

Auburn, Michigan Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

Welcome to Our Guests

We give thanks to our risen Lord and Savior that you're with us to receive the gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation that our Lord won for us by His suffering, dying, and third-day rising! If we can assist you in any way with questions about our confession of faith, personal spiritual struggles, understanding of our liturgical service, or any other need, please let us know. Pastor is available to speak with you before the service in the narthex (entrance at the rear of the sanctuary), or you can contact him on his cell phone at 607-972-5792. It is our prayer that the Gospel of Jesus Christ will strengthen and comfort you. The peace of Christ be with you!

Pastoral Care and Guests at the Lord's Supper

We are concerned about the spiritual welfare of all who partake of the Lord's Supper. If anyone eats and drinks our Lord's Body and Blood unworthily (that is, not believing what this meal is and the benefits it gives), they eat and drink to their great spiritual harm. Therefore, we kindly ask that any who are not yet instructed, are in doubt, or who hold to a belief different from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LC-MS) would not commune today.

Those who confess oneness in doctrine with us and are members of this congregation or a sister congregation of the LC-MS are welcome to commune. If you are communing, an usher will invite you from your pew to approach the rail. Pastor will then welcome you to the Lord's Table and you can either kneel or continue standing. You will be offered a cup that holds the Body of Christ. Take the cup and consume the Lord's Body. An elder will follow to pour the Lord's Blood into that same cup. If you are not communing but would like to receive a blessing, please come forward and cross your arms at the rail. If you have any questions, please speak with Pastor or an elder before the service. Thank you!

Sermon Summary

Low Sunday! That's what the Sunday after Easter has historically been called! It has to do with the drop in attendance from the High Festival of Easter Sunday! How appropriate the Gospel Reading from John 20 is all about the "Low Sunday" the disciples were having on that first Easter! Locked behind bolted doors, they were afraid the Messiah Murdering Machine was coming for them next! In the midst of their fears and doubts, Jesus pops up with His Word and Wounds! "*Peace be with you!*" And then He shows the Wounds that back up His Word! *When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.* [John 20:20] What was for them a "Low Sunday" quickly becomes a "High Sunday"! A Sunday high on joy!

But Jesus doesn't want this Easter joy to stay in locked up in this room! He sends them to go and erase and embrace! "*Go and share the forgiveness—the erasing—of the World's Sin and while doing so embracing folks that are questioning, doubting, misunderstanding, disbelieving!*" Why? It's what the risen Lord did for them! He erased and embraced! Erased their Sin and embraced them until they believed! He sends them to join Him in His work and gives them the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, the Strengthener, to give them divine muscle power!

The disciples will need such strength with Thomas! He wasn't with the others that first Easter evening! Full of cynicism and doubt, he refuses to believe unless he can handle the evidence! The disciples don't diss or dismiss him! They embrace Thomas—holding onto him—until Jesus shows up with His Word and Wounds the following Sunday! Again, a "Low Sunday" turns into another "High Sunday"! High on joy! Thomas bursts out with that Holy-Spirit-ed confession, "*My Lord and my God!*"Let's join Jesus, too, in erasing and embracing! The Holy Spirit has been breathed into us and we're strengthened to join Him! On this "Low Sunday," let's think about those "*Thomases*" in our lives who doubt, fear, misunderstand, disbelieve, and let's embrace them, assuring them that their Sin is erased by the Lamb of God who was slain but now has begun His reign! Maybe one day they will join us in saying, "*My Lord and my God!*" Hey, our Lord does His best work on "Low Sundays"!

Divine Service 1 - LSB 151



Confession and Absolution

Hymn of Invocation: Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

LSB 487

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

- **P** In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

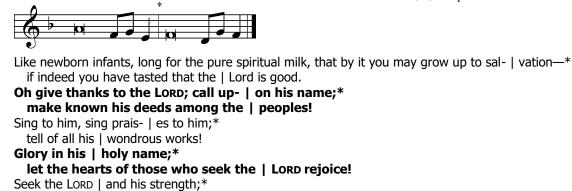
Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- **P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.
- P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the +↓ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- G Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 105:1–5, 8; antiphon: 1 Peter 2:2–3



seek his presence con- | tinually!

Remember the wondrous works that | he has done,*

his miracles, and the judgments he | uttered.

He remembers his covenant for- | ever,*

the word that he commanded, for a thousand gener- | ations.

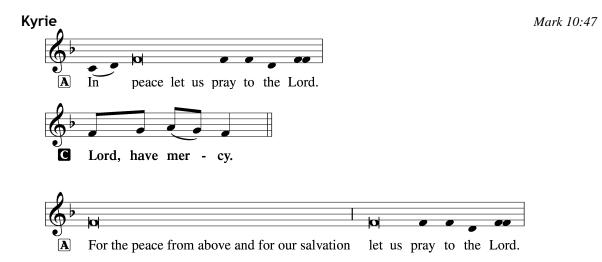
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

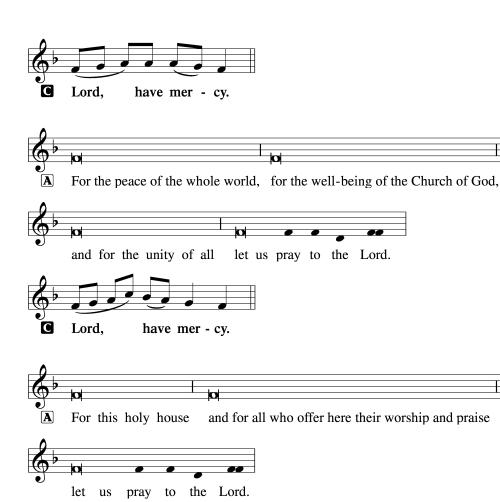
and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

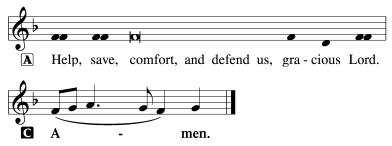
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

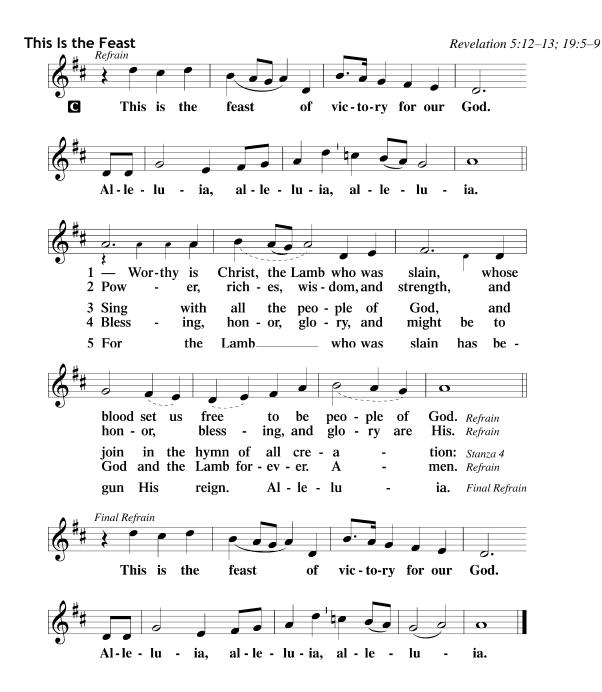
Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to sal- | vation—* if indeed you have tasted that the | Lord is good.











Salutation and Collect of the Day



P Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sit

First Reading

Acts 4:32–35

The full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

A This is the Word of the Lord.





adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6

Christ has risen | from the dead.*

[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and | honor. He has given him dominion over the works | of his hands;* he has put all things un- | der his feet.

Epistle

1 John 1:1-2:2

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eves, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us- that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

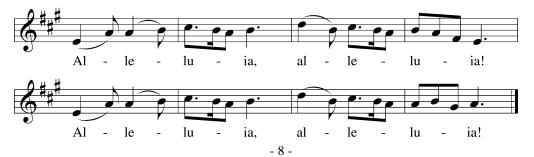
- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- С Thanks be to God.

Stand



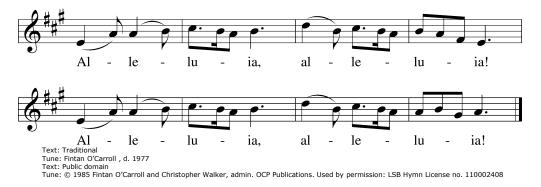
Romans 6:9

We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never | die again;* death no longer has dominion | over him.



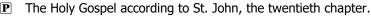
Blessed are those who | have not seen*

and yet | have believed.



Holy Gospel

John 20:19–31





On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld."

Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Sit

Hymn of the Day: O Sons and Daughters of the King

LSB 471

Sermon

Stand

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life + everlasting. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Sit

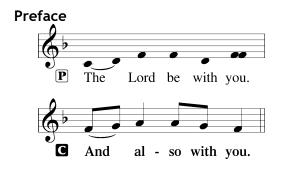
Offering

Please sign the Record of Fellowship

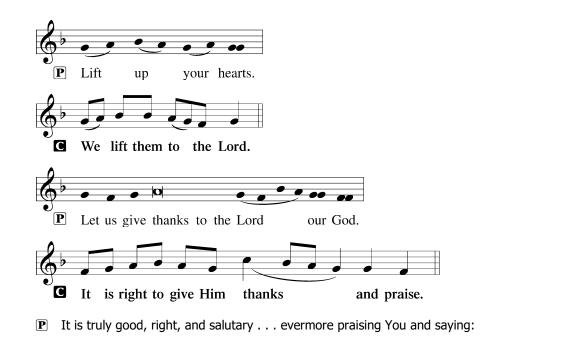
Stand

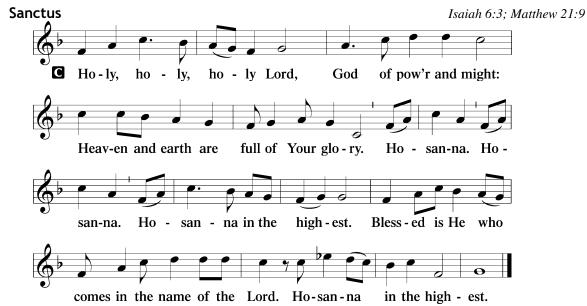


Service of the Sacrament



2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]





Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

- As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
 Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.
- P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,

hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

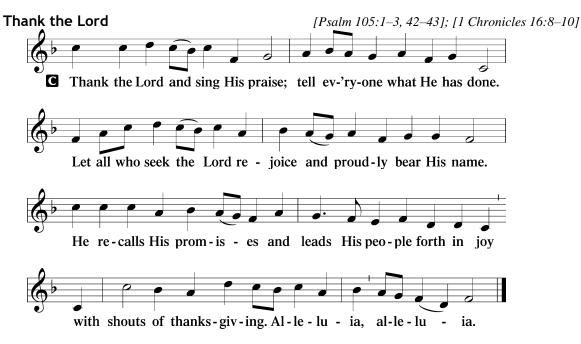


John 20:19

Sit

Pax Domini

Distribution Hymn: Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia	LSB 463
Distribution Hymn: All Christians Who Have Been Baptized	LSB 596
Distribution Hymn: He Is Arisen! Glorious Word	LSB 488
Stand	



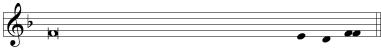
Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Benediction



Numbers 6:24-26

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.



Hymn to Depart: The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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Produced by Paul Starke with cover art by Cerezo Barredo.

Our Mission: Sharing GRACE





Reaching out with love,







For The Week of Sunday, Mar 31

Attendance: Sunday 250 Week: YTD: Tithes needed: \$9,380 \$121,940 Tithes received: \$13,597 \$130,093

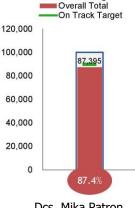
Serving in God's House Today

Pastor:	Rev. Aaron T. Schian	
Deaconess:	Mika Patron	
Kantor:	Nathan Beethe	
Elder:	Dan Bale	
Usher Team:	McNally	
Greeter(s):	Bob & Brenda Krystosek	
Altar Guild:	Lynn Schmidt, Paula Wegener,	
	Cindy Fredrich	

Donation Tracking Log Grace Lutheran Church Boiler Fund

Overa	all
Overall Target	100,000.00
On Track Target	89,798.56
Loan Balance	10,201.44
Overall Total	87,395.00
Overall Percent	87.4%
This Pe	riod
Start:	3/7/22
End:	9/7/24
Total:	87,395.00
Curre	nt
Date:	3/18/24
Total:	10.00





Rev. Aaron T. Schian Church Office Dcs. Mika Patron 607-972-5792 989-662-6161 316-284-4251 aaronschian@yahoo.com office.graceauburn@gmail.com deaconessmika@gmail.com

If you'd like to support the Lord's work at Grace by giving electronically, please visit graceauburn.org/giving. To sign up to receive Grace's weekly email newsletter, Spotlighter, please visit graceauburn.org/spotlighter.

Church Notices

Sunday Morning Bible Study: Easter People Encourage(d)

We'll spend the Easter season enjoying the Epistle Readings which will walk us through 1 John! What a joy to read this letter from the disciple whom Jesus loved! Let's gather and be encouraged by John's Easter witness which comes through powerfully in this letter! See you following the Divine Service!

Today in Sunday School...

Today in Sunday School we'll study 65. Jesus Heals a Man Who Was Paralyzed (Mark 2). Jesus for us: Jesus came to earth to give us the greatest healing: the forgiveness of sins. Words to Remember: *He is the true God and eternal life*. (1 John 5:20)

Confirmed in the Faith!

Last Saturday, at the Easter Vigil, Julie Haney confessed the Faith in the presence of God and of this congregation. Julie is a graduate of Frankenmuth High School and has known Pastor Schian for many years. In a couple weeks, she'll be married to Shawn Weiss on a cruise in the Caribbean which Pastor will officiate. (Shawn recently transferred to Grace from St. Lorenz.) Pastor and Shawn graduated from Frankenmuth High School in 2003 and have been friends since middle school. Julie teaches at Bridgeport High School where she brings so much joy and encouragement to her students. She is also the head coach for cheerleading there. Welcome to the Grace Family, Julie!

White = Easter Embrace

"Peace be with you." That was the whole point of Jesus' dying and third-day rising! That's the gift of



Easter! It's about peace between God and man. It's about a wholeness and healing beyond any human understanding. But the disciples don't feel that in the midst of their fear and doubts in today's Gospel reading, and you and I don't always feel that peace and wholeness either. Yet Jesus wants to be with us! He won't let anything stop Him, not even locked doors! He breathes His peace onto us right where we are. He breathes that peace into you and me in the midst of our fears and failures and doubts. You and I have gotten to experience this already! Jesus wanted to be with us so He embraced us in the waters of Holy Baptism and breathed His Holy Spirit into our hearts. And we continue to experience His embrace and breath through His Word and His Meal. The color white reminds us of this! Even though we have our fears and failures, our Lord Jesus has embraced us and wrapped us up in His unending peace. There's no spot or stain to be seen. All is peaceful and whole in Jesus' warm embrace!

Encouraging Everyone

In our thoughts and prayers this week is Gladys Sobek. If you would like to send a card or note, the address is: 217 Renshar Dr, Auburn 48611.

Thank You

Thank you very much for all the beautiful greeting cards. May your summer be filled with carefree sunny days! -Bonnie Cole

Thanks to Altar Guild

Thank you, Altar Guild, for serving God and GLC with joy and dedication throughout the year, including these Lenten and Easter seasons. I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you. (Romans 1:8) God bless you! ♥ Annette Frank





Easter Egg Hunt Fun

THANK YOU to the many volunteers who helped with our community Easter Egg hunt. We welcomed over 180 children and their families. Everyone enjoyed the hunt and activities while the rain held off. Thank you also to those who donated candy. We look forward to welcoming the community again next year.

New Study! "Welcoming Women!"

Join the Women's Bible Study this Wednesday at 6 p.m. as we begin to look at women of the Old Testament both well known, like Esther and Deborah, and the less known, like Jael and Abigail. Come and be encouraged as we look at these role models of the faith!

Lutheran Witness

The April issue of *The Lutheran Witness* magazine, "A Chaste Community," is available in the narthex; please, take a copy! This month's featured articles include, "Speaking Truth to Folly, Beyond Purity, Making Distinctions, Out of the Shadows, and Created Male and Female." Also included in each issue is the Michigan district newsletter, *Michigan in Touch.*

Quilting for 2024

We continue our 2024 quilting sessions on April 8 and 15, 2024. We will continue to meet at the Gengler home at 1625 Wilder Road, Auburn, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please bring willing hearts and hands as well as a sack lunch. We continue to strive for another successful year. Quilt top kits will continue to be available through April. Please consider this way of helping our efforts for Orphan Grain Train and Lutheran World Relief. Please also sign up on the sheet if you are just donating tops made from other materials. We appreciate knowing specifically who is helping us out!

March Memorials

Given to the glory of God in loving memory of... ^(h)Dave Lederer by Bob & Lonnie Hensler, Laurie Wegener, Dorothy Sinicki, Judy Lance, Wayne Walter, Elaine Meyers, Dan & Karen Koehler, Steve & Jeri Sinicki, Denise Chamberlain, Neal Schmidt, Sheryl Seaver, Sandra Buettcher, Barb Kish, Ervin Kuch, Clarence & Janis Kimaszewski, Mike & Gloria Stark family, Ken & Sherry Smith, Dan & Linda Haven, Shirley & Lance Wegener, Debi Stieve, Rich Gray, Gene Schwab, Janice Moore, Kim Gray, Jeannie Ventrone, Kent & Janice Bellhorn, Gordy & Fay Schroeder, Phil & Annette Frank, Hazel & Sally Kish, Ernie & Karla Weiss, Bonnie Cole, Kim & Chris Herbolsheimer, Peter & Cynthia Fredrich, and Joyce Bauer.

All New Black and Blue

Clueless? *Who's clueless?* Find out in this week's episode of *"Black and Blue"!*

Opportunity to Serve! Grace Officer & Board Candidates

The 2024 election for Grace Officers and Boards will take place in the Voters Meeting on Sunday May 5. Officer & Board Positions open for election are:

- President
- Vice President
- General Accounts Treasurer
- Board of Elders (3 positions)
- Board of Evangelism Stewardship (2 positions)
- Board of Christian Life (4 positions)
- Board of Property Maintenance (2 positions) and
- Board of Finance (2 positions)



All terms begin July 1, 2024, and are for 2 years, with the exception of the Board of Property's 3 year terms. If you are interested in running for one of the positions or would like to learn what the position entails, please contact Kye Sugden or the chair of the board in which you are interested. Please prayerfully consider serving our Lord in this manner.

LWML Prayer Day / Spring Rally Saturday April 27

Grace Sisters will be participating in the LWML Prayer Day at St. Paul Sanford on April 27. It's fun to socialize, worship and pray with other Lutheran women of our area. The event will begin at 9 a.m. with registration (\$5) at 8:30, including lunch. Our Gifts from the Heart will be given to the Open Door (Midland) and Midland Community Action. See the flyer on the bulletin board for information. If you are interested in attending, please contact Cheri Fish at 989-450-9058 or crosslwml@gmail.com no later than April 19.

Benefit Dinner – Jacob Aiden @ Grace Lutheran, Auburn

Jacob is the son of Sarah & Chris Earle and grandson of Dale and Cheri Fish. He was born 16 weeks prematurely 11 years ago with many special needs which require daily nursing care. Jacob has outgrown his car seat and at 86 lbs is too big to be lifted in and out of a car. This benefit is for the purpose of helping to purchase a transport van with a lift to be able wheel him right into a vehicle to transport Jacob and have a quality of life outside of his bed/home. This benefit will be held at Grace's gym on Sunday April 28 from 12-4 p.m. Spaghetti, salad, bread sticks and desserts will be served. Adult and takeout meals are as follows: Adults: \$15, Children: \$10, and children under 5: Free. There will be a Silent Auction accompanying the dinner. If you would like to help with serving, providing baked goods for dessert or any other contribution, please contact Cheri Fish at 989-450-9058. We hope to see you there!

Save The Date!

Dear Grace Family, on Wednesday, May 1 at 6 p.m., Deaconess Tirzah Krey will be presenting on the work that our Lord is doing in Latin America! Deaconess Tirzah serves as a deaconess and nurse with the LCMS in the Dominican Republic as Regional Human Care Coordinator for Latin American & the Caribbean. Hope you can come! You can find out more about Deaconess Tirzah at <u>www.lcms.org/Tirzah.Krey</u>. Also, a fun Grace connection: Tirzah is a deaconess classmate and close friend of Deaconess Jamielynn Tinkey Flores!