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Message of Grace



Get on our email list. Send an email to office@gracelutheran1.org to let Sue know you want to be added to the list.

Easter Lutheran Worship

April 24th is this year's celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord. There will, as noted elsewhere in the newsletter, be a Sunrise Service at 6:30am and a Festival Communion with the Risen Lord at 9:00am. This will culminate our Lenten preparation for 2011.

It has been during this Lenten season that the Worship and Music committee offered the congregation the opportunity to acquire the Cranberry Red hymnal, the latest among our ELCA worship resources. **Evangelical Lutheran Worship** (the Cranberry Book) is the source of most of the worship we have shared over the last 3 years. Our national church would like all of our congregations to continue in the historic pattern of providing a hard copy of the current Worship Resource for our ELCA in their sanctuaries.

One of the features of this worship book is that congregations are given 10 different settings for the Communion Liturgies. In addition, there are also included, a Service of the Word, Morning and Evening Prayer and settings of the services for Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil which was the first liturgy for Easter used by the Historic Christian Church of the Apostolic era.

During this Transition period in Grace's history the worshipping community has used many parts of the ELW as part of our worship. This has been an intentional decision toward the preparation for the coming of a new resident pastor. Those elements that seem foreign to us have been part of the Church since the 1st Century of the Christian era. Before the development of the Imperial Church, a development which ultimately led to the Roman Catholic expression in Christian History, practices included in the ELW already belonged to the whole church of Jesus Christ.

Luther, in the Reformation documents notes that the features of the Liturgy were and were to continue to be used "among our churches". One Lutheran Theologian involved in the development of the current Cranberry Red book has said "a goal in this resource is to reclaim the ritual elements that have belonged to the whole people of God." Some of the ritual actions and practices that we have shared during the in-between-time can be traced to the directions our God gave to the Hebrew children while they were in the wilderness (transition from Egypt to the Promised Land). Included among those elements are the vestments for worship leaders and the worship texts that have been used by all of God's people. What the Lord gave to the Children of Israel during the transition journey was to prepare them for temple worship at Jerusalem after the Temple was built. As noted early in our journey together, Grace's transition would likewise provide exposure to worship materials and practices that would prepare the congregation for worship in the future.

The Resurrection of our Lord is the central festival of the liturgical year for the Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. Yearly, Christians have kept Lent—a season of preparation—and Easter—the reminder of the new life granted in the death and resurrection of Christ. No doubt, during this Easter season we will receive and dedicate the new ELW's sponsored by our members. In a way, we are following up on the theme for this year's Lent—Christ in the Strangest Places—noticing the many ways the Risen Lord accompanies us on the journey to the Promised Land.

HAPPY EASTER---come share **ELW - Easter Lutheran Worship**

Blessings,

Dr. Rob

Lenten Activities



A simple soup and bread supper will be served Wednesdays at 6:30 pm and worship and Bible study will begin at 7:30. **April 6, April 13.**

We have blank prayer cards available than you can write thoughts or prayers on and tack them to the cross before any worship service. This will be available until Good Friday when the cards will be removed from the cross and placed in a basket at the foot.

Sunday April 10th we will be showing the video of **St. John in Exile at 10:15.** This is a remarkable one-man show you won't forget!



Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday, April 17th 9:00 am Sunday of the Passion – Cry of the Whole Congregation

Mundy Thursday, April 20th 7:00pm

Good Friday, April 22nd 7:00pm

Easter Morning, April 24th



6:30 am Sunrise Service

9:00 am Festival Communion Service

7:00 am – 10:30 am Easter Breakfast

Bring your friends and family to worship and breakfast. Free-will offering.

Engaged Encounter Retreat Set for April 29-May 1, 2011

If you or loved ones are engaged, talking about getting married or even recently married, we encourage you to consider attending an **Engaged Encounter Retreat**. The weekend provides insight, wisdom and personal tools to enhance your relationship now and in the future...You'll talk honestly about your goals, desires, strengths and weaknesses. See Curt or Chris Bjorklund or Pastor Rob for more details. Contact Curt or Chris Bjorklund Use nilee@msn.com for Engaged Encounter information

RINGS Youth Ministry – Dinner Theater a Great Success!

Thank you to the many, many people who made the RINGS Third Annual Dinner Theater a great success this year. The kids worked really hard on their original play, *The Wonderful Wisdom of God*, and the parents worked really hard to make sure the food was delicious! We're also thankful to the middle school kids who helped greet, serve, and clean up; you'll all be doing this very soon.

Thanks to a \$600 donation from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, we made at least \$2100 toward our mission trip to the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota this summer. We're excited that we can make a difference in the lives of so many people because of your generosity. Thank you!

RINGS will hold one more **pizza sale** before the weather gets warmer. We'll be selling delicious Champion pizzas on **April 3 and 10** at church. You can also phone in orders. Pizzas will cost \$7 each or 3 for \$20 and will be delivered on Sunday, April 17. Thank you for your support!

RINGS Calendar of Events for April

- **April 3** Meet at Redeemer at 5pm for a great meeting with Jamielynn
- **April 17** Bowling! Meet at Redeemer at 5pm with money to bowl and eat
- **Save the Date: June 11** Feed My Starving Children, Schaumburg! We'll meet at Redeemer at 3:00 so we can work our shift 4:30-6:30. Dinner afterwards!

RINGS contacts: Pastor Sarah (815-236-5087) or Pastor Tom (815-236-9411)

Grace Contact: Carol Jean Steadman, kate@stans.com or call 815-338-0490

From the Fellowship Team

Seeing Chickens in the Narthax???? Yes! We are joining in God's Global Barnyard and participating in the **10 chicks for \$10.00 Campaign** through the ELCA World Hunger Organization. Donate a dollar to the jar, fill out an egg and be a part of the Good Gifts Team. Little chicks make a big difference in world hunger. Within a few weeks of birth, chicks begin laying eggs which provide healthy meals for many families. Our total number of chicks donated will be announced at Easter Services! Learn more about the project at www.elca.org/goodgifts.

May 15th is right around the corner... Mark your calendars to be sure to share in the **Spring Fling Get Together** following service. Invite your neighbors and tell a member that you know has been missing church lately that we miss them and would like to see them again. This would be a great opportunity to share in the entertainment, great tasty bites of food and fellowship!

We are looking for a few more individuals or groups that would like to share their talents in music, dance, stand up (family friendly) comedy etc. to complete our program. Anyone interested, please see Linda Poehlein or call her at 815-678-2258.

A big thank you goes out to our **April Coffee Servers: April 3rd-Pat Petersen, April 10th-Rita Popenhagen, April 17th-Sue Kubic** and **don't forget to make your reservations for Easter Breakfast on the 24th!** There are still a few openings on the May list. Won't you help us out?

The Fellowship Team will meet on the April 10th so if you have any suggestions for activities and events please let one of the team members know. Linda Poehlein, Mildred Orsolini, Doris Rockenbach, Linda Ketelsen, Bernie Schert, Sue Fosdal; or Sue Kubic.

Contact: Sue Kubic, 815-678-4842

News from Women of the ELCA (WELCA)

Much of our work carries on in our efforts to provide for church ministries in our church and outside in other areas as well. WELCA members support the ongoing efforts of the various church groups and functions and in turn, we all benefit. At the present time the women of WELCA are putting their final plans together for their yearly spring **Salad Luncheon** scheduled for **Saturday, April 30th**. So many wonderful ideas for a great time to look forward to—you will have to come and see for yourself. Of course, in between all the fun, you will eat a variety of salads and desserts. Back by popular demand will be our own Mary Starzynski, our pianist, who will play a medley of songs. Also back will be handmade items for sale, a raffle and other prizes. That's all I'm going to tell you – you will have to sign up on the sheet in the Narthex. Come and join in the 'good times and fellowship'. As usual, invitations have gone to the churches in the surrounding areas. This will be another chance to renew old acquaintances and for making new ones. It's a real deal for only \$7.00 so sign up now. Greeters will also accept payment at the door.

As soon as WELCA receives the 'priority list' from the Property Committee listing work that needs to be done in and around the church, we will discuss the best way our money may be used for our church.

Marie Pickering is **looking for volunteers to help with the making of quilts for Project Linus**, which go to children in the hospital. You can even work at your home. If you have an hour or two of time, please call Marie at 815-678-4056 and she will give you any information you need. It has been voted and agreed upon to donate money that Ethel Siedschlag gave to WELCA and buy 5 new hymnals that are being sold in our Narthex.

A very brief mention was brought to the attention of our ladies that NIMC's spiritual ministries is looking for handmade knitted or crocheted items as well as small hat size boxes for their infant ministry. Further information will be discussed at a future meeting

Our next meeting will be held **on Monday, April 4th at 4:00pm at the church**. Please bring your own soup, salad, sandwich or fruit. Our hostess will be Mildred Orsolini who will be providing the coffee, tea and dessert.

If you need a ride please contact Carol Heuer at 815-678-7516 and a ride will be provided.

God Bless You All

WELCA Contact: Carol Heuer at 815-678-7516

Grace Lutheran Financial Report – February 2011

Grace Lutheran Church	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
Income vs Expenses	<u>YTD</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>February</u>
Budget	\$42,262	\$42,262	\$21,131	\$21,131
Actual	\$34,558	\$35,410	\$15,944	\$15,980
Over/Under Budget	(\$7,704)	(\$6,852)	(\$5,137)	(\$1,701)
	Balance 2/28/11: [\$651] (negative balance)			

Thank you for your prayerful support and continued faithfulness.

From the March Meeting of the Congregation Council

MOTION APPROVED: Grace Lutheran Church recently received a \$50,000 bequest. The council decided to designate the funds as follows: \$5,000 was sent as our tithe for benevolence ministry; \$2,500 has been designated for a future ministry project to be decided later; \$42,500 will be set aside as a separate designated fund for long-term building and property repairs and maintenance. This fund is designed to be a long-term savings account for any major projects that become necessary. Additional funds may be added from the congregation's contributions. Funds would be withdrawn from the building fund only with approval from the church council. Funds up to \$10,000 could be withdrawn with simple majority vote of the council. Funds above \$10,000 would need a 2/3 council vote. The council feels that the church property and building are crucial and integral tools of our wider community ministry. Since we are striving to grow and not simply maintain our ministry, it would be a solid stewardship action to help preserve and protect the tools that God has given us for His ministry.

Congregation members are welcome to add to this long-term building/property fund by designating their desires on their contribution and sending to the church office or collection plate.

MOTION APPROVED: Excess coffee money to be donated to the Richmond food pantry. This would be the money collected in excess of our usual coffee service expenses.

MOTION APPROVED: Congregation to increase their synod tithe one percent per year until the contribution rate of 10% is reached.

MOTION APPROVED: A voucher system will be established where all expenditures of the church be written on a voucher and approved by the committee chairperson, treasurer or finance committee before the expenditure will be reimbursed. The purchaser of materials will have the option to receive reimbursement for expenses or allow it to be considered a charitable contribution to the church. Purchases over \$10 made for the use of the church will be issued a purchase order prior to the purchase. Purchase orders must be approved by the committee chairperson, treasurer or finance committee.



Bits and Pieces from The New Church Mouse

*There is a lot going on at Grace Lutheran at this time of the year. Lent is here and with that being said, there are **soup and bread suppers at 6:30 pm and worship at 7:30 pm on Wednesday nights**. Did I say soup and bread suppers ...you bet I did! I hope to see you on there as you know I'll be there scurrying around picking up all of the crumbs.*

*I overheard some information about the **Young at Heart Group**. They will be meeting at church on **Thursday, April 7th** at 11:15 am with lunch being served at 11:30 am. They are having a lot of good food prepared by Cheryl Walls: Ham, sweet potatoes, scalloped potatoes, vegetable, salad and rolls. They will be playing games of their choice. Food and games – what more could you ask for?? If you have any questions, please contact Carol Heuer at 815-678-7516 or Doris Rockenbach at 262-248-0577.*

*While running around church, I heard that on the **first Saturday of each month through June there will be an evening service. Worship begins at 5:30 pm**. You know me; I'll be there so I can see all of my friends.*

*Like I said before, there is a lot going on here at Grace. The **Easter Breakfast** is coming up and more information will be coming your way. I certainly would not miss out on this breakfast as there are many good cooks making up good dishes. Some of the Easter dishes are: custom made to order omelets, French toast, scrambled eggs, biscuits & gravy and lots of sweet treats and fruit. Oh my, I am getting hungry just thinking about all of it!*

I also heard something about a retreat for engaged couples April 30-May 1st. See Curt or Chris Bjorklund or Pastor Rob for more details. They said to use nilee@msn.com for Engaged Encounter information.

See you next month!

April 2011						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
NEW: Worship services 1 st Saturday of the month at 5:30 pm Food Offering: We ask that each family bring 1 item of non-perishable food Don't miss Wednesday night soup and supper followed by worship and Bible study. Special showing of <i>St. John in Exile</i> April 10th after service Lots going on this month! Watch the announcements and bulletin for more information.					1	2 5:30 pm Worship
3 9:00 am Holy Communion Service 10:15 am Sunday School & Adult Study	4 4:00 pm WELCA 7:00 pm People of Praise choir	5 7:00 pm Council Meeting	6 6:30 pm Soup & Bread Supper 7:30pm Lenten Worship	7 11:15 am Young at Heart PADS at St Joseph	8	9
10 9:00 am Holy Communion Service 10:15 am Sunday School 10:15 am <i>St. John in Exile video</i> Fellowship Team Meeting	11 7:00 pm People of Praise choir	12	13 6:30 pm Soup & Bread Supper 7:30 pm Lenten Worship	14 Newsletter article deadline	15	
17 9:00 am Sunday of the Passion – Cry of the Whole Congregation 10:15 Sunday School & Adult Study	18 7:00 pm People of Praise choir	19	20 6:30 pm Soup & Bread Supper 7:30 pm Lenten Worship	21 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service	22 7:00 pm Good Friday Service	23
24 6:30 am Sunrise Service 9:00 am Festival Communion Service 7:00am – 10:30 Easter Breakfast	25	26	27 5:30 pm ALPHA 7:00 pm People of Praise choir	28	29	30 11:30 am WELCA Salad Luncheon

Music and Worship Team

CORRECTION Regarding Saturday services: **Saturday evening services will be held the first Saturday of each month, not every Saturday. The dates are April 2nd, May 7th and June 4th.** Please take this opportunity to invite friends and family.

Remember to bring your non-perishable food items every Sunday during Lent and present them with the offering. We've had a very good response so far so thank you!

Would you consider serving on the Altar Guild? We all take communion every Sunday, but do we think about how it got there?? We need help on Saturdays to trim the candles and clean the altar. On Sunday we need people at 8:15 a.m. to set up communion. Also we need people to clean up after the service and take the linens home to clean. You only need to do it **one month a year**. If you would like to help, please email Jan Heynis at jlheynis@gmail.com or call her at 815 678-2162.

Contact: Nancy O'Connor, koloasun@comcast.net

From the Outreach Team



Outreach Cafe raised \$222.00 in February which will be used to support our church's ministries. Thank you so much to everyone who volunteered to help out, to those who came to eat, and to Thrivent for Lutherans for matching some of the funds. We will be having a guest at March's Outreach Cafe. Sue Braun, project manager for Habitat for Humanity will be on hand to talk about Habitat's projects. There will be **no Outreach Cafe in April** since Easter falls on the fourth Sunday of the month. Enjoy the Easter Breakfast and we will resume service in

May.

Nursery Services Available: Parents and other interested parties are invited to sign up to serve in the nursery a few times each year. We will need at least two people each week to volunteer. There is a calendar located near the nursery (on the left past the bathrooms) to sign up. Carolyn Bolman will coordinate the volunteers and training. She can be reached at 815-675-0471.

The Richmond Food Pantry has in prior years taken requests for prom dresses and prom apparel. If you have anything to donate, please email Tina Peterson with what you have and the size. Don't bring anything in to church until Char at the Food Pantry has a request. If you know someone who needs prom apparel, call Char Kania at 815-678-4351. Also, if anyone has a **Texas Instruments graphing calculator** at the end of the school year that they no longer need, you may donate this as well. These may be donated at church and will be picked up by the food pantry.

We are inviting our congregation to **bring a food item to church** with them each week as part of their offering. Donations of unexpired coupons for paper goods and breakfast cereal are also greatly appreciated.

P.A.D.S. Provides food and shelter to the homeless. April 7th is the last regular service date until fall. To donate or help with serving at St. Joseph's, see Curt Bjorklund, chbjorklund@hotmail.com or call 815-529-7746.

Outreach Contact: Tina Peterson, 815-678-4335, tinap59@hotmail.com

