



Grace Notes

A monthly publication of Grace Lutheran Church

April
2015



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

**"SO THEY WENT OUT AND FLED FROM THE TOMB, FOR TERROR
AND AMAZEMENT HAD SEIZED THEM."**

- MARK 16:8

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,


The Gospel of Mark ends abruptly. The women came to the tomb to care for the body of their friend and Lord. They expected death. Seeing the stone rolled away, they entered the tomb; they entered into death. They didn't find Jesus. Instead, they saw a young man, who told them not to be amazed, that Jesus had risen. This same stranger told them to tell the disciples and then head to Galilee. Is it any wonder that terror and amazement seized them?

We are on the other side of the first Easter. We have grown used to the story of the resurrection. The good news brings hope and comfort. It brings freedom and joy. But I don't think it causes terror and amazement. Maybe we are missing something. The Greek word for amazement, "ekstasis", means "change of place." And that is what has happened to us and all of creation because of the resurrection. Before Easter, we stood in a place of sin and death. After Easter, we stand in a place of forgiveness and life. Everything

has changed. We are not the same. The world is not the same. The deadly, but familiar, way of the world can no longer be counted on. This new reality of forgiveness, life and salvation is and should be unsettling. Terror and amazement indeed!

The world is turned upside down. It might look the same, but we are standing in a different place. Christ is risen. We are risen. Alleluia!

Blessed Easter,



The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in
America



Grace Lutheran Church Council
Actions and Highlights
March 19, 2015
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MISSION:

God's purpose for Grace Lutheran Church is for us to be servant leaders in mission by loving and inspiring all people to experience the transforming grace of a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Don Ager, Mike Allenbaugh, Ramona Allenbaugh, Cindy Edgmond, JoAnne Fisher, Pr. MacManus, John Simmons

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Jim Edgmond, Connor Lawhead, Kim Thompson

MISSION WORK: LONG-RANGE PLANNING:

A. WORSHIP LIFE: The status of the software to broadcast the services on Channel 9 is still unknown. They will continue to pursue getting this matter resolved.

B. COUNCIL RETREAT: A majority of Council's time was spent reflecting and discussing the opportunities found as a result of the survey. Please see "**Grace Lutheran Church Council Retreat – Report to the Congregation**" in the April newsletter.

MINISTRY BOARDS' REPORTS:

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE:

Current members are Cindy Edgmond, Chair; Sue Bengston; Jeanette Billingsley; Cindy Herman; Alice Simmons; Tibe Vanderlinden; Pr. MacManus, ex-officio; and Don Ager, ex-officio.

OTHER ITEMS:

The Council accepted the transfer of Holly Boche from Grace to St. Paul Lutheran Church in Davenport, IA. The Council approved a \$750 EPIC Scholarship for Paris White to continue her education at Wartburg Seminary. Pr. MacManus along with Mike and Ramona Allenbaugh will be attending the Synod Assembly at Hope Lutheran Church in West Des Moines on May 29 and 30th.

PROPERTY BOARD:

Spring cleanup is May 2nd. The Board met with Happy Time Preschool of Muscatine about a rent increase and Happy Time will be attending the April Council meeting.

SOCIAL MINISTRY: Ministry of Literacy

Now has 13 students: six from second grade and seven from first grade. Their summer program will be July 7 – July 30th. Fund Raisers will be October 5, 6, 7, at Hy-Vee.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC MINISTRY:

Easter Services will not be published in the Muscatine Journal due to pricing.

The choir will present a cantata at both services on Palm Sunday with a palm procession-
al at the 8:15 service only. There will be a traditional Maundy Thursday service preceded by a soup supper. A Tenebrae Good Friday Service will be held at 6 p.m. The Sunrise Service Easter Morning will be at 6 a.m. at the Discovery Park shelter. A.J. Houseman will provide the music. Easter breakfast will be provided by the Youth Group at 9:30.

Grace Lutheran Church Council Retreat
Report to the Congregation

MISSION:

God's purpose for Grace Lutheran Church is for us to be servant leaders in mission by loving and inspiring all people to experience the transforming grace of a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Don Ager don.ager@me.com, Mike Allenbaugh allenbaugh@machlink.com, Ramona Allenbaugh rallenbaugh@malink.com, Cindy Edgmond cindy@muscatinetravel.com, Jim Edgmond jamesedgmondpe@machlink.com, JoAnne Fisher lane@machlink.com, Connor Lawhead cclawhead@machlink.com, Pr. MacManus glcpastor@machlink.com, John Simmons simjas10@machlink.com, Kim Thompson kathompson1008@gmail.com

The Grace Lutheran Church 2015 Council Retreat was held on Saturday, March 14. Orientation for new Council members was conducted by Pr. MacManus from 8 – 9 a.m. The retreat started at 9:30 a.m. with Pr. MacManus reading and discussing Luke 10:38: Jesus' visit to the home of sisters and disciples, Martha and Mary, and how that passage correlated with discipleship.

The retreat continued with Mike Allenbaugh's survey presentation. Each council member received a handout of the statistical interpretation of the survey's raw data. It was suggested to the Ministry Board Chairs to take the survey results and interpretations to their next meeting and review it with their members for any actionable items specific to their Ministry Board. Mike reviewed and explained the results that stood out to be the most pertinent, good or bad, about Grace Lutheran Church. The Council then identified four opportunities for action:

- To build and re-activate discipleship
- To build enthusiasm among Grace's disciples for the efforts and mission of the Church
- To take advantage of the varying interests and backgrounds of our congregation to build the Grace Lutheran Church of the future
- To enhance opportunities for involvement of Grace's youth
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We need your help! So please, send us your suggestions via e-mail to any council member listed above or drop your written suggestions into the Mutual Ministry answer chest in the narthex.

Future “Reports to the Congregation” will be published as action plans for each opportunity are developed.

GLC Ministry of Literacy

The Literacy program is blessed to be growing with both students and volunteers. Currently we have 13 students and 35 volunteers. We work with the volunteers to come when their schedules allow which gives them a range of days to choose from. It is a lot of fun for both the students and volunteers and we are so grateful to all involved. At this time our main need is treats for April and the first week of May. These can be homemade or from the store. We usually look for a drink, and cookies, bars, popcorn, chips whatever works for the person and possibly some fruit. We cut the fruit so we don't need one for each student. There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway if someone can help us out. If you have questions please contact Karen Hessel at 263-6970.

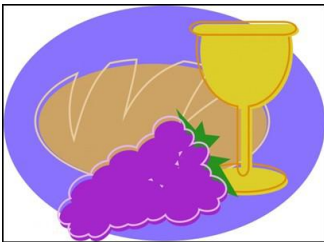
Grace Women News *By Mary Hovick & Karen Hessel*

An Invitation – All women of Grace are invited to join us on Tuesday, April 14th – 9:30 a.m. at Grace Church. In our next Bible study, accounts of Jesus' resurrection appearances and Paul's explanation of bodily resurrection will help us understand both the basis for trust in God and the life-giving role of the Holy Spirit.

Coffee – Look for the “Coffee Cart” on Sunday mornings, and purchase your Equal Exchange favorite blend. Feel free to purchase coffee anytime the church office is open. You may also put your money in the envelope provided and put it under the office door or in the offering plate. **You will be helping farmers overseas earn a fair share of the income from the crops they grow.**

Box Tops for Education – Please save Box Top Coupons and/or UPC Codes found throughout your local grocery store. Visit www.boxtops4education.com for a current list of participating products. Clipped coupons can be placed in the “Box Tops for Education” folder on the bulletin board across the hall from Pastor’s office. The money earned by this project will be sent to Bethphage School in Axtell, Nebraska for children and adults with mental retardation and developmental disabilities.

NO BOARD MEETING IN APRIL



Christian Ed Board

The Christian Ed Board is pleased to announce 7 students completed their First Communion classes in March, and received their First Communion on Palm Sunday. Nolan Erber, Tony Green, Brooklyn McGinnis, Matthew Morgan, Nathan Schmitt, Cory Shank, and Grace Zorich. Congratulations to you all!!

From Pastor: Adult Forum Study Beginning

Does being the church matter? If it does, why and how do we as members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) make a difference in the world? Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton is asking congregational input on a national scale. This input comes in the form of a 5 session study and response. The adult study will start a session next Sunday April 12th at 9:30am in the Chapel/Lounge.

Easter Sanctuary Flowers

The Easter Lilies for Sunday’s Easter services were in memory of the following: Richard and Shirley Drake, given by the Drake family, and in memory of loved ones, given by Paul and JoAnna Wilts.

News from LSI
Lutheran Services of Iowa



May is National Foster Care Month

Do you know someone who is open-minded, patient, caring, a team player and has a great sense of humor? He or she could be a great foster parent! As a partner agency in Iowa KidsNet, LSI helps find, train, support and license Iowa's foster and adoptive families. Iowa has an urgent and ongoing need for foster families, as children continue to enter the foster care system and foster families leave, often for positive reasons such as adoption or retirement after years of service. Foster parenting could be one of the most rewarding things you ever do! To learn more, visit www.IowaKidsNet.com.

Thank you for your support of LSI and all we achieve together for Iowa children and families!

LSI is proud to be an affiliated social ministry organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Learn more at www.LSIowa.org and www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

A Dream Team for Brooke

On a spring day in Muscatine, LSI brought together a dream team.

A pastor, principal, guidance counselor, teacher, grandmother and mom all gathered for one reason: to make sure a special teen girl knew just how much she mattered.

The girl was Brooke, a sweet, shy 16-year-old who had been struggling at school with poor decision-making and social issues.

“Since my daughter was in kindergarten, all I had ever heard were negative comments,” said her mom Nicole. “No one else saw what I saw in Brooke until LSI came along.”

LSI's Dream Team program brings together all the people who care about a teen. Brooke's team listened to her share her dreams to help animals or help the elderly, and then they responded with love, encouragement and ideas.

“They talked about her big heart and how they could help her reach her goals when she graduates,” Nicole said. “Brooke was ecstatic.”

Brooke’s self-worth has skyrocketed, said Rochelle, an LSI service coordinator.

“You can just see when you talk to her that she feels better about herself. Before you could tell she wasn’t happy. Now she has a glow about her.”

Brooke also spent months working with LSI’s Brief Intensive Services staff to learn how to make better choices. She didn’t fail a single subject last year and even made A’s.

“LSI convinced us to have her re-tested, and she was diagnosed with Asperger’s and ADHD,” said Nicole. “Without LSI I think we would be in jeopardy of Brooke not graduating high school.”

Brooke is starting to believe in herself for the first time. And that’s a dream come true.

Hawaiian Trivia Fundraiser Night



The Hawaiian fundraiser night for the Capital Improvement Fund raised \$1,395.00 at their March trivia night. Special thanks to the kitchen staff and all who donated food, silent auction items, door prizes and those who played trivia. Thanks to Jim Edgmond for being our MC for the night and to Pastor for running the Power Point presentation of questions and answers on the screen. Congrats to the “Mulligans” team of Lawhead and Morgan’s who came in 1st place with 63 out of 80 points.

The team standings as follows: Mulligans-63 points; The Not Lutherans-60 points; Knee-dy-57 points; We Gonna Win-A-55 points; Super 6-55 points; Minus One-54 points; Housemans-53 points; Awesome GLC Youth-50 points; The 4-Niners-47 points; Mike & His Ladies-45 points; and The Flamingos-40 points.

Happy Anniversary

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES!

Luke & Julie Kissell	4/5	Robin & Timothy Taylor	4/6
Gary & Christine Stodden	4/7	Lowell & JoAnn Sundermann	4/8
Doug & Tracy Schroeder	4/9	David & Susan Freers	4/20
Charles & Alice Olswold	4/20	Allen & Judy Pameticky	4/22
Timothy & Lauren Smith	4/24	Brian & Kimberly Pantier	4/27
Bret & Kathryn Green	4/28	Charles & Jana Batchelor	4/30



April Birthdays!

4/1 Jackie Bantz	4/7 Don Duncan	4/14 Kathryn Green
Holly Boche	Tanner Gardner	Olivia Lofgren
Janell Johnson	Curtis Hampton	Russell Price
Timothy Kottman	Larry Holiday	Landon Walsh
Larissa Maeglin	Cooper Larson	4/15 Judy Warren
Ernest Morgan Jr.	Claire Newsom	4/16 Brian Hartman
Marvin Smith	Austin Smith	4/17 Jack Allen II
Brandon Sparks	4/8 Florene Nowysz	Madison Butler
4/2 Leah Cuirtis	Grace Schlutz	4/18 Brittan
4/3 Emma Mask	4/9 Emily Schroeder	Taegan Christensen
Melissa Paulsen	4/10 John Gabriel III	Mckenzie Kissell
4/4 Wanda Kebernik	4/11 Carlin Lawhead	4/19 Charles Batchelor
Abigail Kemper	Jill Lurndal	Heather Cole
Dennis Schuur	Alexander Wilts	Kacie Eagle
Devin Siqulinksy	4/13 Theresa Busch	Adriana Harle
William Stigge	Austin Keppy	Jessica Larson
4/5 Dillon Sears	Michael Munday	Benen Pantier
4/6 Arthur Hovick	Eli Price	4/20 JoAnne Fisher
4/7 Leo Allen	4/14 John Brase	Dorothy Thomas

April Birthday's Continued:

4/21 William Baumgardner Ryan Henning Timothy Smith	4/24 Michael Nus Lowell Sundermann	4/26 Jennifer McGlothen Kylie Green
4/22 Kathleen Metcalf Rachel Price	4/25 Avarie Eagle Darcie Morgan Judi Segulinsky	4/28 Olga McKasson Dawn Pence
4/23 Nancy Long Debra Sanger	4/26 Sarah Eagle Dalton Howland	4/29 McKenzie Fields Libby Lohse Mallory Young
4/24 Susan Longhurst		

Please save this page to use for your prayer list. Pray for each person on their birthday. By the end of the year, you would have prayed for everyone in the congregation. If we have missed a birthday or anniversary, please call the church office at 263-5680.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	29 30		31 Apr 1		2	3 4
Palm Sunday		3pm Ministry of Literacy Prog 7pm Scouts		Maundy Thursday	Good Friday	
8:15am Abundant Life Communion 9:30 Coffee & Sunday School 10:45am Amazing Grace Communion 3:30pm Review & Renew 4:30pm Trivia Night 4:30pm Jr Hi Youth Group 5pm mYgROUP				2pm Communion Service 3pm Ministry of Literacy Prog 6pm Maundy Worship	12pm Community Worship 6pm Good Friday Worship	
	5	6	7	8	9 10	11
EASTER	Office Closed	3pm Ministry of Literacy Prog	6:30pm Youth Affirmation	3pm Ministry of Literacy Prog		9am Men's Gathering 3pm Music Recital
6am Sunrise Communion 8:15am Abundant Life Communion 9:30am Youth Easter Breakfast 10:45am Amazing Grace Communion	6pm Worship & Music Ministry 6:30pm Property Committee Meeting	5:30pm Social Ministry 7pm Scouts		6:30pm Congregational Life Meeting		
	12	13	14	15	16	17 18
Easter 2	3pm Ministry of Lit. Meeting	9:30am Grace Women Bible Study 3pm Ministry of Literacy Prog 7pm Scouts	6:30pm Youth Affirmation	3pm Ministry of Literacy Prog		May Newsletter Deadline
8:15am Abundant Life Communion 9:30 am Coffee & Sunday School 9:30 Session Study & Response Group 10:45am Amazing Grace Communion 1pm Music Recital 3:30pm Review & Renew 4pm GLC Winds 4:30pm Youth Group 5pm My Group						2pm Reserved Social Hall-Tibe VanderLinden
	19 20		21	22		23 24 25
Easter 3		3pm Ministry of Literacy Prog 7pm Scouts	6:30pm Youth Affirmation	3pm Ministry of Literacy Prog		
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	26	27	28	29	30	May 1	2
Easter 4							
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10:45am Amazing Grace Communion							
3:30pm Review & Renew							
4pm GLC Winds							
4:30pm Youth Group							
5pm My Group							
			3pm Ministry of Literacy Prog 7pm Scouts	6:30pm Youth Affirmation	3pm Ministry of Literacy Prog		9am Men's Gathering

Events shown in time zone: Central Time



FOR Weekly UPDATES on times and activities- see the Grace web page!