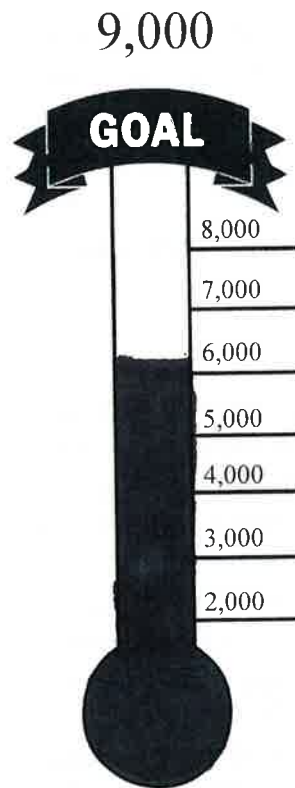
STAINED GLASS WINDOW PROJECT

We have received several gifts toward the stained glass window project. We are blessed by the kindness shown.

Here's where we're at so far.

Amount Received: \$6,184.00

Our Goal: \$9,000.00



- * Aimee Ness
- * Michael Jenson
- * Neva Schepersky
- * Lindsie & Jove DeFrang
- * Lynn Lucken
- * Allen Jenson
- * Marie Johnson
- * Grace Call Committee



The 'Women of Grace' Bible Study will meet on Tuesday April 9th and 23rd at 7:00 PM.



The first rough draft of our Call Profile will be ready for congregational review on Sunday April 7th and April 14th. If you wish to speak to one of our Call Committee members, you'll find that information here in the announcements and the April Scroll as well.

CALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Mary Bratrud – Chairperson 218-521-0793
- Austin Tadman – Vice Chairman 218-280-8266
- Nick Walk – Sec'y/Council Rep. 218-230-8457
- Mavis Haugom – 218-563-3292
- Rhonda Breitbach – 218-368-8452
- Brady Lee – 218-289-5587
- Gary Walter – 218-687-3074
- Shirley Kraft – 218-687-4477

GRACE COUNCIL, continued
Year-to-date total is behind last year at this time by approximately \$5,100.

History of the General Fund Balance

February ended with the highest negative balance since September 2017.

Account Balances Report

Building Fund - Reflects the month's regular donations and the monthly payment for the separate phone line in the elevator.

Scholarship Fund – Reflects the payment of a scholarship.

The Oil Fund – Bldg Upkeep reflects a portion of this month's oil/gas revenue.

The Oil Fund – Church Emergencies reflects a portion of this month's oil/gas revenue and the transfer of the balance at month end to the General Fund.

The Oil Fund - Missions reflects a portion of this month's oil/gas revenue.

SS Outreach Fund – Reflects the monthly payment to Compassion International.

Stained Glass Window Fund – Reflects donations made during February.

Brovold Investment Valuation Report

Balance increased approximately \$1,500 since last month and is at its highest balance since September 2018.

Got a call from the investment advisor. He is going to invest a portion of the cash funds

in Amazon.

Gunderson Investment Valuation Report

Balance has increased approximately \$2,300 since last month, and is at its highest balance ever!

Motion to approve by Marc. Seconded by Hollie. Motion carried.

Pastor Report:

Visits- Hospital Visits-3, Homebound-6

Activities Within the Congregation

- Worship
- Office Hours
- Adult Sunday School
- Release Time Elementary
- Release Time Jr/High
- Catechism Class
- Ash Wednesday Service
- Men of Courage Bible Study
- Mid-Week Lenten Service
- Council
- Congregation Call Workshop Call Committee
- Wedding Preparation Meeting

Future Events

- First Communion Class-3/23, 3/30,4/6
- Lenten Services—Start 3/20, 3/27, 4/3, 4/10
- NALC Lutheran Week & Convocation August 5, 2019 all-day
- Where: The Westin Indianapolis IN

Other Information

Wedding—June 29, 2019 Kathy Petersen/Brian Osland

New Member—Kathy Petersen
Pastor would like May 19 off when he goes on vacation if we can get pulpit coverage.

Motion to approve pastor's report as amended accepting membership of Kathy Petersen by Nick. Seconded by Hollie. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Stewardship:

No new information to report.

Education:

No new information to report.

Youth Group:

Youth is not going to Feed My Hungry Children because registration was full.

Pastor will be meeting to set up summer and fall activities after Easter.

NALCW:

Hollie is going to ask the NALCW if they would like to make Health Kits and/or School Kits.

NALCW will be looking to collect gently used Bibles again this year.

FROM THE PASTOR, con't.



keep them long enough to reach adulthood, probably thought more about them as future Sunday dinner than the family pet. It soon became apparent that keeping those Easter chicks alive meant hard work with little "oohs" and "aahs" and more "ouch" and "stupid bird" being heard.

Our service to God often looks exciting and fun when we start, but true stewardship involves a lot of long, hard work. God's call to us is not an easy one (Lent), but it is one that leads us and those we serve to Christ's love (Easter.) In this in-between time, let us stay faithful stewards. When we follow Jesus, we must walk both paths.

Pastor Baker



*For God so loved
the world that he
gave his one and
only Son....*

2019 3 18 11:11

GRACE LUTHERAN
CHURCH

COUNCIL MEETING

March 17, 2019

(rescheduled due to weather)

11:45 A.M.

'A Ministry For All Ages'

Present: President Jason Carlson, Nick Walk, Hollie Stewart, Yvonne Halvorson, Pastor Baker, Dorothy Sandberg, Marc Plante, Dean Bernard, Jim Ferden, Rita Trandem

Call to Order: President Jason called the meeting to order.

Devotions: Pastor Baker led us in devotions.

Approve Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda by Marc. Seconded by Patti. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report: Patti moved to approve. Seconded by Rita. Motion carried.

Financial Secretary's Report: Yvonne moved to approve. Seconded by Nick. Motion carried. (Report on file).

Treasurer's Report:

Cash Flow Report

Undesignated funds available to be used for February's General Fund expenses totaled \$9,798.57.

February's General Fund expenses totaled \$13,504.55.

Congregational giving to the General Fund was \$9,359.24. The monthly budget goal is \$17,651.60.

Noteworthy Donations –

Oil Leases & Thrivent Choice Program.

Some of the noteworthy expenses this month included:

Administration –

Church & Parsonage Utilities – No electric bill in February. Not sure why.

Education –

Miscellaneous – SS attendance awards (probably enough for next year also).

Mission Outreach –

Miscellaneous – Pass through of Thrivent Choice Program dollars to Grace Cemetery Association.

Pastoral – None

Worship – None

Budget Report

We ended the month at 4.6% or approximately \$9,700 under budget.

All of the major budgeted expense categories ended under budget for the month.

History of Regular Giving to the General Fund Report

Missed an offering on Sunday, 2/24 which made a big difference on the month's overall giving.

Giving in February was the lowest in 9 years.

Continued on Page 11



LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES:

The season of Lent is about opportunities to bring us closer to our Savior, Jesus Christ. In the past, we have "given things up" for Lent, but often that was more about us than our Lord. The original purpose was to give up our selfish wants so that we had more to give to God. God doesn't need the things of this world, He wants you.

We start our Lenten journey with a Service of Confession and Commitment on Wednesday March 6th at 7:30 P.M. As a sign of our commitment, we will receive the traditional ashes. We will also start our study on the results of the Lutheran Reformation.

Many understandings of our faith and the world changed with the new ideas of the Reformation. Some of these changes we take for granted and some of them have been twisted by a secular world. How can they help us stay faithful as we moved forward in our faith? Following a resource from Sola Publishing, we will examine "What Does This Mean" for our

faith and mission today.

(Mid-Week Lenten Services are at 10 A.M. and 7:30 P.M.)

Wednesday April 3rd – Saved by Grace Through Faith
Wednesday April 10th – You Are My Witnesses

These basic truths rediscovered in the Reformation must be claimed by each generation as we faithfully follow our Savior.



Low in the grave He lay-
Jesus, my Savior!
Waiting the coming day-
Jesus, my Lord!
Up from the grave He arose,
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes.
He arose a victor from the dark domain,
And He lives forever with His saints to reign.
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah!
Christ arose!

Death cannot keep his prey-
Jesus, my Savior!
He tore the bars away-
Jesus, my Lord!
Up from the grave He arose,
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes.
He arose a victor from the dark domain,
And He lives forever with His saints to reign.
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah!
Christ arose!

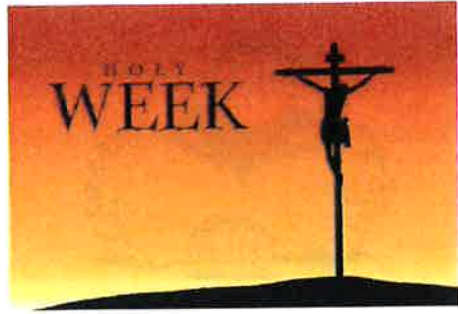


Grace Lutheran will have an Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday April 14 after worship. We will gather in the fellowship hall for drinks and snacks while the eggs are hid by our assistant bunnies from the Youth Group. We will have separate areas (in the church) for different ages.

Parents of the youngest children will need to help them. The older elementary children are on their own. (We need to just stay out of their way.)

This is the same day that the Sunday School children will be singing during worship.

If anyone would like to donate snacks for the time between worship and hunting, let Pastor Baker know.



As the forty days of Lent draw to a close, the most important week of the Christian year approaches. Holy Week begins with Passion Sunday and continues through the last days of the life of our Lord. It was St. Augustine who called this particular week the "Great Week." Great things were accomplished during this week. Spiritually, Holy Week is of the greatest importance for the people of God. By identifying with and, even, participating (through the liturgy) in the events of Christ's final week, we can come to his death, with which we were united with him in the waters of our baptism. We die with Christ so that we may also rise in new life, united with him in the Resurrection.

Holy Week is more than simply an opportunity to remember the events of that week. We cannot deny that, as part of all humanity, our sin placed Christ on the cross. Holy Week is the time for each of us to identify with our own role in those events and to participate. Our liturgies for Holy Week are both dramatic and moving! You will want to be part of these special worship services. They help us to draw closer to Christ by participating in the saving events of

of his life and death.



The Sunday of the Passion has long been called "Palm Sunday," but with a need to show not only the triumphant entry into Jerusalem where the crowds cheered Jesus, there is also the need to show those same crowds crying "Crucify him!" The service begins with the blessing of the Palms. This beginning is an outburst of joy recalling Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Yet he came to Jerusalem to die. Into our own Jerusalem, carrying and waving palm branches, we proceed to the house of God as Jesus went to the temple. Amidst the singing and the shouts of "Hosanna, Hosanna in the Highest" we find our places in the pews and the mood quickly changes to the somberness of the passion, especially during the reading of the Gospel.

The Gospel reading is one of the "Passion Narratives," a lengthy reading recounting the events of the Great and holy Week in the

life of Christ and the Church. It may either be read in its entirety or done as a dramatic reading using several readers and even the congregation. Again, we find ourselves participating in the saving events as we shout, "Crucify him!"



On Maundy Thursday we will again gather for worship. You may recall that on Ash Wednesday, there was no absolution (declaration of forgiveness) following the confession. It was deferred until this day. The entire season of Lent becomes a worship service. Therefore, our worship will begin in a different way, with the sermon which invites us to confession with the absolution and the sharing of the peace. We are reconciled to God and to each other. This night completes the service as the time of repentance is completed and we focus on the gift of Christ's love given on this Holy night. We celebrate this love in the meal of Holy Communion.

The final portion of the Maundy Thursday liturgy is the stripping of the altar. The chancel is completely cleared of all adornment

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HOLY WEEK, *continued*

and the communion ware and altar covers are completely removed from the sanctuary. The stripping represents the stripping of Christ. A large black pall may cover the altar in darkness and gloom. Here, we symbolically participate in the act of Christ's betrayal and trial as we make the transition from his gift of the Last Supper to his betrayal in the garden which leads to his crucifixion and death. Throughout the process, Psalm 22, which foretells of Jesus' humiliation at the hands of the soldiers and other themes of the Passion, will be read. At the end of the psalm, we leave in silence.



On Good Friday, we will again gather in silence continuing the service from the previous evening. This time we gather for the Tenebrae Liturgy, the Service of Shadows. This service is done in near darkness, in shadows, with not even the Christ candle being lit. The darkness of this service represents the seeming victory of the powers of darkness as our Lord suffers death. In ancient times, candidates for Baptism would start a fast that would end

with their baptisms in the early hours of Easter morning. As Christ had died, so would they. As Christ arose, so would they.

We leave the church in silence marking the burial of our Lord in the tomb. Though we may know the end of the story, the hope that is to come, we also remember the seeming hopelessness of those who had followed Jesus, who thought that all was lost. From now until the Easter celebration, we respect the sacrifice of the cross. No weddings, no baptisms, no celebrations may occur during this time of mourning and remembrance.



GO TO DARK GETHSEMANE

Go to dark Gethsemane,
Ye that feel the tempter's power;
Your Redeemer's conflict see;
Watch with Him one bitter hour;
Turn not from His griefs away;
Learn of Jesus Christ to pray.

Early hasten to the tomb
Where they laid His breathless clay;
All is solitude and gloom,
Who hath taken Him away?
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes.
Savior, teach us so to rise.



20,000 CHICKS

This month is both Lent and Easter.

We want to jump ahead to the celebration, but there will be no Easter without the sacrifices that happen in Lent. We have forgotten the need for Good Friday and the cross in our world, being too busy for the hard walk with loving Lord. We want to skip ahead to Easter with Spring and eggs and candy!!! This is not a new mistake. Here is story I read of those who don't always take into account the hard work of Easter.

When I was a small boy, the local five and ten-cent store would sell live chicks for Easter. Sometimes they were even dyed like Easter eggs, but always they were small and furry and cute. People would buy them because of their cuteness and give them to their children as presents and for at least a day, people would "ooh" and "aah" over these cute balls of squeaking fur. There would be promises from the little ones that they would take care of their new pet, but few chicks would survive the first week of Easter. Those that did survive, would soon find that when they lost their fluffy cuteness, that small children lost their interest in a creature that would peck and refuse to be petted. Parents soon thought about the mess of keeping such a bird and those who did

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