

Equippier

Equipping God's people as we celebrate, teach, and share God's Grace.



APRIL



"On Being a Christian in an Internet World"

In 2010, Egyptian activists took to *Facebook* to challenge the police brutality of their country. The online movement quickly grew into a real-life rallying point for Egyptians frustrated with corruption and economic decline. We know it as the *Arab Spring*. To say that the internet has changed the world is almost an understatement. It has affected nearly every facet of life in the western world—from how we consume art and entertainment, to how we communicate, educate, and conduct business, to the very basics of maintaining interpersonal relationships with family and friends.

Perhaps this more globalized world can feel frustrating or even overwhelming. When Christians face persecution in Nigeria, we hear about it immediately. In the same day, we might also hear about acts of terrorism in Europe, protests that become riots across the country, and school shootings in our own backyard. So many days, our *Facebook* feeds are filled with friends' testimonies about miscarriage, divorce, sickness, and untimely death, while *Instagram* is flush with pictures of someone else's new car or house. *Twitter* runs quickly with sharp words and hateful comments, and our news outlet of choice seems rampant with misinformation, bias, and vitriol.

The informational input our minds receive every day is extraordinary—far different from the days of king David where they would wait atop the watch towers for a runner to come from battle to give them news (2 Sam. 18:24–25). This begs a question: How do Christians engage in this brave new world in a manner that's worthy of the calling we've received?

First, ***seek truth***. You may spend some time on Snopes.com and similar sites, hoping to get to the source of news, viral videos, and even advertisements to discern between reality and scams. It's easier and quicker to press "*share*" rather than take the time to double-check facts or verify rumors online. But we're called to be people who seek truth. The Lord tells the Prophet Jeremiah in the days of judgment: "*Go up and down the streets of Jerusalem, look around and consider, search through her squares. If you can find but one person who deals honestly and seeks the truth, I will forgive this city*" (Jer. 5:1). Proverbs is brimming with the praise of truthful lips: "*A truthful witness saves lives, but a false witness is deceitful*" (Prov. 14:25).

As Christians, we ought to commit ourselves to seeking and sharing the truth, not just what confirms our biases or presuppositions. Indeed, a commitment to seeking and sharing only what's true contributes to our witness before a watching world—even online.

Second, ***speak with salt***. Social media can be an angry place. It's easy to be rude to someone when you can't see their face and when you don't know where they come from or what their struggles are. How abruptly we brush people aside, trampling their good names and discarding their thoughts or opinions for the sake of gratifying our own tempers! And yet, as Christians, our speech is supposed to be edifying: "*Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone*" (Col. 4:6). "*As God's chosen people,*" we are to "*clothe [ourselves] with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience*" (Col. 3:12). That kind of practice leaves very little room for sarcasm. If we're God's children—the recipients of an eternal and saving patience—shouldn't we be marked by the same quality of gentle speech and a slow tongue?

Third, ***pray without ceasing***. The magnitude of suffering this world endures can be overwhelming, but should we be surprised by the wars and rumors of wars? We who believe in the curse of sin and trust in the hope of salvation, redemption, and a new heavens and earth—shouldn't we be the first to understand the pangs of misery that flood our newsfeeds? Though heavy, this burden shouldn't overwhelm us, for we do not mourn anything in this world as those without hope (1 Thess. 4:13). Paul exhorted the Christians of Thessalonica on how to live in these last days: "*Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus*" (1 Thess. 5:16–18). We rest in a great hope, and that should stir us both to prayer and to praise.

Fourth, ***walk humbly***. When you can curate your own audiences on social media, and decide which news outlets to listen to and which to turn off, it can be easy to trick ourselves into thinking we know everything. The arrogance social media fosters within us often goes unmentioned. And yet we are not called to pride but humility, not to sit in judgment over others but to seek justice and mercy. "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8).

How do we do this? Centuries before cyber communication complicated our lives, the Apostle James gave us instructions for this: "*My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires*" (James 1:19-20). We ought to be the first to lend an ear and "*slow to speak*"—and then only with gentleness and respect, as unto other image bearers of our gracious God.

Fifth, ***fix your eyes on Jesus***. How these challenges have come into our lives may be new, but the problems themselves are not (Eccl. 1:9). We don't live in unprecedented times, but those that are foreordained by God, hand-crafted in his perfect providence.

How then do we live? The writer of Hebrews shows us the way: "*Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.*" (Heb. 12:1–3)

Don't be distracted by the seeming successes and joys of others online or brought low by the constant news of heartache around the world. Keep your eyes fixed on Christ and his great work of salvation. Cast off all the sins, doubts, and fears that hinder our running with perseverance in this race of faith. In great joy, Christ has already run this race for you and taken his seat of glory at the right hand of God—that's the finish line! Don't grow weary. Don't lose heart. Long before social media, we were surrounded by a cloud of witnesses. Praise be to God that these truths don't change, even in the age of the internet.

See you in worship,
Pastor John M. Taggatz

LENT



Lenten Midweek Series for Grace Lutheran Church “Return to the Lord!”

Join us for this exciting series as we meditate upon Christ’s passion in dying on the cross to save us from our sins. Here is an overview of the series:

Thursday, April 7th 6:30pm — “Return to the Lord, Who Does Not Tire of Calling You” Amos 4:6–13

Thursday, April 14th 6:30pm w/communion — **Maundy Thursday:** “The Lord Returns to Jerusalem with Mercy” Zechariah 1:12–17

Friday, April 15th 12:00pm Good Friday Worship, no communion — “It Is Finished” John 19:30

Friday, April 15th 6:30pm Good Friday Tenebrae Service — “The Word of the Lord Returns to Him with Success” Isaiah 55:6–11

Sunday, April 17th 6:00am Easter Sunrise Service, no communion — “Don’t Seek the Living among the Dead” Luke 24:1–6a

Sunday, April 17th 8:30am & 10:00am Easter Sunday Festival Service w/communion — “He Has Risen! He Is Now Here!” Luke 24:1–12

Lenten Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries

In *Suffering Servant*, we encounter Jesus the Man sent to redeem a lost world. Born in the flesh, Jesus became like us. Taking the form of a Servant, He emptied Himself. Bearing our sins to the cross, He gives us newness of life through His victory over death won for us by His resurrection from the dead.

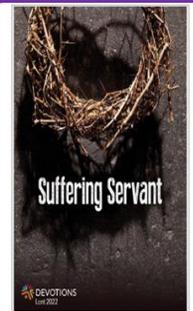
We are offering these devotions at our Church in both a physical booklet form and we will be emailing them out to our members. This devotional will include our Lenten Worship Schedule for Grace with contact information for our Church. To view the devotions online go to: <https://www.lhm.org/lent/>

Consider using this devotion not only for your own personal and family devotions during the Lenten season, but also to share with your neighbor, family member, friend, or co-worker so that they too can share in the comforting Gospel of our Lord’s passion and death for the forgiveness of our sins.

What is Lent? The season of Lent begins in February or March. The word *lent* has its origin in the same root as one of the German words for “spring,” *Lenz*. As nature awakens from the death of winter, so the Christian finds newness of life in Christ, rising from sin’s death. During the 40 days of Lent, God’s baptized people cleanse their hearts through the discipline of Lent: *repentance, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving*.

Lent is a time in which God’s people prepare with joy for the paschal feast (Easter). It is a time in which God renews His people’s zeal in faith and life. It is a time in which we pray that we may be given the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God.

Customs: Lent begins with Ash Wednesday when ashes are placed on the forehead to symbolize repentance. The color for this service is black or purple. The color for the rest of Lent is purple. The hymns and services of Lent do not include the joyful word, “*Alleluia*.” Consider fasting during daylight hours. Spend your regular mealtime in prayer and devotional reading. If you cannot abstain from food for health reasons, abstain from something else (e.g., *television or another leisure activity*). Do not fast on Sundays, which are not part of the 40 days of Lent. Read Bible stories with children each day.





I BEGAN TO FEEL GOD'S LOVE AGAIN

Recently, I was teaching at a Stephen Ministry event where someone introduced me to "Megan". a woman in her early 30's who wanted to tell me her story about receiving care from a Stephen Minister during a difficult transition in her life. Megan prefers to remain anonymous--but she gave me permission to share her story with you so you'll know about the powerful difference Stephen Ministry made in her life. (writer unknown)

Megan's Story

It all began soon after I moved to a new city to lie near my family. I had just ended an eight-year relationship and was depending on them to be my support system. But a few months after I arrived, they unexpectedly had to move away...so I felt very, very alone. Not long after they moved, my grandfather passed away. It was one of the hardest times on my life. I knew I needed to talk to someone, but I hadn't lived in the city long enough to develop close, comfortable friendships that I could depend on but my new church had Stephen Ministry. When I found out what Stephen Ministry was, I talked to my pastor about getting a Stephen Minister.

It started off a little bit slow. I wasn't sure how I'd feel about sharing deep, personal things with someone I didn't know very well. But her consistency, compassion, and care for me, really came through. I realized that my Stephen Minister was a safe person who wasn't going to share what I told her with anyone else. From there we developed a deep relationship until I felt like I could truly share anything with her.

We met weekly. Sometimes she'd come to my house and we'd sit and talk, and other times we'd go walking together. During our visits, she just let me talk while she listened. As I was talking through things, I realized that it was helping me to make sense of everything that had happened and how I was feeling. She accepted my feelings, including the ones that seemed risky to share and that was really helpful. I actually didn't need advice from her...I needed acceptance and affirmation. I had a lot of loneliness, a lot of hurts, a lot of uncertainty inside. I needed to be validated and not put down. My Stephen Minister did a wonderful job of creating a warm, caring space for me to process my emotions and work through my issues.

It was a few months into our relationship, and I begun to trust my Stephen Minister with some of my most difficult issues. As we were walking around a track, with the wind blowing in my face, I suddenly realized that she was literally walking right beside me as I journeyed through my pain. I'd been struggling with some spiritual wounds that were pretty intense and needed healing...things I didn't want to share with family and friends. But on that visit, as my Stephen Minister walked next to me, I felt safe and comfortable. So I shared my deepest hurts with her...some really painful things that I feared she might judge me for and that made me wonder if God could possibly love me.

After I told her those things, I was really nervous and dreading her response. I was worried that she would think I was an awful person. But instead, she put her arms around me and said, "I am sorry you had to go through that." And that was a turning point for me. To go from fear of judgement to a positive affirmation of care, empathy and even sorrow for what I'd been through...it was so meaningful. That's when I began to feel God's love again. The fact that God is invisible makes it hard for me to experience him sometimes; I'd been through some very negative experiences in life that caused me to question whether God even existed and, if he existed whether he loved me. I truly wondered, after all the things I'd done and the mess I'd been through, if God could still love me.

I somehow knew intuitively that I needed a person that I could see and touch. I think that's truly why I asked for a Stephen Minister. When my Stephen Minister was able to share her concern and her sorrow over my experiences, God was there loving me through her. I experienced God's sorrow and God's compassion and God's love-- and it made all the difference for me. What I needed the most was her unconditional love to know that no matter what I shared with her, no matter what I'd done, she cared for me. Her care showed God's love for me. I needed to know that there was one person in the world who knew everything there was to know about me...the good and the bad and the ugly...and still loved me. It was a tangible expression of God's love in my Stephen Minister that changed my life. My Stephen Minister helped me get to a place where I was able to deal with my issues without her. As that happened, our visits tapered off from weekly to every other week to every three weeks. We decided to meet for the last time on my birthday, and that was a very special day for me.

Stephen Ministers do a lot of listening and ask really good questions that help you talk through your thoughts and emotions. Stephen Ministers are there for you when it seems that no one else is. Just having someone to talk to week after week to bounce ideas off of, can help bring clarity into your life and help you sort through whatever it is you're dealing with. The most important thing my Stephen Minister did for me was to provide spiritual care that led to spiritual healing. Doctors can take care of our physical needs, and counselors can help with our emotional needs. Pastors focus on spiritual needs, but can't possibly care for every person in their congregation who needs it. So sometimes there's a real gap when it comes to meeting spiritual needs. My spiritual wounds were the gap for me--the neglected part inside me that hadn't been taken care of. God used my Stephen Minister to really fill the spiritual gap.

God's love is always there, but sometimes it can be really hard to feel it, especially when you're going through a crisis. That's probably when people doubt God's presence the most, when their faith is the most vulnerable. But a Stephen Minister is Jesus' hands and feet, just being there and caring for a hurting person. Stephen Ministers express God's love in a tangible way that care receivers can feel. Stephen Ministers help those they care for experience God during those times in life when they might be wondering, Is God even there?

Asking for a Stephen Minister is the best thing I could have done for myself. Stephen Ministry is transformational. As a care receiver, you'll grow so much through your Stephen Minister's care, concern and compassion for you--you may not even recognize yourself afterward! And you'll be a lot better off for it. I would encourage anyone who is suffering, discouraged, or going through a difficult time to ask for a Stephen Minister. And if someone offers a Stephen Minister to you, say "Yes!" It is really life changing.

How can you get a Stephen Minister at Grace?

If you or someone you know could benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister, you can talk to Pastor Taggatz 715-467-1231 or to one of the Stephen Leaders: Jeanne Meyer 423-0010, Chris Cotter 324-9768, Lori Kachelmeier or one of our Stephen Ministers: Bob Morgan, Jan Barrett, Pat Lemmer, Donna Wenzel, Beth or Richard Jackson, Adam Voss, Gail Olen, or Pauline Parker. Our Stephen Leaders are also Stephen Ministers.

UKRAINE SUPPORT

We have seen the heart wrenching scenes from the Ukraine. No matter how jaded we may become seeing the senseless violence in our neighborhoods, we will never get used to the horror of war and its aftermath. Destruction is evident. The panic on the faces of those who are fleeing the war tend to tug at the heartstrings.

But if you have followed this crisis from the beginning, you have also seen the images of Christians in Ukraine gathering for worship and prayer. The faith of the Ukraine people has been on display even as they have staunchly defended their homeland. This includes our partner church in Ukraine. The German Evangelical Church in Odessa led by Bishop Maschewski have continued to faithfully proclaim the Word of God and serve their war-torn land. This is not without challenges. With so many displaced people, there are hurdles for the church to cross that we can't comprehend.

We in the SWD office have received many calls about how individuals and congregations can respond to help our partner church in this crisis. Because of the conflict and logistic issues there is no way for an gathering of resources at this time. The single best way is to financially support our shared work of mercy through the LCMS Office of International Mission. You can do that in these ways:

- Donations via text: Sending a text message with the keyword **LCMSUKRAINE** to the number: **41-444**
- Give through the online portal: <https://igfn.us/form/OEPmhg>

While there are some international transfer costs, the vast majority of every donation will be sent directly to the mercy work connected to this Ukraine Conflict. If you have questions on how this process works, you can contact:

LCMS Mission Advancement via email Mission.Advancement@lcms.org or call 888-930-4438.



April Announcements



Please Note

Call the church office at 414.762.8990...

- When a member of your family is admitted to the hospital, so a visit can be made by Pastor Taggatz.
- When your group plans to hold a meeting, so it can be cleared and placed on the church calendar.
- When your address, email, or your home or business phone number have changed, so church records can be corrected.
- When you are planning to move either out of town or locally.
- When you know you are pregnant so that we will be able to assist you in any way we can with prayers, encouragement and support.
- When a new baby arrives in your family and/or in the family of another church member.
- When you are planning a wedding, baptism or funeral.

Pastor Taggatz Office Hours

Monday 8:00 am-1:00 pm

Tuesday 8:00 am-1:00 pm

Wednesday 8:00 am-1:00 pm

Thursday 8:00 am-1:00 pm

Friday (Pastor's day off)

Visitations: Monday-Thursday afternoons

For appointments or emergencies, call church office or Pastor's cell phone.

Pastor John M. Taggatz: 715.467.1231

Sarah Anderson, Church Secretary: 414.762.8990 | T-W-TH 8:15am-1:15pm



REMINDER: If you have any announcements and/or additions for the *Equipper* please forward to Sarah Anderson at church@graceoakcreek.org by the 17th of each month.



The Mites collection dates
for this month are:
Thursday, April 7th
Sunday, April 10th

EASTER EGG HUNT // DONATIONS NEEDED!

The Grace Lutheran Easter Egg Hunt will be on Saturday, April 9th at 3:00 p.m. This Easter Egg Hunt will be for preschool through 4th grade and will be held at Grace Lutheran School. Our Grace Lutheran Youth Group members and their parents will be helping out with this event. We are asking for donations of already filled plastic eggs!! If you would like to drop off your donations you can do so at church or at our Grace Lutheran School/Church office. We are inviting the families from our Church, School, and Early Childhood Center to attend this event. Please join us!!



Are You Interested in Serving on a Church Board?

Elections are coming up for various boards at our Church at our June Voter's Meeting. Do you feel called to serve in leadership here at Grace Lutheran Church? Please consider contacting the church office and we will let you know what responsibilities each board position has. We will also connect you with the current board members who are serving so that you can ask them questions pertaining to their current board responsibilities. The term of service is three years, and your service would begin July of 2022. The current openings are:

- 2 board members will be needed for the Board of Finance
- 2 board members are needed for Board of Stewardship

PARKING LOT PROJECT AT CHURCH

Currently, we have about \$52,502 in dedicated funds to go towards the repair and replacement of our church parking lot. We have received a generous matching grant offer from one of our members here at Grace of \$10,000. If our congregation can raise an addition \$10,000 by the end of May 2022 we will receive the matching grant money, which will go to replace our Church and ECC parking lot. Please prayerfully consider making a gift to support the repair and replacement of our parking lot. We would like to start on this project sometime in the Summer of this year of 2022. Thank you for your ongoing support of the ministries at Grace!!!

Voter's Meeting at Grace ~ Sunday, April 24th following our 10:30am worship service. At this Voter's Meeting we will be presenting our proposed budget for the next year. We will also have Board updates, a report from Pastor Taggatz, discuss the parking lot project, the treasurer's report, and we will have an update on new members at Grace. Please plan on attending the Voter's Meeting, as your support and involvement in our ministries here at Grace is deeply needed and appreciated.

Tee Up for LuWiSoMo ~ Madison 2022

13th Annual Golf Outing & Ministry Partner Event

Tuesday, May 17, 2022

The Meadows of Sixmile Creek, Waunakee, WI

Golfers: Join the fun at the Meadows of Sixmile Creek in Waunakee, WI and enjoy a day of golf and fellowship. Registration deadline is Friday, April 29th.

Non-Golfers: We need your help too! "Tee Up" as a Ministry Partner of Sponsor. See link below for details.

http://www.luwisomo.org/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/TeeUpForLuWiSoMo-2022_283.pdf



P L E A S E : Recycle your 2021 weekly offering envelopes!! You may not have the same envelope number year-to-year. The envelope number is used for your year-end giving statement so if you are using previous years envelopes that money might be put on someone else's statement!!

LWML 2023 Convention-Milwaukee

The planning has started for the bi-annual LWML convention to be held in Milwaukee in 2023! At this time we are in need of women to step into a variety of host committee roles. The Guest Services department has vacancies in the following areas:

- Child Care Chairman and Directors
- Food Services Chairman and Directors
- Tours Chairman
- Transportation Chairman and Directors

Role descriptions and volunteer applications are available at: www.lwml-swd.org/events/other

Questions can also be addressed to Jennifer Olen, Guest Services Dept. Coordinator:

jolenlwml@gmail.com or 414.305.3740

Military Bible Sticks

Support for Military Bible Sticks will be starting at Grace right after Easter. Our congregation has faithfully supported this mission for many years. We will prayerfully ask you for this support again this year. The change this year is that Military Bible Sticks will be paired with a new mission from Faith Comes by Hearing. This new effort is called Vision 2023. Vision 2023 involves partnering with other missions, such as Lutheran Bible Translators, to translate the Bible into mission languages. These Bible sticks would have native speakers reading the Word and would be given to the missions in countries all over the world. That way people would be able to hear the Good News in their own languages. We are looking forward to being able to be a part of this new mission by Faith Comes by Hearing.



Vacation Bible School

Please mark your calendars!!! We will be having our Vacation Bible School at Grace Lutheran School on Friday, July 22nd from 5:30-8:30pm. Our theme for VBS this year will be *Space Station Salvation* and children ages 3 through 6th grade will be able to attend. If you are interested in enrolling your children for VBS at Grace this summer please call our church/school office (414.762.8990) or email church@graceoakcreek.org. There will be a special parent/child class for those under 3.

You can give to our church online. It's easy, fast, and secure. If you're able, we also encourage you to set up recurring giving by texting: **graceoc** to 206-859-9405, use this [QR Code](#) or head to our web-site: graceoakcreek.org. You may give a one time gift or set-up your regular weekly or monthly offering. Thank you for your generosity and support of the ministries at Grace!!



Grace Ladies Guild

April Meeting

Saturday, April 9 ~ 9:00-11:00am

Zone 1 Spring Rally

Chapel of the Cross Lutheran

3353 S. Whitnall Ave, Milwaukee

-Bible study with Zone Counselor Pastor Palmer

Young Women of Grace!

Are you...

- attending an educational institution of the LCMS for the 2022-2023 academic year?
- enrolled in undergraduate studies for full time church work in the LCMS?
- a resident of the South Wisconsin District?

The LWML South Wisconsin District offers Female Church Worker's Scholarships to encourage and support those preparing to serve our church and synod.

Applications are now being accepted. www.lwml-swd.org/scholarships



RISE & SONSHINE BIBLE STUDY

Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World Study

Join us for fellowship while being in God's Word!

Saturday, April 9: 7-8:30 a.m.

Saturday, April 23: 8-9:30 a.m.



2022 LWML SWD Convention

June 18, 2022 ~ St Paul Lutheran Church, Grafton, WI

All are invited to attend as we carry out the business of the LWML SWD, hear from keynote speaker David Fiala from the LCMS, connect with fellow sisters in Christ.

SPECIAL GUEST: LWML President Debbie Larson

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

More information: www.lwml-swd.org/events/convention



BOARD OF EVANGELISM

MISSION PRESENTATION *Lutheran Deaf Ministry*

Thursday, April 7

(immediately following our 6:30 p.m. worship service)

Please join us as we learn about Lutheran Ministry to the deaf in the Madison, WI area. Rev. Ryan McDermott will be giving a mission presentation on the work that he is doing amount the deaf in sharing the gospel of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Our Savior's Deaf Lutheran Update

Tucked away in an industrial neighborhood near the Beltway in Madison sits Our Savior's Deaf Lutheran Church. Pastor Ryan McDermott faithfully serves this band of faithful deaf Christians. Once known as Silent Lutheran Church, they are proving to be anything but silent. In fact, they are on the cutting edge of one of the newest servant opportunities in the South Wisconsin District.

Madison has been facing a crisis with the homeless. Many of the city parks were overturn by tent communities of the homeless. Not designed to be campgrounds, these park areas soon became the epicenter of serious problems. Sanitation, substance abuse violence and assaults of all kinds were rampant. To address this issue, the city of Madison erected two small compounds of single unit small homes. Many of the homeless were relocated to these "temporary" housing sites.

This is where Madison's solution to homelessness became Our Savior's Deaf's mission opportunity. The deaf community was one that was traditionally served by others. But not this time. When the City of Madison placed a homeless encampment across the street from the OSDLC, God's people sprang into action. Forming partnership with the SWD and First Harvest, OSDLC started a weekly warm meal for the homeless. They invited the homeless into their church home to nourish their bodies and care for them as the Lord has cared for the saints of OSDLC.

These meals have been a rousing success. 17-20 people have been served each Sunday evening since the beginning of February. OSDLC has shown the love of Jesus to these new neighbors and have sought to forge a positive relationship with both the residents and the administration of the encampment. If you would like to hear more about this, or to join in this partnership, please email:

meador@swd.lcms.org



God's Love Draws Us to Him

Only Jesus, the Savior, on Whose suffering, death, and resurrection we focus during this time of Lent, can meet all our needs. His love for us and the salvation he has earned for us draw us away from the pull of the world, away from our own selfish desires, away from that which leads to sin and death. His love draws us to Himself, to service to others, to using our gifts as we have been blessed in the building up of the Church. "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (Ephesians 2:10).



"Maybe Today!"

During the week before His Crucifixion, Jesus talked about the End of the Age (Matthew 24). He indicated what some of the signs of the end will be, and He described what His return will be like. What He did not tell us, though, is exactly when these things will happen. In fact, Jesus said, "... the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect." That is why, He emphasized, "Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect" (Matthew 24:44).

How would you spend your last day if you knew when it was? What would be most important to you? What would you do to "be ready"? Jesus' point is that we should spend each day as if it is the last. He told us that the "faithful and wise servant" is the one "whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time. Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes" (Matthew 24:45). In this parable, Jesus is the master, and we are His servants. Whom is Jesus placing under our care?

What are those responsibilities that our Master has given us? Are they not all summed up in the Great Commandments to love the Lord our God with all our heart and soul and mind and our neighbors as ourselves? And are we not to be baptizing and teaching the Faith to all the world? Surely these are the tasks our Lord has given us along with His promise to go with us, to provide for us all the gifts we need to carry out His mission, to empower us to do His will, and to forgive and renew us when we fail and get discouraged.

Did you wake up this morning and look out your window and say, "Maybe today!?" For the Christian, this hope brings joy and urgency – joy that Heaven is near and urgency that we want everyone to be there. Let us, then, live every day imagining that this is the day of Christ's coming. Let us not get discouraged as we go about the business of the Kingdom, keeping in mind the unbelievable prize God has in store for His faithful stewards.

Even though we do not know the time of Jesus' return, we "must be ready" for His coming. Beware of any teacher who claims to know when Jesus will come again. What we can do is stay steadfast in our faith and to feed and take care of the people whom God has placed under our care. How blessed we are that God wants to use our hands, feet, and mouth to help and minister to others!

Grace Lutheran Church, School & ECC **PICTURE BOARD**

Thank you to our Ladies Guild for sprucing up our sanctuary!!

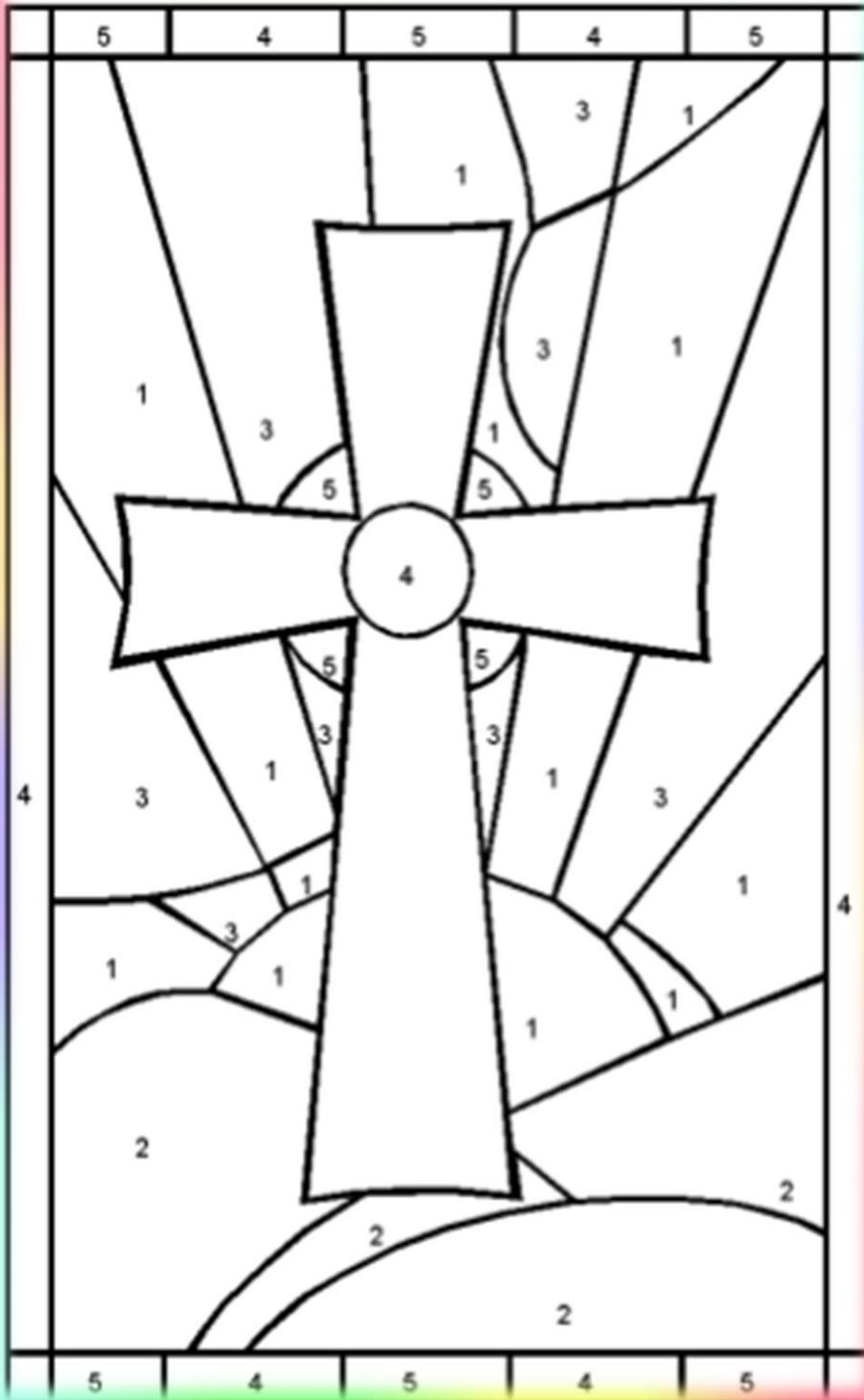


**SPIC N' SPAN
SANCTUARY
SATURDAY**

Some of our Grace team attended a special event with other LCMS schools and centers honoring Miss Rachel's Director of the Year award and more!



Happy Easter



- 1 = yellow
- 2 = green
- 3 = blue
- 4 = purple
- 5 = red

Children's Coloring Page

He is Risen!

A festive birthday scene featuring a two-tiered cake with blue frosting and colorful sprinkles on a white pedestal. The cake is topped with several lit candles in various colors. To the left, there's a gift box wrapped in brown paper with a blue and white striped ribbon. In the background, there are balloons in shades of blue, orange, and red, along with colorful streamers and confetti scattered on the surface.

APRIL Birthdays

4/4 Gabby Salzer
4/5 Garrison Hundt
4/6 Janice Barrett
4/6 Jacob Lutzke
4/6 Marty Taggatz
4/7 Kristine Vangalis
4/8 Lucy Thomas
4/12 Beth Stone
4/13 Michelle Rekowski
4/14 Duane Lussier
4/17 Diane Pielsnik
4/18 David Pankow Jr.
4/19 Samantha Dotson

4/20 Kayleigh Urbaniak
4/21 Andrea Kisley
4/21 Matthew Scherer
4/24 Donald Stewart
4/26 Riley Edgerton
4/26 Mike Huber
4/26 Jamie MacRae
4/26 Amelia Poellet
4/27 Jane Durant
4/28 Flynnne Mould
4/30 Mitzi Gamroth
4/30 Tracie Mallum

A close-up photograph of a bouquet of bright yellow tulips. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, with some fully open and others just starting to unfurl. The green leaves and stems are visible, and the bouquet is wrapped in silver foil paper. The background is a plain, light color.

April Anniversaries

4/1 James & Diane Pielsnik
4/7 Jim & Claire Sauer
4/17 Richard & Elizabeth Jackson
4/19 Eric & Lisa Kamprath



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 8:00 AM Divine Worship 9:15 AM Adult Bible Study 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Divine Worship	4 6:30 PM Confirmation Class-public school	5 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner) 6:30 PM Stephen Ministry Meeting	6 9:30 AM Ladies Bible Study 6:30 PM All Board's Meeting	7 5:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM Lenten Worship 7:30 PM Pastor Ryan McDermott-Deaf Ministry Mission Presentation	8	9 7:00AM Rise & Sonshine Bible Study 9:00AM Grace Ladies Guild Meeting at Chapel of the Cross Lutheran 3:00 PM Grace Lutheran Easter Egg Hunt
10 8:00 AM Palm Sunday Worship 10:30 AM Palm Sunday Worship-1 st Communion	11 6:30 PM Confirmation Class-public sch. 	12 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)	13 9:30 AM Ladies Bible Study 6:30 PM Council Meeting	14 6:30 PM Maundy Thursday 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	15 12:00 PM Good Friday Worship, no communion 6:30 PM Good Friday Tenebrae Service	16
17 6:00 AM Easter Sunrise Service 8:30 AM Easter Sunday Festival Service 10:00 AM Easter Sunday Festival Service	18 NO Confirmation Class	19 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)	20 9:30 AM Ladies Bible Study	21 6:30 PM Divine Worship	22	23 8:00AM Rise & Sonshine Bible Study
24 8:00 AM Divine Worship 9:15 AM Adult Bible Study 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Divine Worship 11:30 AM Voter's Meeting	25 6:30 PM Confirmation Class-public school	26 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)	27 9:30 AM Ladies Bible Study	28 6:30 PM Divine Worship	29	30
<div style="border: 2px dashed red; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> <p>Reminder:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mites collection is April 7 & 10 ➤ Voter's Meeting ~ April 24th ~ 11:30am </div>						

Radio Worship Service

"The Lutheran Hour" can be heard every Sunday Morning at 6:00 AM on WGN 720 AM, Chicago or at 6:30 AM on WTMJ 620 AM or at 11:00 am WRRD 540 AM, Milwaukee.

"The Lutheran Hour," which began in 1930, is the world's oldest continually broadcast Gospel radio program. This weekly half-hour program, now heard on more than 1,200 radio stations, pro-claims the message of Jesus Christ to a world-wide audience.



Prayer Hot Line



In order to request prayers by members of Grace, please contact one of the following people. Your request will be made known to all members of our Prayer Line. Prayer requests for worship service should be directed to the church office or Pastor Tagatz.

10AM – 3PM

Carol Thurber, 762-9615

3PM – 9PM

Pauline Parker, 764-5574

Internet Prayerline

Pauline Parker

paulinemom@aol.com



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