
April In Touch with Grace



Dear family and friends of Grace,
We are in a period of history that is seeing great turmoil in the world. We have endured a pandemic for exactly two years with no real ending in sight. We have followed the guidelines and done our best to stay healthy and care for one another. There is a war on the far eastern horizon of Europe. It is one that is seeing horrific attacks unprecedented in recent times. Because of technology, we are able to experience it in real time as it happens. The impact for us is felt economically, mentally, and spiritually.

It is at these times that the church steps up to follow where Christ would lead us. I have included some ideas to help that are posted elsewhere in this newsletter. The 4th chapter of Micah, found in the Old Testament of our Bibles, tells us that “the Lord will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.”

We long for that time when this scripture becomes reality. We pray, we hope, and we despair that it will never be. This Lenten season is a good time to reflect on the troubles of this world. Jesus faced arrest, beatings, and death in solidarity with each one of us. We will celebrate once more his resurrection from the grave on Easter Sunday. God is in the business of bringing new life out of seeming death. Even as we lament, we are called to take action. God has not

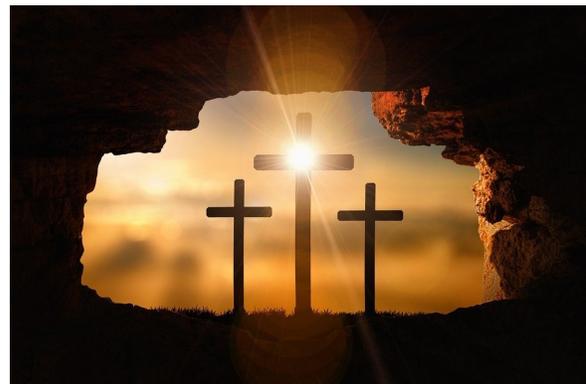
given up on us. Christ still lives and acts in this world. The Spirit fills us with courage and inspiration to bring God’s peace to this world. This is what it means to be Easter People – that even in the midst of difficult times, we believe in the resurrection of new life, no matter what we face.

Chapter 4 of Micah ends with a message of hope: “Everyone will sit under their own vine and under their own fig tree, and no one will make them afraid, for the LORD Almighty has spoken. All the nations may walk in the name of their gods, but we will walk in the name of the LORD our God for ever and ever.”

The sun still rises every morning, spring is returning to the earth, new growth will occur, and the Lord of Life is still active in our lives. Trust in the promises we are given each day and live in hope as people of resurrection.

Peace be with you,

Pastor Karen



Announcements



Lent continues in April -

Midweek worship and Bible Study - On Wednesday evening, 4/6, the last of the collaborative scheduled noon worship followed by a Bible Study from Arlington Hills and an evening soup supper, worship and Bible Study from Grace with supper beginning at 5:45 pm, worship at 6:30 pm with Bible Study following. Both services and bible studies will be live on Zoom as well as in person. Please join us for some midweek meditation and study as we end this Lenten season and move into Holy Week.

Holy Week Schedule -

Palm Sunday, April 10 - Worship at 9:30 am as usual. This will be followed by our annual Palm Sunday breakfast/brunch to benefit the Youth Programs.

Wednesday, April 13 - Handwashing and Holy Communion service - 6:00 pm in the Tower rooms. Please note the change in starting time. We will begin the service at 6, then eat our supper together, followed by the continuation of worship as we move into the Sanctuary for the sacrament of Holy Communion as Jesus shared the 1st Communion on Maundy Thursday with the disciples.

Maundy Thursday, April 14 - If you wish to observe this day, Hope Lutheran will be having a service at 7 pm. Hope was a Grace mission plant 100 years ago and this will be their last service in the current building. Join us to help them observe this day.

Good Friday, April 15 - We will be joining with other East Side Churches and gathering at Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church at 7 pm. They are located at 1669 Arcade St. in St. Paul. Below is the link for this service if you can't join in person: <https://vimeo.com/event/1979283>

Easter Sunday, April 17 - Worship at 9:30am as usual. Join us as we celebrate the Resurrection! This service will be livestreamed on our Facebook page as we have been doing with all services.



Easter Sunday, April 17th after Worship - Families of all ages are invited to Grace for an Easter Egg Hunt!! This will be a great time for fellowship and to connect our young families again after so long apart! Come join us in this celebration of new life.



Confirmation Classes – Wednesday, April 13, 4 p.m. on zoom & Sunday, April 24, 1-3 p.m. Deep Dive at Battle Creek Regional Park with our companion congregations for an Earth Day Extravaganza!

New Member Sunday, May 1, at our 9:30 a.m. worship service. If you or someone you know is interested in joining our church family, please contact Pastor Karen or Linda in the office. We would love to have you join us!

Germany Trip/Passion Play meeting for those already registered will take place at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 20th. We will share some tips for travel, discuss the ongoing concerns of COVID, and issues in Europe, among other interesting items. We are looking forward to sharing this experience with you!!! Pastors Karen & Jan

Eastern European Response Opportunities – Many of us have been watching the news in Ukraine with mixed emotions. There have been questions of how to help. The Lutheran Church organizations are good options for receiving your donations to help. There are refugees who have lost everything. Many of the refugees are children. How can we help?

First we pray. Pray for peace in the world, for leaders to come to agreements, for war to cease. Pray for those who are displaced, the children, the elderly, those who have sent their loved ones on to safety while remaining behind. Imagine grabbing what little you could carry and leaving everything else behind – your photos, your homes, your neighbors, everything you have worked so hard for, maybe even your relatives.

Secondly, we donate through organizations who will make a huge impact in the lives of those in need. The Lutheran Church worldwide has stepped up to serve our neighbors across the world and right now, especially, in eastern Europe. Here are a few options.

Thirdly, we wait for action. Perhaps there will come a need to collect and donate items as refugees arrive in our country. We will watch and be aware of these moments when they arrive.

1. Lutheran Disaster Response (search online for this and other ideas here)

Since the beginning of the war in Ukraine on Feb. 24, nearly 3 million people have fled the country and are seeking refuge in neighboring countries including Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Moldova. There are major humanitarian concerns for both internally displaced people and refugees. Many of these Ukrainians fleeing their homes need shelter and such basic necessities as food, water and toiletries. Care for people also includes pastoral and psychological support to address the trauma they've endured.

Lutheran Disaster Response is accompanying our companions in Ukraine, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia, as well as such ecumenical partners as Lutheran World Federation and Church World Service, in their humanitarian responses to the crisis. These partners provide refugees with immediate support and supplies such as food, blankets, water and hygiene kits. **Your gifts will support people impacted by this crisis. Gifts designated to "Eastern Europe Crisis" will be used in full (100%) for direct response to assist those affected.**

2. The Lutheran World Federation (LWF)

LWF has launched a call for donations to support the churches and people of Ukraine, who are fleeing

their homes and seeking shelter, basic necessities such as food and water, following Russia's military invasion of the country.

LWF General Secretary Rev. Anne Burghardt said this "support is vital for people desperately seeking shelter from the gunfire and bombing. Every donation counts."

Many civilians are seeking safety and security, both inside the country and in neighboring countries. Traumatized people are also in need of pastoral and psychosocial support. Lutheran churches and their diaconal organizations in Ukraine and in the neighboring countries are already providing support or preparing to do so. This includes providing emergency kits, basic necessities, shelter, basic medical services, pastoral care, and psychosocial support.

The German Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ukraine is providing local support and increasing its support to the population. They have called for diplomatic support as well as humanitarian aid for the people of Ukraine.

Church leaders in neighboring countries have also pledged their support. In a pastoral letter sent this week, Polish Bishop Jerzy Samiec called on parishes "to welcome people from Ukraine and offer them support during this difficult time." He emphasized the need "to stand together now and provide help to those who need assistance and shelter from war." Hungarian bishop Tamás Fabiny and other church leaders in the region have also appealed for help for all those in need calling on parishes to be welcoming and supporting.

3. Feed My Starving Children - Already, **1.5 million MannaPack® meals are on their way to Ukraine, as well as Poland, Romania and Moldova.** More than 2 million additional meals have been requested — and the need is growing. FMSC is ready to produce these meals, but we need you to help fund them.
4. Red Cross – search for the International Committee of the Red Cross to donate. The American Red Cross encourages our support to the Ukraine & neighboring countries through the International Committee of the Red Cross. Also, the International Federation of the Red Cross as another option.

Please read their websites and do the research for each of these well known and worthwhile organizations to be aware of what you are donating to. Thank you for your care of our neighbors in need!

From the Intern's Desk -

Greetings Collaborators!

Easter approaches! Spring—dare I say it—is here! Though it might be a little bit early to shout our *Hal***ujahs!* from the roof tops or start tilling and filling our garden beds, the sun is boosting our energy and our sense of what is possible keeps growing and growing by the minute!

This season of Lent has been a very rich experience, with plentiful opportunities to explore and ponder what it means to be on this journey of faith together. I have been blessed to participate in our midweek worship services with you at Arlington Hills in the afternoon and at Grace in the evening. And I have had a deeply enriching experience exploring with many of you—both virtually and in person—what it means to live as baptized members of the Body of Christ. I've had a wonderful time working with the people at Our Redeemer as they foster relationships with one another through their Lent Connect program. And I look forward to being able to join the folks at Hope as they celebrate their 100th anniversary on Palm Sunday, bid farewell to their property on Maundy Thursday, and celebrate resurrection at their new home on Easter Sunday!

And as the possibilities of the changing season continue to unfold before our very eyes, I am excited to

report all of the future-dreaming we've been doing in the shared ministry group! The talents, skills, and stories that are held within this community of Lutherans on the East Side is so deep and so valuable that we are having an incredible time imagining and discovering all the new ways we might grow stronger and serve better through being church together!

If you have the chance, share your well-wishes with the folks at Hope this month as they honor their history and embrace their future! If you have some ideas about shared ministry, reach out to your pastor (or me!) about joining the conversation! And if you want to take a walk in that glorious sunshine and talk about the possibilities God is providing in your life, gimme a call—I want to hear from you!

-Per, the intern

Living into our Baptisms: A Shared Lenten Bible Study

The season of Lent has long been a time in the Christian church when people prepare themselves or their children for baptism at Easter. This year, the congregations of the East Side Collaborative are invited to participate in a Bible study exploring the nature of our baptismal covenant. This brief study time will happen immediately after each midweek Lenten service, both in person (12:30pm @ Arlington

Week Five (April 6)

Focus: To strive for justice and peace in all the earth

Texts: Psalm 85

Micah 6:6-8

Zoom link for Lent worship & Bible studies: <https://luthersem.zoom.us/j/9910881410>

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOPE LUTHERAN?

The Holy Spirit is moving (in/at/with/through) Hope Church! And through the Holy Spirit, Hope Church is moving!

After many years of deep discernment, we have signed a purchase agreement to sell our property to The Refuge Church, a predominantly African-American congregation led by Pastor Marcus Cage that has been renting in the Frogtown neighborhood of Saint Paul. With his background in social work, Pastor Cage leads his congregation in the kinds of social ministries that Hope has been unable to share with our neighborhood in recent years. We believe The Refuge Church will do powerful, life-changing, gospel-centered ministry at 1340 Hazel for years to come, and we give thanks to God that our historic location will continue to be a center of faith in our community.

Our last Sunday in our current location will be our Palm Sunday worship service at 10:00am, April 10th, with coffee hour to follow. This will also be the 100th anniversary of the first worship service of Hope Church (Palm Sunday, April 9th, 1922). Bishop Patricia Lull will join us to preach that morning as we celebrate our history and look towards our future.

Beginning Easter Sunday, April 17th, we will worship together in our new home in the chapel space at Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church on the East Side. We are still finalizing details with our new partner but we are excited to our life together as a congregation while also exploring opportunities for partnership with the folks at Gustavus Adolphus and our other East Side partners.

April Mission of the Month

The Mission of the Month for April at Grace Lutheran Church is Doctors without Borders. Doctors without Borders provides lifesaving medical humanitarian care as well as speaking out about what they see. Currently they have medical projects in 70 countries around the world.

DWB is an independent global movement providing medical aid where it's needed most. DWB is an independent neutral impartial organization which allows them to go where many other organizations can't or won't.

Please prayerfully consider making a donation to this organization who reaches out to those in need with services otherwise unavailable to the people. Your donation can make a difference. Please use your blue multi-purpose envelope, mark mission of the month and place in Sunday's offering or mail it to the church office. Checks should be made payable to Grace. Thank you.



Music Notes -

How many times have you heard or said, "I'll believe it when I see it."? If you have, you can sympathize with Thomas the disciple, a.k.a. Doubting Thomas. We have 20/20 vision from over 2000 years of hearing his story; if we had been in his shoes, we might have said the same thing. On April 24th we will relive Thomas' story, with two hymns that directly support the text –hymn #633 and #635. Both deal with our faith journey, quoting not only Thomas' story found in John 20 but also 2 Corinthians 5:7 which says, "We walk by faith, not by sight." The two Sundays prior to the 24th take us on the Passion and Resurrection trek. Now, after a long Lenten season which seems to have lasted not 40 days but 2 years, it's nice to be refreshed with splashes of hope and positivity. If you have access to the Internet, click over to Minnesota Public Radio and stream their archive called "Rhapsody in Black". This file introduces us to classical musicians and composers who are probably new to us, though one archive might sound familiar – Henry T. Burleigh, the Afro-American baritone who introduced Antonin Dvorak to spirituals. Another archive that involves stories told with musical underscoring incorporates another Afro-American composer, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor. All are worth listening to and plus they're free.

FROM THE LIBRARY:

Library usage seems a bit low at this time with the weather warming up, but thank you to donors, readers, and all who support the library in thought and deed.

Books of interest suggestions:

FICTION	<u>Welcome to the Great Mysterious</u>	Lorna Landvik
	<u>Rebecca</u>	Daphne du Maurier
	<u>For Whom the Bell Tolls</u>	Ernest Hemingway
	<u>The Devil's Star</u>	Jo Nesbo
	<u>Five Quarters of the Orange</u>	Joanne Harris
	<u>Snow Falling on Cedars</u>	David Guterson
	<u>Burial Rites</u>	Hannah Kent
	<u>The Shoemaker's Wife</u>	Adrian Trigiani
SPIRITUAL	<u>The History of God: Christianity, Judaism, Islam</u>	Rick Warren
	<u>The Story of Israel</u>	Pate & Duvall
	<u>The Prophets</u>	Abraham Heschel
	<u>Bulletin for Biblical Research</u>	
	<u>Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus</u>	Nabel Qureshi
	<u>Faith Journey, Welcome to the Family of God</u>	
	<u>Preaching Essentials</u>	Lenny Luchetti
	<u>A Course in Miracles</u>	
	<u>To Know & Love God</u>	David Clark
	<u>The Master Plan of Evangelism</u>	Dr. Robert Coleman
	<u>Basic Elements of the Christian Life</u>	Lee and Nee

Grace Book Club schedule -

For April 7th: The Paris Wife - Paula McLain

For May 5th - The Calligrapher's Daughter - Eugenia Kim

ENLIGHTEN ACADEMY

April 30th 12:00-2:00 PM

Enlighten Academy will be holding an event in the parking lot with some food trucks and community partners. Come join the fun!



[This Photo](#) by Un-

Community Connections - ongoing projects!!

Internal, Local and Global

The Community Connections Committee is currently collecting items for the LSS Circle of Welcome project. There is a grey bin outside the Sanctuary on the North side of the Narthex for any donations. There is also a list of requested items attached to the bin which you can take with you to do any shopping.

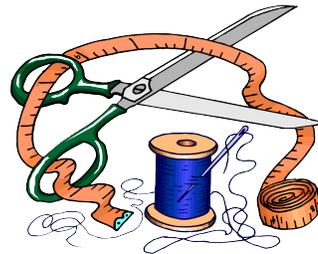
The **Circle of Welcome** is a project intended to make new refugees to this country a little more comfortable with their relocation by offering them assistance with finding a home, basic needs for living in that home and introductions to goods and services in their neighborhood. It can certainly be more than a little scary to move into a new place let alone a new country with a whole new set of rules and expectations. LSS is attempting to mitigate some of the fear by coming alongside them while they acclimate to new surroundings.

Mission 2022 Lutheran World Relief Collections:

Quilts, baby care kits (Note: soap size accepted for baby care kits is 3.5 and 4 oz gentle soap; soap in each kit has to total 8 or 9 oz). In February 2022, Grace's delivery for 2021 to Lutheran World Relief warehouse in South St. Paul happened. Other on-going collections at Grace - used eye glasses and cancelled stamps. Please find the small collection baskets on the library shelf. Thank you!



Quilt Days- April 12 & 26, 10 am, Tower rooms. Come and join our faithful energetic quilters who work every month on the 2nd & 4th Saturdays assembling, pinning, and tying approximately five quilts each meeting. Crochet thread is now used for tying, but we have a good supply. Come to work, to chat, to laugh, to enjoy being God's hands for the day! Coffee's available, bring a friend. A good time, well spent. New workers are always needed and welcomed! No experience required. We will train!



Miles of Pennies The large collection jar in the library is always accepting donations toward helping the LSS fund for helping homeless Youth in St. Paul. Our goal is \$250.00. for 2022 Thank you to everyone who participates in this important mission. Your generous donations of pennies and coins, are appreciated. *Let's exceed our goal in 2022!*

Sunday Coffee Hour Pick a Sunday to serve coffee and treats following worship. Open to all committees, individuals, groups. Sign-up clipboard is on the table inside the South Tower Room. Any questions, call Linda in the church office.



We lift our prayers to God in times of thanksgiving and times of need, in times of joy and times of sorrow. Today, we especially pray for Janet Haldeman (Judy Nelson’s sister-in-law), Curt Kinnunen, (Patty Young’s brother-in-law), Phyllis Acker, Carol Sprau, Butch Nelson, and those we name in our hearts.

(Many of these people have long term situations so if we discontinue listing them specifically please continue to pray for their healing.)

How to donate without an offering plate:

There is always snail mail. The office is open to receive the mail and our bookkeeper will count what comes in each week and deposit it in the bank. Our address: 1730 Old Hudson Road, St. Paul, 55106.

To donate electronically: You can schedule a transfer of funds with your own bank if they have bill pay available and it will come automatically on the date you choose. Otherwise, you can go to our website (www.gracelutheranstpaul.org) and click on the GIVE page. This site is secure for financial transactions through Vanco which is the Simply Giving program. At the GIVE page you can go through the steps as directed and give whatever amount you wish to several different categories (general, mortgage, etc.) This works best on the Firefox or Edge browsers. This does get to us electronically in a very timely manner. If you are comfortable using the QR, it will take you directly to the GIVE page on the website. **Please call the office if you have any questions.** Thank you.

Give QR



Financial Snapshot for GLC-2022

	<u>February Actual</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
General Fund	\$12,788.19	\$35,441.03	\$48,383.32
Expenses	\$28,075.45	\$55,546.22	\$60,496.18
Deficit/Overage	-\$15,287.26	-\$20,105.19	-\$12,112.86



- 1 Ken Goebel
- 2 Wayne Erickson
- 3 Larry Adam
- 4 Johanna Oberlander
- 7 Ron House
- 9 Owen Heintz
- 11 Barb Greaves
- 12 Bill Kinney
- 14 Victoria Humphrey
- 15 Greg Mohwinkel
- 17 Dick Gunderson
 Tootie Henningsen
 Bill Wood
- 20 Kelley Reed
- 22 Tony Childs
- 23 Rich Raschke
- 24 Karen Boehne-Warner
- 25 Knute Nelson, Jr.
- 26 Gen Wrobel
 Char House
- 27 Amanda Christie
 Donna Walseth



Worship Leaders for April 2022 -

<u>Date</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
3	Roger Allmendinger	Dakota Reed
10	Patty Young	Olivia Childs
13 6:00 pm	Per Halaas	Lauren Alleman
17	Monique McClure-Hegge	Dakota Reed
24	Roger Allmendinger	Olivia Childs

<u>Date</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
3	Team B - Norm Walby, Rick Major, Julie Major
10	Team C- Brian Jackson, Thomas Rose, Jonathan Rose, Violet Rose, Lydia Rose
17	Team D - Norm Walby, Randy Nikula, Jonathan Williams, Josh Williams
24	Team E - Jeff Oberlander, Anne Oberlander, Peter Wickert

<u>Date</u>	<u>Money Counters - (we could use some additional volunteers on our counting teams)</u>
3	Monique McClure-Hegge team
10	Kate Pray team
17	Amanda Christie team
24	Monique McClure-Hegge team



Grace Lutheran Church
1730 Old Hudson Road
Saint Paul, MN 55106

He is Risen! He is Risen, indeed!



Phone: 651-774-9617
FAX: 651-774-0006
www.gracelutheranstpaul.org
gracelutheranstpaul@gmail.com

Pastor:

Rev. Karen Williams

Custodial Staff:

Larry and Linda Denson

Office Staff:

Linda Sackreiter

Music Staff:

Russ Carlson—Director of Music Ministries

Kathleen Hollar—Organist

Jan Steingas—Triple G's

Peter Zitzewitz—Bells of Grace

Connie Smeby—Joyous Juniors

