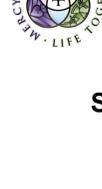


Receiving Christ Continually as God's People through Word and Sacrament



Grace Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

Spotlighter - March 23

Our Mission Statement
Sharing **GRACE**

Growing in God's word, **Reaching out** with love, **Announcing** forgiveness, **Calling the lost**, **Encouraging** everyone

Visit Our Website

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Lessons for this coming Sunday:
Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion
Zechariah 9:9-12
Philippians 2:5-11
Mark 14:1-15:47

Generosity Thoughts Zechariah 9:9 - "Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey." No king ever rode to war like this. But no king had ever come to wage battle by dying. In His Passion, our Lord Jesus gives everything He has and is; He does this to bring us from death to life and to make us His own people.

Prayer Requests Melissa Dalkowski, Shirley Gray, Gordon Panner, Pam Horne, Nelissa, Net Ann Gripentrog, Jack Greenleaf, Margaret Barber and Jim Emerson.

Holy Week 2018 Preview and Schedule You're invited to meditate on the Passion of our Lord this week. Maundy Thursday is at 7pm and will focus on our Lord's mandate to love one another. This is also the night when our Lord instituted His Holy Supper which we will eat and drink for the forgiveness of our sins. Good Friday is at 7pm. This is the most solemn of all days in the Christian Church Year as we remember how much it cost Jesus to save us. The Easter Vigil is on Saturday at 8pm. This is a new service this year for us at Grace but it's one of the oldest in the Christian Church and the biggest one of the year. Please make plans to attend the Easter Vigil. The confirmands will be confirmed at this service. On Easter Sunday, we will have the one service at 9am. Let's walk with Jesus this Holy Week to His meal in the upper room, His betrayal, His arrest, His torture, His crucifixion, His death, His burial, and His resurrection. "Oh, who am I that for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh and die?"

Easter Vigil - Part 4 The Services of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion The Service of Holy Baptism is such an important part of the Easter Vigil. Historically, this is the night when Christians were baptized. Even when there isn't a baptism, we still go through the rite of Holy Baptism to remember our own baptism. We will renounce Satan and all of his works and ways. We will profess that threefold profession of faith in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We will be sprinkled with water to rejoice in the gift of our new birth by water and the Spirit. At the end of the Service of Holy Baptism, the confirmands will be confirmed. Following the rite of confirmation, the table will be prepared for Holy Communion. The altar was stripped at the end of Maundy Thursday and now it will be set again during the singing of "This is the Feast!" When the table is set, the Service of Holy Communion begins where the bread Lord will make Himself known in the Breaking of the Bread as He shares His body and blood with us. Christ hasn't left us as orphans but continues to dwell with us and in us through this most holy meal. Death couldn't destroy Jesus and death can't ever destroy us either! Jesus triumphs and so do we! This is the Easter Vigil!

No Midweek Services April 4 and 5 There will be no Matins (April 4), and no Wednesday (April 4) and Thursday (April 5) evening services for the week of April 2. Pastor will be out of town for the first half of the week. Please contact an elder if there is an emergency.

Confirmation Saturday Mason Lazarowicz and Ally Hundley will be confirmed at the Easter Vigil Service next Saturday at 8pm! Please come and celebrate this special occasion!

Easter Service for Shut-ins We have several members of our congregation who are unable to come to a service at the church on a regular basis. To serve them better, we will be having an Easter Service for Shut-ins at 10:00 am on Thursday, April 12th. This will be a communion service celebrating the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. After the service we will provide a meal. We encourage all members of Grace to come and receive the Lord's gifts of Word and Sacrament with their fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. If you have any questions please talk to Kantor or Pastor.

Confirmation Schedule There will be no confirmation on Wednesday, March 28, and Wednesday, April 11. Confirmation will resume on Wednesday, April 11. The last confirmation class will be Wednesday, April 25.

Notices

- E-board meets on Tuesday, March 27 at 7:00 p.m.

Birthdays

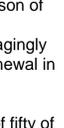
Melissa Vennix, 25th; Dan Koehler, 27th; Dave Wegener, 27th; Iris Dominowski, 27th; Darlene Pfannes, 28th; Bob Yaeger, 28th

Anniversaries

Bob and Merry Lee, 28th;

Quilting Our April dates are the 16th and the 23rd.

(A slight change due to appointments) We will be working from 9 a.m. to until 3 p.m. We continue to meet at the Gengler home at 1625 Wilder Rd. Bring a sack lunch and willing hands and hearts. No previous experience is needed as we have all kinds of tasks to perform, and most can be easily learned.



Ladies of Grace Spring Fling Church Tour Join us on May 5 to enjoy a tour of 2 historic area Lutheran Churches. Learn about the history and artistry that make up the famous Peace Lutheran and St. John, Amelith. Then return home and listen as our own Roger Schmidt reminds us of the art and design of our own beloved Grace Lutheran.

8:30 Gather at Grace, coffee and sweet treats available
9:00 Depart for Peace Lutheran
9:30-10:30 Tour Peace Lutheran with Henry Pahlkötter
11:00-12:00 Tour St. John, Amelith with Pastor Starke
12:30 Tour Grace with Roger Schmidt
1:00 Light Luncheon in the Room 2

Registration encouraged. Call the church office 989-662-6161 or Sue 989-662-4913
Cost \$10.00

Short Altar Guild Meeting The Altar Guild will have a short meeting immediately after the service in the Sanctuary on March 25th to practice for Maundy Thursday and the Easter Vigil. Please stay around near the front of the Sanctuary so we can get the meeting going and finished in a timely manner.

Encouraging One Another In our thoughts and prayers this week is Gordon Marnar. If you wish to send him a card or note, his address is 1033 Eddie Drive, Auburn.

Ladies of Grace Please join the Ladies of Grace on April 10 at 7:00 p.m. in the library. We will be working on mat supplies, cutting, knotting and crocheting. We will also have elections.

Come and browse books in our adult library. Examples of new arrivals are as follows:

"*The Lutheran Difference*" an explanation and comparison of Christian beliefs
"*The Reformation*" provides a richly illustrated and engagingly written overview of this amazing time of change and renewal in the Christian Church

"*Luther's Small Catechism*" new edition
"Censored" a striking photographic journey consisting of fifty of the most convincing scientific evidences that we do, indeed, have a Creator

"*Brilliant*" a visual and intellectual journey through time which will take your breath away as you examine the brilliance of mankind from the moment he was created

"*The Rocks Cry Out*" two DVD sets compiled by Bruce Malone a former Dow scientist

"*Loving Isaac*" a tender story of failure, forgiveness, and relationships all wrapped up in a mother's love for her special needs son and a heavenly Father's care for His precious children both young and old

"*The Storybook People*" story of a unique bookstore and patrons that love it

Katie Schuermann's novels, stories about life in small-town America, where things are predictable and comfortable until now....

Blood Drive Give Blood here at Grace in the Gym on Tuesday, March 27 from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthax.



GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE AT HORIZON CENTER You are invited to the following meaningful events:

11:00 A.M. Friday, March 30, 2018 Join the Saginaw Cross Walk starting at the northeast corner of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church's parking lot at 5335 Brockway Road and walking the sidewalks along Brockway and State Street and on to the Horizons Conference Center. There will be singing of familiar hymns while following the cross and taking turns carrying the cross. **ALL ARE WELCOME.**

1:00 P.M. Good Friday Worship at the Horizons Conference Center on State Street in Saginaw.

12:45 P.M. Pre-service music provided by the music department of Valley Lutheran High School.

The Good Friday preacher will be Reverend Doctor Lawrence R. Rast, Jr. who is the President of Concordia Theological Seminary at Fort Wayne, IN. He is chairman of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Commission on Theology and Church Relations. He is also a member of the Board of Directors for the journal *Lutheran Quarterly*. He is married and has three children.

The Good Friday service will feature the vocal and instrumental groups from Valley Lutheran High School under the direction of Paul Eschmann and Lindsay Mueller.

Nursery available for small children. Signing is available for hearing impaired.

Radio station WSGW 790 AM will air a live broadcast from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Issues, Etc. Talk Radio for Holy Week...Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week's topics include: The Hymn "In the Cross of Christ I Glory," Apparent Contradictions on the Crucifixion & Death of Jesus, The Upper Room, The Garden of Gethsemane, The Trials of Jesus and more. You can listen live or on-demand at www.issuesetc.org and on the LPR mobile app.

Valley Lutheran 40th Anniversary Valley Lutheran High School is hosting a special chapel service on Monday, April 23 at 10:00 a.m. to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the day students, faculty, and staff moved into the McCarthy Road location. The community is invited to take part as Pastor Gil McDonald, who served at Valley from 19789 to 1991, will offer the message for the service.

More Options for Giving For several years now we've used Excel in Giving from Church Extension Fund as a way for members to automate their giving. We have recently added a few more options for the convenience of our members. Using a service called GivePlus, you can now setup a one-time or recurring offering in three ways:

- On our website at <http://www.graceauburn.org/giving>
- Using the GivePlus mobile app, available in the Apple App Store or Google Play Store. When you set it up, search for Grace using our ZIP code (48611).
- Using text messages by texting the amount you wish to donate to 989-256-7131. The first time you use this you'll be sent a registration link to setup an account. This method only allows you to use Debit or Credit Cards.

All three options are safe, secure, and easy to use. If you have any questions about this please talk to Steve VanTol or Kantor Beethe.

Thrivent Choice Reminder If you are an eligible Thrivent member, please consider Grace when directing your Choice dollars. These funds are split between our Thrivent projects and Grace's General Fund.

These funds can be directed quarterly or at the end of the year. If you wish to direct your Thrivent Choice dollars, please call 1-800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" to be connected to a customer service representative or go online to www.Thrivent.com/thriventchoice You will need your Thrivent ID number or your social security number for proper identification.

Worship Services

This Sunday 9:00 a.m.
Divine Worship

Wednesdays
Matins 8:30 a.m.
Midweek Service 7:00 p.m.

Thursdays
Divine Service (Spoken) 5:40 p.m.

Maundy Thursday Service
March 29
7:00 p.m.

Good Friday Service
7:00 p.m.

Easter Vigil
March 31
8:02 p.m.

Easter Service
April 1
9:00 a.m.

Grace at Prayer for Holy Week

Invocation

In the Name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Apostles' Creed

Verse of the Week: Psalm 18:3

I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies.

March 26 Psalm 35 Exodus 9:1-28 Hebrews 2:1-18
March 27 Psalm 88 Exodus 9:29-10:20 Hebrews 3:1-19
March 28 Psalm 89 Exodus 10:21-11:10 Hebrews 4:1-16
March 29 Psalm 37 Exodus 12:1-28 Hebrews 5:1-14
March 30 Psalm 135 Exodus 12:29-13:16 Hebrews 6:1-20
March 31 Psalm 92 Exodus 13:17-14:9 Hebrews 7:1-22
April 1 Psalm 106 Exodus 14:10-31 Hebrews 7:23-8:13

Writing from the Lutheran Confessions

In ordaining and instituting the Holy Supper He spoke these words about the bread, which He blessed, and gave: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you," and about the cup, or wine: "This is My blood of the new testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." We are certainly duty-bound not to interpret and explain these words in a different way. For these are the words of the eternal, true, and almighty Son of God, our Lord, Creator, and Redeemer, Jesus Christ. We cannot interpret them as allegorical, figurative, turns of phrases, in a way that seems agreeable to our reason. With simple faith and due obedience we receive the words as they read, in their proper and plain sense. We do not allow ourselves to be diverted from Christ's express words by any objections or human contradictions spun from human reason, however appealing they may appear to reason. [Formula, Solid Declaration, VII:44-45]

The Lord's Prayer

Collect for Week of Holy Week

Most merciful God, as the people of Jerusalem, with palms in their hands, gathered to greet Your dearly beloved Son when He came into His Holy City, grant that we may ever hail Him as our King and, when He comes again, may go forth to meet Him with trusting and steadfast hearts and follow Him in the way that leads to eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Sunday:Pray for the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacraments.

Monday:Pray for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for Lutheran schools [especially Zion Beaver and Trinity Monitor] and her teachers; for good government and for peace.

Tuesday:Pray for the Church and her pastors, teachers, musicians, missionaries, and deaconesses.

Wednesday:Pray for marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.

Thursday: Pray for repentant hearts, that all would confess their sins and seek our Lord and His forgiveness in the Word and Sacraments.

Friday: Pray for the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.

Saturday: Pray for faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ's holy gifts.

In Our Prayers this Week:

- The sick, shut-in, and suffering.
- The families of our loved ones in the Armed Forces.
- Growth for Grace Lutheran Church.
- Steadfastness for Christians persecuted throughout the world.
- Unity among the mid-Michigan congregations in caring for the poor.
- God's use of Grace Your Closet to clothe families.
- Wisdom to put the best construction on everything.
- Opportunities to share the Gospel with family and friends.
- Time to meditate on God's Word and pray during this Holy Week.

Luther's Morning Prayer or Evening Prayer from the Catechism

Benedicamus

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Place article copy here. Be sure to make the articles short and concise as people tend not to read much more than a couple of paragraphs. Place article copy here.

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