
April In Touch with Grace



Dear Family and Friends of Grace, Easter is here – “Christ is risen – He is risen indeed! Alleluia!” As we move through the weeks ahead, we will consider how we live as Easter people. It is easy to sing Alleluia on Easter Sunday as we celebrate the joy of resurrection through music and scripture. It is not always easy to continue to do so in the everyday ordinary lives that follow.

Easter reminds us that Jesus has conquered death, that God is everywhere, and that our lives are to be lived in a way that brings life and faith to our circumstances. We live in confidence that no matter what comes our way, nothing can separate us from the love of God found in Jesus.

We have journeyed through the days of Lent and the solemn week between Palm Sunday and Easter. We have learned that God will bring beauty out of ashes. We have discovered that our lives have meaning through the life of Jesus.

We are moving into the Book of Acts this month. We will see the disciples discovering how to live as Easter people by seeking to find life and faith in the world following the resurrection of Jesus - stories that will inspire us in our own journeys as Easter people. The legacy left for us to carry on in God’s creative and redeeming work will be found week by week in Acts.

On Sunday, April 7th, after worship and

during Talk Points, we will begin to look at our own legacies in a two part series. Who will remember us, how do we want to be remembered, what will we leave behind for others that will create a more beautiful world? We will look at funeral planning, end of life decisions, medical directives, and more. Our discussion on April 7th will be led by a representative from Mueller Funeral Home and a number of resources will be shared. Pastor Karen will lead the second session on April 14th. This is important work. Please attend! **Mark your calendars for Sundays, April 7 & 14, at Talk Points.**

Life doesn’t end when our earthly journey does. Jesus has overcome the grave and has prepared a place for us to live forever “Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!!!”

See you in worship,
Pastor Karen

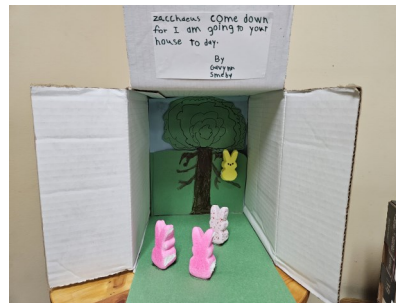
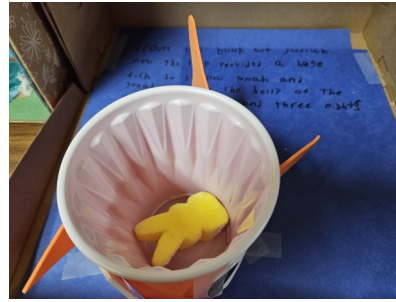
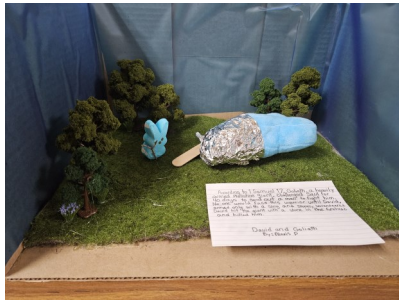
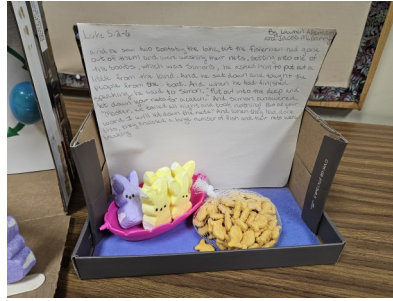
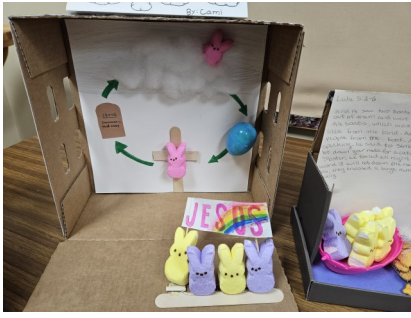


Announcements

- Camp Onomia brochures are available with descriptions of another great summer at camp! Pick one up and see where you and your family will fit in. There are programs for all ages. A new offering this year is Art Adventure for all ages. Getting away from the city and experiencing God in the beauty of nature is one of the best ways to refresh and renew your faith.
- On Easter we welcomed Atarah Eve Lee in Baptism. She is the daughter of Taylor Schoonover and Sam Lee and is also the great-granddaughter of Glenn Schoonover, a long-time member here at Grace. Welcome to the Grace family!
- Thank you to all who supported our youth for Pancakes and Puppets as well as our Palm Sunday Brunch, Delicious food, fantastic skits, and terrific fellowship were had by all!
Donations totaled \$295 for the Sunday School and \$730 for Youth Programs.
- Did you see the Peeps Dioramas this year? Our church families created wonderful scenes from some of our favorite Bible stories. Take A Peep into the Bible has been a terrific tradition here at Grace. Thanks to all who shared their dioramas!
- The St. Croix Chordsmen will offer a Spring Concert on Saturday, April 6, 3 p.m., at Trinity Lutheran Church in Stillwater. See the poster on the pillar in the Good Shepherd Lounge for more information. Always a great event!
- What will your Legacy Be? Join us at Talk Points on Sundays, April 7 & 14, after worship for a helpful and informative discussion of end of life decisions, funeral planning, medical directives, and more. Resources will be provided to help with these important decisions that all of us must face when our earthly journey nears its ending. We will have a representative from Mueller Funeral Home with us on April 7. Pastor Karen will lead the second session. Join us!
- 2nd Annual Spring Rhubarb Festival will take place at Grace on Saturday, May 18, from 1-4 p.m. We will need many volunteers, donations of plants and crafts, as well as baked goods. Do you have a great rhubarb recipe? Maybe some stalks of rhubarb to sell? Bring it in! This will be another great event for all! Proceeds will be donated to Community Sharing Meals at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. Start preparing for another wonderful day of fun!
- 'Creating with the Creator' will be on Wednesday, April 10th, at Grace, 6:30 p.m.

Thank you to each of our Committees and Council who offered wonderful Lenten Wednesday Suppers each week of Lent. Everything was delicious! Thanks, also, to our presenters who shared a monologue of a person who's life was touched by God as beauty was brought from ashes. We sang the songs each person had written (other than Peter and Teddy Roosevelt) due to their gratitude for God's presence in their tragedies. Pastor Karen wrote each monologue wonderfully brought to life by Pete Z. as the Disciple Peter; Jan S. as Sarah Fuller Flowers Adams who composed Nearer My God to Thee; Barb H. as Lina Sandell who composed Children of the Heavenly Father; Russ C. as Theodore Roosevelt - favorite hymn How Firm A Foundation; and Jonathan R. as Thomas Dorsey who composed Precious Lord, Take My Hand. It was a meaningful and inspiring series.

Peeps Fun!!



APRIL MISSION OF THE MONTH

The Mission of the Month for April at Grace is International Rescue Committee. The IRC was founded in 1933 at the request of Albert Einstein. The IRC is committed to helping refugees and displaced people survive, recover and rebuild. IRC services people whose lives have been upended by war, conflict and national disasters.

IRC works in countries where people don't have the support they need to recover from crisis. IRC responds within 72 hours to help countries stabilize and people rebuild their lives. IRC also helps to resettle refugees welcomed by the U.S. helping them to succeed and thrive.

Please prayerfully consider making a donation to this organization which is one of the highest ranking nonprofits for accountability, transparency and efficient use of contributions. Please use your blue multi-purpose envelope, mark mission of the month and place in the offering plate or mail to the church office. Checks should be made payable to Grace. Thank you.



Music Notes -

We are starting to be in the thick of presidential campaigning. It might prove to be a bit nasty, a good time to turn off the tv, read more books and watch more movies. But it is heartening to know many of our former presidents had strong faiths, which included favorite hymns. Wednesday's soup supper heard about Teddy Roosevelt, who lost his wife and mother on the same day. His faith was truly tested. But through it all, his favorite hymn was #796, "How Firm a Foundation".

Dwight D. Eisenhower, the 34th president, was instrumental in establishing the Interstate Highway System, which not only provided jobs for people returning from the Korean War, but heightened commerce throughout the states. He was the first president to hold a prayer breakfast, guest speaker being Billy Graham. His favorite hymn was #742, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus".

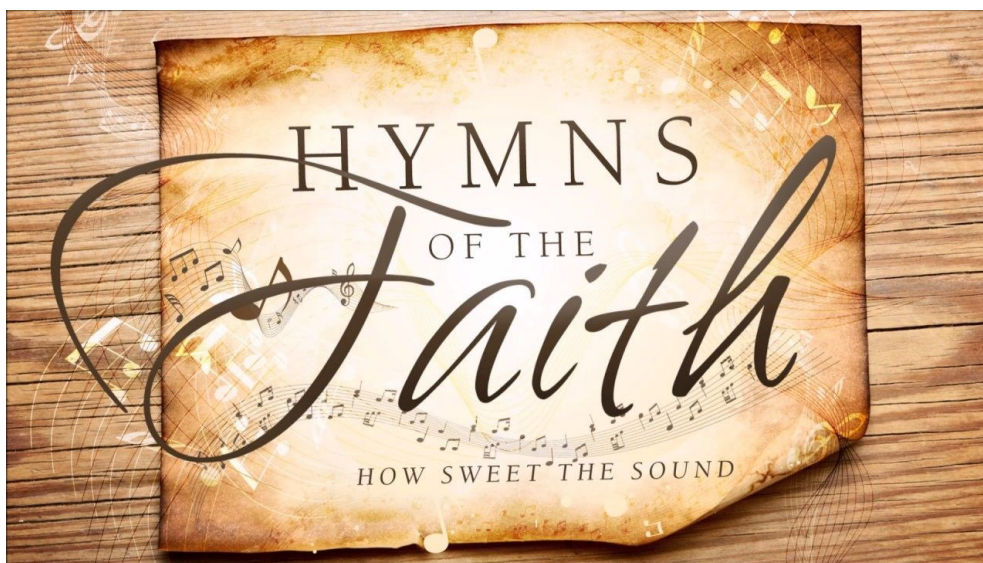
Do you remember the commotion created when John F. Kennedy decided to run for president? Forget about any hubbub related to age—he was Catholic. Was his alliance going to be to the Constitution and the U.S. citizens or to the Pope and Rome? The PT-109 hero and his "Camelot" family established the tone of the early 1960's. His favorite hymn was #414, "Holy God, We Praise Your Name".

Jimmy Carter was the first president to be born in a hospital. He also was a Navy hero and one of the few presidents still alive today. The Department of Education was founded during his term in office. His favorite hymn is #779, "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound".

And speaking of Navy veterans, George H. W. Bush was also a Navy hero, which may be the reason his favorite hymn was #756, "Eternal Father, Strong to Save".

So far the hymns mentioned are all found in our hymnal, but there were several popular in other hymnals i.e. "How Tedious and Tasteless the Hours" Abraham Lincoln's favorite, "In the Presence of Jehovah" Bill Clinton's favorite, or George W. Bush's "A Charge to Keep I Have" from which he liked inserting portions of that hymn along with other hymn lyrics in his speeches.

It is amazing how one word at a time joins forces with others to form thoughts that motivate, strengthen, calm, and affirm. Whether that group of words is joined by a tune or stands on its' own, sculpted by such wordsmiths as Robert Frost, Amanda Gorman, Maya Angelou, or Shel Silverstein, the words create emotions that help form who we are.



FROM THE LIBRARY:

Thank you to everyone who makes use of the library.

NEW BOOKS

FICTION

<u>Born a Crime</u>	Trevor Noah
<u>Fox Creek</u>	William Kent Kreuger
<u>The Search for a Prince</u>	Toni Shiloh
<u>My Last Step Backward</u>	Tash Schuh
<u>Shakespeare Four Comedies</u>	Wm. Shakespeare
<u>Ordinary Grace</u>	William Kent Kreuger
<u>Lightning Strike</u>	William Kent Kreuger

NONFICTION

<u>I Stopped Forgetting</u>	Story of Finlandia (corner of Norway)
<u>Everything You Wanted to Know About Indians But Were Too Afraid to Ask</u>	Anton Treuer

SCIENCE FICTION

<u>Beyond Uhura</u>	Nichele Nichols
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Grace Book Club -

Future reads discussion schedule -

April 4th - The Radium Girls by Kate Moore

May 2nd - Born a Crime by Trevor Noah

June 6th - The Things We Cannot Say by Kelly Rimmer

XYZ's In April the XYZ's will be traveling to the Bell Museum. We would like to make a 'day' of it and visit the Museum and the Planetarium. Cost for a combined ticket for 65+ is \$18 per person. This would be on Thursday, April 11th at 11 am. The Museum is about 20 minutes from church. We can meet at church and carpool from there. The curiosity shop at the museum has sandwiches and drinks available to take out to any of their sitting spots, inside or out, depending on the weather. Tickets can be ordered ahead or bought the day of. Come join the fun!



Sunday School Update!

In March the Sunday School focused on the Easter Story. We covered the events of holy week that lead up to Easter, and prepared a song to sing on Palm Sunday. Looking forward to April we will cover lessons like the Fruits of the Spirit, the Good Shepherd, and continue to reinforce the foundation of these stories and the lessons Jesus is teaching us to live a full and meaningful life. The kids are enjoying our new space in the North Tower Room, and they are continuing to grow in their faith together.

The Sunday School kids did a wonderful job singing during the Palm Sunday service waving their palms singing Hosanna! See pics on page 7

Upcoming Dates:

Rhubarb Festival May 18th

Last day of Sunday School May 19th





Palm Sunday Brunch Fun!



President's Thoughts -

My thoughts right now are summed up in the joy and smiles of my Grace family so evident in the pics from Palm Sunday! What more can I say that is more important. I wish you a contemplative and wonderful Holy Week and Easter! Thank God for His gift and all His blessings!

Linda Sackreiter, Congregational President

Community Connections - ongoing projects!!

Internal, Local and Global

This year we continue to support the Every Meal Program at Nokomis Montessori School on White Bear Ave. and Third Street. Thanks to the Missions committee for highlighting Every Meal as a Mission of the Month in March!

If you would consider serving treats on a Sunday morning, we would appreciate your help. Please take a look at the sign-up schedule in the South Tower room and see if there is a date that works for you to help out! Thank you!

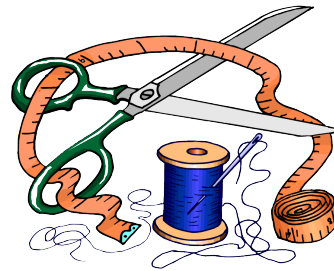
2024 Collections

Quilts, baby care kits (Note: soap size accepted for baby care kits is 3.5 or 4 oz gentle soap; soap in each kit has to total 8 or 9 oz) We are planning to deliver many quilts and layettes to LWR this year and have already made 25 quilts and have several items for layettes ready to put together.

Other on-going collections at Grace - used eye glasses and cancelled stamps. Please find the small collection baskets on the library shelf. Also, Sandy Abernathy will take any American Flags that need to be disposed of properly. These can be left in the collection area in the library. Thank you for all donations!

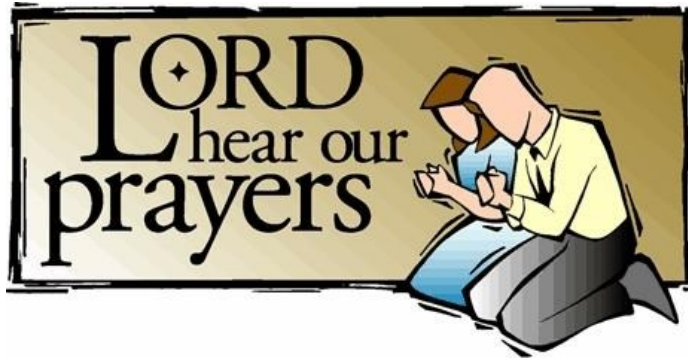


Quilt Days— April sew day will be the 13th from 10-12. We have a scheduled memorial service on the 27th so will not meet. All are welcome to join us. No skills necessary, we will teach. Most months we will meet on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays in the Tower rooms. Come join us for some conversation and to put those hands to use for a wonderful cause. Lutheran World Relief distributes donated quilts all over the world including in the US.



Miles of Pennies The large collection jar in the library is always accepting donations toward giving to the LSS fund for helping homeless Youth in St. Paul. Our goal is \$250.00 for 2024. Let's exceed that in 2024! Thank you to everyone who participates in this important mission. Your generous donations of pennies and coins are





We lift our prayers to God in times of thanksgiving and times of need, in times of joy and times of sorrow. This month we especially pray for Bill Wood, Bev Henderson, Carol Anderson, Butch Nelson, the family and friends of Tim Kemen, and all those we name in our hearts.

How to donate other than in the 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, other, 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-2023

	<u>February Actual</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
General Fund	\$17,732.72	\$ 31,814.94	\$39,887.50
Expenses	\$25,381.26	\$ 49,520.60	\$48,732.46
Deficit/Overage	- \$ 7,648.54	-\$17,705.66	-\$8,844.96



To Those Born in April!

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------|----|---------------------|
| 2 | Wayne Erickson | 23 | Richard Raschke |
| | Eric Hoidahl | 24 | Karen Boehne-Warner |
| | Josh Trulen | 25 | Knute Nelson |
| 3 | Larry Adam | 26 | Char House |
| 4 | Johanna Oberlander | | Genevieve Wrobel |
| 7 | Ron House | 27 | Amanda Christie |
| | Wendy Jackson Brown | | Donna Walseth |
| 12 | Bill Kinney | | |
| 15 | Greg Mohwinkel | | |
| 16 | Catherine Beddow | | |
| 17 | Rickard Gunderson | | |
| | Tootie Henningsen | | |
| | Bill Wood | | |
| 20 | Kelley Reed | | |
| 22 | Anthony Childs | | |



Worship Leaders for April 2024 -

<u>Date</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>	<u>Lay Reader</u>
7	Monique McClure-Hegge	Alexis Petersen	Linda Baer
14	Dave Hunter	Kaliska Reed	Bob Golder
21	Jan Steingas	Tony Childs	Barb Holtan
28	Connie Smeby	Cami Alleman	Linda Sackreiter

<u>Date</u>	<u>Ushers</u> (the families of the acolytes are also helping out)
7	Jeff Oberlander, Anne Oberlander
14	Brian Petersen, Rachel Petersen
21	Brian Jackson, Patty Young, Chris and Kris Wintheiser
28	Rob Kinney, Kjiersten Kinney

<u>Date</u>	<u>Money Counters</u> - (we could use some additional volunteers on our counting teams)
7	Kate Pray team
14	Amanda Christie team
21	Monique McClure-Hegge team
28	Kate Pray team



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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

Russ Carlson—Bells of Grace

Connie Smeby—Joyous Juniors

