

A Message from Pastor Aanonson:

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! The strife is o'er, the battle done; Now is the victor's triumph won!
Now be the song of praise begun. Alleluia! (ELW, hymn no. 366, stanza 1).*

Of all the Easter hymns this is my favorite even though it is not the most well known. The hymn is gospel through and through. A few years ago when I was leading a Bible study on the Book of Revelation I found this hymn to be especially helpful in explaining the good news of that book. That cryptic book continually describes a battle that seemingly is yet to take place at the end of all ages—a battle between Christ and Satan. Actually the point of view of that book is not of a battle yet to come, but of a battle already won. The battle between Christ and Satan has already been won by Christ on the cross and in the Resurrection. There is not a great battle yet to be. The proclamation of John the Revelator is that the battle has already been won. Christ has won and defeated Satan forever. Satan is in his death throes. The evil that we see and experience in this world today is evil that is having its last word, its whimper of defeat. John tells us that, even in the midst of the evil of the world and the troubles of our lives, we ought to be comforted and live in hope because *the strife is o'er, the battle done; Now is the victor's triumph won! Now be the song of praise begun. Alleluia!*

Easter is *the song of praise begun*. Christ has won the victory over sin, death, and the devil. Sin is forgiven; the devil defeated by Christ's descent into hell, and death is vanquished by God raising Christ to life. This is not a future event. This is a past and future event that is made present for and in each of us through our Holy Baptism. Every day our sin is forgiven because of the cross of Christ. Every day we are raised to new life because God raised Christ to a new life. We call this our daily baptism. In a real sense, each day is a Good Friday and each day is an Easter. Each day there is a cross in our life and each day there is a resurrection in our life. While we enjoy the celebration of Easter, we do experience the cross and the Resurrection every day. Because of Good Friday, because of the cross, because of Jesus Christ who died on that cross, because He took all your sins upon Himself and suffered the consequence of sin—death, death as separation from God, your sins are now forgiven every day. Because He descended into hell, the lair of Satan, and thoroughly trashed hell as God His Father raised Him to new life, you are now raised to new life every day. Thus every day becomes a day of rejoicing to sing the song of praise. *The pow'rs of death have done their worst, But Christ their legion has dispersed. Let shouts of holy joy outburst* (stanza 2).

It has become quite the fashion in theology today to discount sin, to unsin that which the Holy Scriptures name as sin. In fact, many theologians would say that they have moved past sin and the cross. That is, of course, not in accord with the Bible and what we believe, teach, and confess. As one reads the Scriptures it is quite evident that when one belittles sin, one necessarily and at the same time belittles the cross, the Christ who hung from the Cross, and the God *who so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whoever believes in Him may not perish but have eternal life*. Of course, if there is no sin, then anything we do is okey dokey with God. My questions are then: Why Good Friday? Why Easter? Why? Because all the Holy Scriptures point to the One who shall be named Jesus, who *will save His people from their sins*. Thus it is that we sing : *The three sad days have quickly sped, He rises glorious from the dead. All glory to our risen head! Alleluia! He broke the age-bound chains of hell: The bars from heav'ns high portals fell. Let hymns of praise His triumph tell. Alleluia! Alleluia, alleluias, alleluia!* (stanzas 3 and 4).

Grace and Peace,
Pastor David A. Aanonson

<p style="text-align:center">Grace Lutheran Church Council Actions and Highlights – Council Meeting – March 17, 2016</p>
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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:

Pr. Aanonson, Don Ager, Mike Allenbaugh, Ramona Allenbaugh, Brenda Erber, JoAnne Fisher, Karen Hessel, Connor Lawhead, Shirlee Staley

MEMBERS EXECUSED:

Jim Edgmond

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE CHAIR:

Vacant

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE:

Jeanette Billingsley has resigned from Congregational Life Ministry Board as well as their representative on Council. Don Ager will be attending their next meeting to ask if any member would be willing to become Council Representative.

NEW COUNCIL MEETING DATE:

The members were reminded that the next Council meeting will be April 28th. Council voted in February to change the date to the 4th Thursday of every month.

RESIGNATION OF DIRECTOR OF LITERACY:

Judy Lokenvitz has resigned her position as Director of the Literacy Program in order to spend more time with family and friends who are out of town and out of state. Her last day will be April 30th. The Social Ministry members are in the process of recruiting a replacement.

RESIGNATION OF MUSIC DIRECTOR:

Bob Romza has resigned his position as Director of Music effective March 31st. He will be pursuing other opportunities at St. Mary/Mathias. The Executive Committee, Pr. Aanonson, and members of the Worship & Music Board will be interviewing an applicant on Wednesday, March 23rd.

BASEMENT STEPS:

On March 1st, MPW reported that the basement steps leading up to the water meters were VERY unstable and loose. They were evaluated on 3/16 and deemed unsafe and should not be used. Therefore, the Council voted to authorize Archer Deck & Fence to repair or replace the wooden steps in the boiler room for approximately \$300.

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE:

The Call Committee has received another potential candidate for our full-time pastor. The candidate will be a graduate of Wartburg Seminary and available in early July. He will be interviewed by them on April 2nd.

REDISTRIBUTUON OF FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Council approved the Executive Committee's recommendation to create a new position of Financial Secretary. Mike Allenbaugh, the present Treasurer, will assume those responsibilities, since he is doing so in his present position as Treasurer. The Nominating Committee will be searching for someone to fulfill the duties of the Treasurer's position. If you are still confused, contact Mike or Don Ager for clarification.

HAPPY TIME PRESCHOOL OF MUSCATINE:

Council approved Happy Time's request for reimbursement of \$1,520.00 in return for a signed General Liability Release.

VGA (VIDEO GRAPHIC ADAPTER) PRESENTATION SOFTWARE:

Council approved the \$400 purchase for a newer version of the VGA software. This new software would allow at-home volunteers to create the slides for the worship services and download to the church's computers for presentation. If you are interested in being one of those volunteers, contact Mike Allenbaugh.

PARKING LOT:

The status of fixing the parking lot will be fully re-examined as a summer project.

NURSERY:

Parents with small children attending worship will be surveyed by Brenda Erber as to their need for a nursery.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:

Christian Education is looking for someone to serve with Katie Green as Co-Chair of the Vacation Bible School in July. Contact Brenda Erber if you are interested.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 7:35 P.M. (One hour and 5 minutes)

Respectfully submitted,

JoAnne Fisher, Council Secretary

First Communion



On Maundy Thursday, we had three students receive their first communion. They were Cael Moss, Chale Lewis, and Elsie Lewis. Congratulations to the three of them. Next time you see them, please also congratulate them. Thank you.

April 2016, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story



April 2016, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

National Child Abuse Prevention Month

According to Prevent Child Abuse Iowa, more than 7,400 Iowa children were found to be abused in 2014. The most common forms of abuse included denial of critical care, physical injury, exposure to illegal drugs and sexual abuse.

Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) helps combat child abuse through prevention, safety and stability services and mental and behavioral health treatment.

LSI's early childhood programs prevent child abuse by giving parents support and resources to build a healthy, stable home environment for their children. In 2015, LSI made more than 15,000 home visits to parents of infants, toddlers and preschoolers!

LSI's Family, Safety, Risk and Permanency Services help children and families already involved in a crisis or abuse situation to become safer and more stable, and LSI's residential programs at Beloit and Bremwood serve many children and youth who have experienced trauma from past abuse or neglect.

You make a direct impact on these children and families through your support of LSI. Thank you!

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.

All About the Love

The heartbeat of Syntesha's home is made up of three little words: *I love you. I love you. I love you.*

"I tell my son all day, 'I love you,'" she said. "I didn't know what love meant until I had my baby. The definition of love has changed for me."

Syntesha grew up in a troubled, violent home. Her childhood involved fights. Skipping school. Living with one grandparent, then another.

“I wouldn’t even call it a home,” she said. “My mom and dad were in and out of jail growing up. They were young. I’m 21, and my mom is 35. I’ve been through anything you can name. Physical, emotional, sexual abuse. Homeless. Shelter. Evicted.”

At 18, she was barely ready to take care of herself, let alone a child. So when she was seven months pregnant, she signed up for LSI’s home visiting services. LSI helped this motivated young mom with potty training, budgeting and positive parenting tips and encouraged her college dreams.

“If you’re a single mom, I think this is the absolutely best program,” Syntesha said.

Now a full-time college student, Syntesha is working hard for her dreams while also preparing to welcome another child into her family. She hopes to help local youth who face the same struggles she once did.

“I want my son to know there are bigger and better things out there in the world.”

What a big, brilliant, beautiful kind of love.

Vacation Bible School by Brenda Erber & Traci Lippelgoes



It is hard to believe that a year has passed already, but, Vacation Bible School begins Sunday, July 10th and runs through Thursday, July 14th, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. We are co-chairing this event this year and we are in need of one more volunteer. If you are interested, please contact Brenda Erber at (563) 299-9050 or Traci Lippelgoes at (563) 260-7019. Additional information will be released in the near future. Thank you.

Grace Women News

By Mary Hovick & Karen Hessel

An Invitation – All women of Grace are invited to join us on Tuesday April 12th at 9:30. We will meet at Church in the lounge as we continue with our Bible study series. Our winter Bible study, Christian Citizenship 101, is an exploration of the book of Philippians. In this closing session of this Bible study, we encounter some of the best-known passages from Philippians. We will also reflect on all four sessions, to respond to God and to witness to one another. Please join us in this time of fellowship and sharing. People share as they are comfortable in doing so. You are invited to just come and listen or join in the discussion. **All are welcome!**

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.

BOARD MEETING APRIL 11TH 9:30

HAT’S OFF TO MEMBERS OF GRACE!



Grace Trivia Night on March 6 was a success!

We raised \$1412.50 for the Capital Improvement Fund.

Thank you to all the members who donated items, baked goodies, helped serve food, set up, clean up and played Trivia!

It always feels successful when we have a full room of church members with family and friends coming together to support Grace!

Thank you for the Congregational Board

GLC Ministry of Literacy by Deb Holiday

We are completing our spring semester April 28. We have had another wonderful year and want to thank you all for your support through snack donations, your time volunteering, prayers, and monetary contributions.

Judy Lokenvitz, our director, has submitted her resignation effective April 30th. She is wanting to spend time with family and friends who all live out of town or out of state. She will be deeply missed. We wish her well and thank her for her dedication to this program.

We hope to have a new director in place for our July session.

2016 Church Directory

The Church Directory Committee is nearing completion of updating members' contact information for the 2016 Church Directory. A big "THANK YOU" to all who have already done so, but we still need to verify the contact information of those listed below. Please call the church office at 563-263-5680 between the hours of 9:00 – 3:30 p.m. Mon-Thurs on or before April 7th to make sure we have your correct home address, email address, and phone number. Thank you.

Richard & Cindy Alexander
Ruth Allinger
Ione Bachman
Glen & Ila Barrington
Chuck & Jana Batchelor
Molly & Ivy Bachman
Marsha Bennett
Richard & Monika Boyer
Wade & Varinia Bruns
Ann Clemens
Geraldine Dunker
Harry & Connie Fett
Jennifer Figg
Stacie Figg
Connie Fuller
Robert & Gertrude Gallagher
Karen & Chuck Gardner
Rick & Kelly Gardner
Meggie Gear
Kelly Gillespie
Emily or Clara Goddard
Kara Hage
Michelle Hampton
Linda Hinman
Jean Hoeksema
Terry & Theresa Hogenson
Richard & Doris Holliday

Keith & Marilyn Hultquist
Alexandra Houseman
Jesse Houseman
Jeff & Jodie Jones
Carol Karg
Cynthia Kauffman
Tracy Keppy
Julie Kissell
Marvin Krieger
Anita Lange
Jerry Lange
Charles & Shannon Lewis
Bette Logel
Jay & LeaAnn Logel
Nancy Long
JoAnn Longhurst
Mollie Lothringer
Bennett Luedtke
Sharon McCleary
Dennis & Janet McClure
Natalie McDonald
Mike & Tracy McGinnis
Deanna Maxson
Judy Maxwell
James & Arlene Melson
Jeff & Sally Miller
Wannabelle Mosier

Shawna Moss
Florene Nowysz
Bill & Tjode Nus
Darrell & Karen Olderog
Charles & Alice Olsword
Dawn Pence
Joyce Reed
Almeda Rich
Steve & Cindy Rusch
Cliff Scherrer
Desiree Schmitt
Dorothy Schmoldt
Scott Schultz
Jack Smith
Tim & Lauren Smith
John & Cindy Sparks
Margaret Stych
Kim Thompson
Paul & Marilyn Wedel
Norma Whitmore
Taia Willhoite
Jordan Woods
Karen Woods
Helen Wulf
Carrie Zorich

Macaroni & Cheese Months by Tammy Stein



April and May are Macaroni & Cheese months in the Sunday school at Grace. Let's fill the food pantry cart into a tower of boxed foods to feed GOD's flock.

A special treat awaits all our little angel's in Sunday school the end of May. The Congregation should feel free to help build our tower too! Thank you. Tammy Stein, Food Pantry Chair.

Anniversaries and Birthdays

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

April Anniversaries

Happy
Anniversary

<i>Luke & Julie Kissell</i>	<i>4/05</i>	<i>Charles & Alice Olswold</i>	<i>4/20</i>
<i>Tim & Robin Taylor</i>	<i>4/06</i>	<i>Allen & Judy Pameticky</i>	<i>4/22</i>
<i>Gary & Chris Stodden</i>	<i>4/07</i>	<i>Tim & Lauren Smith</i>	<i>4/24</i>
<i>Lowell & JoAnn Sundermann</i>	<i>4/08</i>	<i>Brian & Kimberly Pantier</i>	<i>4/27</i>
<i>Doug & Tracy Schroeder</i>	<i>4/09</i>	<i>Bret & Katie Green</i>	<i>4/28</i>
<i>David & Susan Freers</i>	<i>4/20</i>	<i>Charles & Jana Batchelor</i>	<i>4/30</i>

April Birthdays

Jackie Bantz	4-01	Grace Schultz	4-08	Benen Pantier	4-19
Holly Boche	4-01	Emily Schroeder	4-09	JoAnne Fisher	4-20
Janell Johnson	4-01	John Gabriel III	4-10	Dorothy Thomas	4-20
Timothy Kottman	4-01	Carlin Lawhead	4-11	William Baumgardner	4-21
Larissa Maeglin	4-01	Jill Lurndal	4-11	Rylee Henning	4-21
Ernest Morgan Jr.	4-01	Alexander Wilts	4-11	Tim Smith	4-21
Marvin Smith	4-01	Theresa Busch	4-13	Kathleen Metcalf	4-22
Brandon Sparks	4-01	Austin Keppey	4-13	Rachel Price	4-22
Leah Curtis	4-02	Michael Munday	4-13	Nancy Long	4-23
Emma Mask	4-03	Eli Price	4-13	Debra Sanger	4-23
Melissa Sanasack	4-03	Kathryn Green	4-14	Susan Longhurst	4-24
Abigail Kemper	4-04	Olivia Lofgren	4/14	Michael Nus	4-24
Dennis Schuur	4-04	Russell Prise	4/14	Lowell Sundermann	4-24

Happy Birthday

Devin Sigulinsky	4-04	Landon Walsh	4-14	Avarie Eagle	4-25
William Stigge	4-04	Judy Warren	4-15	Darci Morgan	4-25
Dillon Sears	4-05	Brian Hartman	4-16	Judi Sigulinsky	4-25
Art Hovick	4-06	Jack Allen II	4-17	Sarah Eagle	4-26
Leo Allen	4-07	Madison Butler	4-17	Dalten Howland	4-26
Don Duncan	4-07	Brittany Carter	4-18	Jennifer McGlothlen	4-26
Tanner Gardner	4-07	Taegen Christensen	4-18	Kylie Green	4-28
Curtis Hampton	4-07	McKenzie Kissell	4-18	Olga McKasson	4-28
Larry Holliday	4-07	Charles Batchelor	4-19	Dawn Pence	4-28
Cooper Larson	4-07	Heather Cole	4-19	McKenzie Fields	4-29
Claire Newsom	4-07	Kacie Eagle	4-19	Libby Lohse	4-29
Austin Smith	4-07	Adriana Harle	4-19	Mallory Young	4-29
Florence Nowysz	4-08	Jessica Larson	4-19		

Church Announcements

- Spring Clean-Up Day is scheduled for Saturday, April 16th, at 8:00 a.m. Watch for more details in the near future.
- The weekly Grace Notes PS and Church Bulletins are now published on the Church web site gracemuscatine.com.
- If you have not already done so, please check out the new look of the Church website at gracemuscatine.com.
- Updates for the Church Calendar can be found at gracemuscatine.com.
- Please remember to provide the office with any name, address, email changes, or other pertinent information, so that we have correct information in our Shepherds Staff member file system and email system. Call the office at 263-5680 or email us at glc@machlink.com with changes. Thank you.



APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY FLOWERS. ENJOY SPRING!