

# The News of Grace

Volume 37, no. 4

April 2014

## Humiliation / Exaltation

**I believe 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. For thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. (Second Article of the Apostles' Creed)**

Easter is always the first Sunday following the first full moon which follows the Spring Equinox. So if you wanted to know how we arrive at the date for Easter, there it is. That is why it is not the same date year after year. This year Easter is April 20<sup>th</sup>. Christmas and Easter are the high holy days in the Church Year. Easter is always on a Sunday as Christ rose from the dead on the first day of the week. The day for Christmas is always different from one year to the next. As Christians, these are important days for us to remember, just like our birthdays and anniversaries. We celebrate those dates in our lives, so too we should all gather to celebrate these special Christian holy days. Why wouldn't you want to do that? Another of those days comes forty days after the resurrection and is known as Ascension Day, the day of our Lord's coronation at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. Unfortunately a Thursday in April or May is usually too full with outside activities to get people into the pews for a special commemoration of that holy day.

Why is it so difficult to get people to come to Church, or maybe better said, to come to Divine Service? After all since we are Christians we should want to rally around the cross and the empty tomb and celebrate the forgiveness of our sins and the new life in Christ which He came to earn and to feely give. There are a myriad excuses. Unfortunately we are still in our flesh and while the spirit may indeed be willing, the flesh is in fact weak.

In the Second Article of the Apostles Creed we confess that we believe in Jesus and we confess what the Holy Scriptures teach about

Him, that He has **two natures**, that He is human and divine in the same person of God. We also confess in the article's entirety the **two states** of Christ, His **state of Humiliation** and His **state of Exaltation**. He was humiliated even in His birth, leaving the glories of heaven and becoming one of us, born humbly to save us at the expense of humiliating rejection and crucifixion. In this state He was forsaken by God the Father. St. Paul writing in his letter to the Philippians said, "though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, taking the form of a servant." (Philippians 2:6-7a) This He did for you, for me and for all. It is personal for you!

Jesus' descent into hell was not a part of His humiliation but His exaltation as He went to preach His victory over death and the grave to those who were captive because of their disobedience. St. Peter in his first epistle said, "For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in whom He went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, because they formerly did not obey." (1 Peter 3:18-20a) God then raised Him from the dead, seated Him at His right hand and as St. Paul once again writes, "Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed upon Him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2:9-11) If this is not something that you gladly and freely do today, let it be known that everyone in heaven and on earth and under the earth will do it at the end of all things.

During the month of April we will move from our Lenten observances to Holy Week and once again we will hear the story of Jesus' Passion. This was God's plan before creation. This is one of the many mysteries of the faith even as we confess a virgin birth. Faith looks to the life of Jesus as recorded by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John and confesses Jesus to be the Lord, God in the flesh, fulfilling for us what we could not and can never do for Him. Nevertheless we are given to boldly confess His name in what we say and do. To do otherwise is to bring humiliation to ourselves. That is certainly not the purpose of Christ's humiliation. He would have us to know everlasting life with Him in His glory. Yet we also know from Holy Scripture these words of Jesus, "Everyone who acknowledges (confesses) me before

men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 10:32-33)

Christianity cannot be practiced anonymously. I am not saying you cannot have personal time in devotion and prayer, for you indeed can and I urge you to do so. At one and the same time you cannot come to Service on a Sunday morning and leave and act as if you were never here, nor can you just say it is between me and God. Oh, it is but there are so many places where we are called to be light and salt in the earth. We are to, while we are going, make disciples of all natures. The writer of the letter to the Hebrews wrote, “let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day of Salvation near.” (Hebrews 10:24-25)

When Dr. Martin Luther wrote the meaning to the Second Article of the Apostles’ Creed he included these words after he had shared those things about Christ that made Him God and Man and how He in His state of humiliation redeemed us with His holy and precious blood. Luther puts forth, “that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.” (Luther’s Small Catechism)

So let me ask you again, can you do these things by yourselves? Can you just remain silent both in the things that you fail to say and the things that you fail to do as a Christian and still be a Christian? What does it mean to be faithful unto death and thereby receive the crown of life if that is not where and what you want to be in this life? I truly think the answer to these questions are very simple and I pray that those of you who continue to hunger and thirst after righteousness will continue to be fed by the Gospel and receive the forgiveness and life it declares and then seek to give worship and praise to Him who has been exalted by God the Father Almighty! Those of you who are struggling with this please hear again the words of the prophet Joel from the Old Testament reading for Ash Wednesday; “Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.” (Joel 2:13) Alleluia! (which means “Praise the Lord”) Christ is risen! He is risen indeed. Alleluia!! I sincerely hope to see you soon.

*Blessed Holy Week and Easter – Pastor Walter*

# CROSSWORDS

Lenten Services - 7:00 p.m.  
Lenten Dinners - 5:30 p.m. in Parker Hall

## Sermon Themes

Midweek Lent 4  
April 2<sup>nd</sup>

“I Thirst”  
John 19:28-29

Midweek Lent 5  
April 9<sup>th</sup>

“It is Finished!”  
John 19:30

Maundy Thursday  
April 17<sup>th</sup>

“Washed and Fed”  
John 13:1-17

Good Friday  
April 18<sup>th</sup>

“Father, Into Your Hands  
I Commend My Spirit”  
Luke 23:44-46

## Lenten Dinners

**Midweek Lent 4 – April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Grace Adult Choir – Ham, mashed potatoes and salad

**Midweek Lent 5 – April 9<sup>th</sup>**

Grace Youth – Baked Potatoes with all the fixins!

**Maundy Thursday – April 17<sup>th</sup>**

Boards of Evangelism and Stewardship – Pork Loin and potatoes

**Set aside a couple of hours in the middle of your week and join us during Lent for Worship, dinner and fellowship.**

**INVITE A FRIEND TO JOIN YOU!!**

## **30 Years of Grace**

PLEASE NOTE ON YOUR CALENDAR:

**Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>**

**10:00 a.m. - One Service Sunday**

to be followed by an important **Voters Meeting**

The special voters meeting will be held to present some of the work that the long range planning committee has done. This committee was charged with developing a master plan for future development. Some of the issues looked at included parking, traffic flow, playground concerns, and building access as well as the best way to utilize the empty lot adjacent to the church to meet our needs. At the voters meeting we will present preliminary plans developed to address these issues. At this meeting and throughout the summer we are hoping to gather feedback so that the plans can be refined and developed to be presented again to the congregation this fall. We hope all members will attend this important meeting.

A light lunch will be provided. I hope you share in my excitement to see these plans for our Grace family.

In His Service

Randy Middaugh  
Chairman of Grace

# Director of Parish Music

Greetings in the name of our Risen Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ!

Thank you to everyone who came to the Lenten Service on Evening Prayer on March 16<sup>th</sup>. We had about 100 people there and it was a wonderful service! The Central Arkansas Kantorei will sing next for the joint Reformation service at First Lutheran in Little Rock this October. Also, look for another service in the Spring of next year.

This month I want to talk about great Lenten hymn that is especially appropriate for Good Friday. It is called “In Silent Pain the Eternal Son” (LSB 432). The text is by Christopher M. Idle (b. 1938), a priest in the Anglican church. The tune, REALITY, is by John L. Bell (b. 1949), a minister in the Church of Scotland.

*Stanza One: In silent pain the eternal Son Hangs derelict and still; In darkened day His work is done, Fulfilled, His Father's will. Uplifted for the world to see He hangs in strangest victory, For in His body on the tree He carries all our ill. Strange victory indeed! To the world's eyes it appeared that Jesus had failed, and was now proven to be a fraud. But the cross was His throne, the place where He saved His people, and so became a sign of triumph. Christ hung on the cross for us, taking a symbol of shame and making it the instrument of our salvation.*

*Stanza Two: He died that we might die to sin And live for righteousness; The earth is stained to make us clean And bring us into peace. For peace He came and met its cost; He gave Himself to save the lost; He loved us to the uttermost And paid for our release. “Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.” Christ showed us the greatest love, taking that love all the way to its ultimate conclusion: His death for us. He died so that we might die with Him and then be raised along with Him as sons and daughters of God. We were in bondage to sin and He came to set us free. Thanks be to God!*

Stanza Three: *For strife He came to bring a sword, The truth to end all lies; To rule in us, our patient Lord, Until all evil dies: For in His hand He holds the stars, His voice to speak to end our wars, And those who love Him see His scars And look into His eyes.* The same One who holds the universe in His hands let those same hands be pierced by nails for us and for our salvation. Those scars show the love He has for us, a love that took Him to the cross. May this time of Lent lead us to once again see the great love that God has for His people, show to us on the tree of the cross.

*Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakers of His resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

*Peace in Christ,*

*Nathan Beethe*

*Director of Parish Music*

## One Service Sunday

April 27<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School and Bible Class at 8:45 a.m.

To be followed by lunch and Special Voters' Meeting  
Leadership of our congregation will present  
some of the work that  
the long range planning committee has done.

# Stewardship News

Jesus is the Lamb of God, who by His death takes away the sins of the world (John 1:29). John's Gospel takes great pains to show us that the crucifixion and death of Jesus coincides with the slaughter of the lambs for the Passover Feast (John 18:39; 19:31). By it, our sins are forgiven and in Him, we have life. This marks us as those whom the angel of death will pass over, those who are marked by the blood of the Lamb for life (Exod 12:13).

St. Paul picks up on this theme: "Christ has been raised from the death, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep" (1 Cor 15:20, 23). We are acceptable to the Father because the first fruits of the harvest of those who have fallen asleep, our Lord Jesus Christ, has been offered and accepted. The offering is holy, and so then the rest of the harvest is also holy (Rom 11:16). This is the generosity of the Father toward us. He offered His Son as the first fruits of those who die, so that we may be acceptable to Him, be reconciled to Him and to one another.

Christ was offered to the Father for us. He was crucified for our transgressions and raised for our justification (Rom 4:25). We are acceptable to God the Father by His grace on account of the death and resurrection of Jesus through faith. This is God's generosity. This is His love. That while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us and was raised so that the Father would receive us back and that we, in Christ, would be acceptable to Him.

And this is what we celebrate in Holy Week. This is what we sing about and ponder on Good Friday and Easter. We meditate on God's love for us and His generous offering of His Son. We have been making our way to the cross and the empty tomb throughout Lent with this singular focus: God by His grace and mercy has redeemed us, forgiven us, sanctified us, and found us acceptable in His sight because of Jesus.

In the same way then, we who have received such mercy and grace from God our Father, who have then been the beneficiaries of His generosity are to be generous with all that He has given us. He has given us all that we have for this body and life and sanctified it for use in His service.

Our reason and senses, our clothing and shoes, our house and our home, our income—all that we are and have—are sanctified, made holy, for use

in service to him. We are holy and so what we say, what we do, and what we give is holy too. God, by grace, has accomplished it, but He brings us into this service. He makes us fellow workers. Just as Christ is the first fruits to make us acceptable, we are living sacrifices to the Lord, holy and acceptable. Everything we do and are is employed by God, put into the service of the Gospel for the life of the world.

Our lives, our giving, our conversations as fathers and mothers, sons and daughters, husbands and wives, citizens and workers proclaim this reality “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.” With the blood of the Lamb upon us, by water and word, bread and wine, all that we do and give is put into the Lord’s work of making those around us acceptable in Him who died but was raised. For He has died. But He is risen. He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

In Christ,  
Joel Junkans,  
Board for Stewardship

## **CONGREGATION WIDE PICNIC**

**SUNDAY MAY 4<sup>th</sup>**

**RESERVOIR PARK**

**(just past Pavilion in the Park on Cantrell)**

## **FOOD, FELLOWSHIP & FUN**

**BRING a DISH to SHARE**

**a FRIEND or TWO**

**for HORSE SHOES, FRISBEES, and PRIZES**

**If you have questions, contact Diane Roberts.**

# THOSE WHO SERVE in APRIL

## ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

**8:15 a.m.** Services – Mason Andrews

**10:45 a.m.** Services – Kaylee Hammond

**Lenten Service** – April 2<sup>nd</sup> – Annalia Buchanan

**Lenten Service** – April 9<sup>th</sup> – Ginger Litwa

**Palm Sunday** – April 13<sup>th</sup> – 8:15 a.m. Acolyte – Ginger Litwa

8:15 a.m. Crucifer – Mason Andrews

10:45 a.m. Acolyte – Kaylee Hammond

10:45 a.m. Crucifer – Maxwell Baker

**Maundy Thursday** – April 17<sup>th</sup> – Acolyte – Anna Kate Manchester

Crucifer – Jack Manchester

**Good Friday** – April 18<sup>th</sup> – Acolyte – Abby Litwa and Kaylee Hammond

Crucifer – Maxwell Baker

**Easter Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 a.m.** – Acolyte – Lily Woodyard

Crucifer – Maxwell Baker

**8:15 a.m.** – Acolyte – Abby Litwa

Crucifer – Mason Andrews

**10:45 a.m.** – Acolyte – Lauren Faulkner

Crucifer – Kaylee Hammond

## USHERS' SCHEDULE

**8:15 a.m.** Worship Services – Roy Bullard's team

Roy Andrews, John Ketcher, Gary Proud

**10:45 a.m.** Worship Services – Gervais LeBlanc's team

Jeff Ralston, Jacob Ralston, Paul Krueger

**Lenten Service** – April 2<sup>nd</sup> – 7:00 p.m. – David Roberts' team

Charlie Buchanan, Terry Clawitter, Bryan Gipson

**Lenten Service** – April 9<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 p.m. – Dennis Fastenau's team

Tommy Borchert, Sam Cate, Jack Funk

**Maundy Thursday** – April 17<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 p.m. – Gervais LeBlanc's team

Jeff Ralston, Jacob Ralston, Paul Krueger

**Good Friday** – April 18<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 p.m. – Tim Loyd's team

Bill Allaben, Bobby Bemberg, Ed Mahnken

**Easter Sunrise** – April 20<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 a.m. – Dennis Fastenau's team

Tommy Borchert, Sam Cate, Jack Funk

## GREETERS' SCHEDULE

8:15 a.m. Worship Services – Janet Killough

10:45 a.m. Worship Services – Ann Stoker

Lenten Services and Good Friday Debbie Penny

Maundy Thursday – Ralph and Joan Ann Olsen

## ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE

**8:15 a.m. Service** – Lori Bloom and Angie Proud

**10:45 a.m. Service** – Ginny Ralston

Wednesday Mid-Week Services - Suzanne Raddle and Wilma Richter

## CANTORS' SCHEDULE

8:15 a.m. Services – Joel Junkans

April 27<sup>th</sup> – 8:15 a.m. Service – Randy Middaugh

10:45 a.m. Services – Kurt Shrader

## COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

April 6<sup>th</sup> - 10:45 a.m. Service – Kurt Shrader

April 13<sup>th</sup> – 8:15 a.m. Service – Gary Proud

Maundy Thursday – April 17<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 p.m. – Kurt Shrader

Good Friday – April 18<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 p.m. – David Witte

Easter Sunday – April 20<sup>th</sup> – 8:15 a.m. – David Graf

April 20<sup>th</sup> – 10:45 a.m. – Frank Royster

April 27<sup>th</sup> – 8:15 a.m. Service – Raymond Harrill

*If you are unable to serve please ask someone to fill in for you and then call the church office.*

## FELLOWSHIP CLUB

April 15<sup>th</sup> – 12:00 noon

The Fellowship Club will meet on **Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, at 12:00 noon** in Parker Hall for a delicious lunch served by our ACTS friends. Join us for fun, food, and fellowship. Call the church office for more information.

## SPRING IS FINALLY HERE! TIME FOR SPRING CLEANING!

Grace Lutheran Church will hold a spring clean-up at on the morning of Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, to prepare the church property for Easter. The clean-up fun will begin at 8:30 am.

Many volunteers are needed to divide the work, and this is a great opportunity to share in service and fellowship. There will be four major areas of clean-up – landscaping, playground, family life center, and church sanctuary.

Please contact Charles Stein at [cstein30@comcast.net](mailto:cstein30@comcast.net) or 920-3371 to volunteer. Please let him know in which of the four areas that you would like to participate.

### **Walk for the Waiting” Saturday - April 26<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m. at War Memorial Stadium**

There is a great need in Arkansas for people's hearts to be engaged in the fact that there are children waiting for families, unconditional love and a place to call home.

The **“Walk for the Waiting”** on **April 26<sup>th</sup>** is a partnership between leading ministries in Little Rock who are passionate about children in foster care - The CALL, Project Zero and Immerse Arkansas. By uniting forces we can make even more of a difference in this critical issue, and we are working to call the Church to action. Sign up to be a Sponsored Walker. Go to [WalkfortheWaiting.org](http://WalkfortheWaiting.org) to register. Contact Justine or Shaun Baker for more information.

We appreciate all that you do to support of Project Zero and The CALL through the ministries that we support here at Grace.

# GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

## SPRING CLEAN UP

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2014

1. Landscaping (Dave Roberts, Leader)

Some of the plantings in the front of the family life center needing to be trimmed and pulled off the building.

Concern about the front area of the sanctuary. The ornamental grass has not worked and some of the plantings may be dead. The corner bush needs to be trimmed.

Lawn Service apparently broke the ground light in front of the FLC. The lights in the bushes at the east entry are out. The shrubbery needs to be trimmed so that the ballasts and bulbs can be checked.

Check beds and mulch where needed.

2. Playground (Charles Stein, Leader)

The playground needs to have its gravel pulled back from the edge and re-spread. A workday would take care of that. (4 or 5 guys for an hour or so)

3. Family Life Center Tables and Chairs (Andrea Faulkner, Leader)

The tables could use a thorough cleaning and some of the screws could be tightened. Chairs checked as well.

4. Church Sanctuary (Janet Killough, Leader)

General cleaning – The entrances may need our attention, some elbow grease would do.

## HOLY WEEK SERVICES

**April 13<sup>th</sup> – 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.**

Palm Sunday  
Sunday of the Passion

**April 17<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 p.m.**

Maundy Thursday Service  
with Holy Communion

**April 18<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 p.m.**

Good Friday Tenebrae Service  
with Holy Communion

**April 20<sup>th</sup> – Easter Sunday**

**6:30 a.m.** - Easter Sunrise Service

**7:30 a.m.** – Breakfast in Parker Hall

**8:15 a.m.** – Easter Divine Service with Holy Communion

**9:15 a.m.** – Breakfast in Parker Hall

**10:00 a.m.** – Easter Egg Hunt

*(There will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday. The children up to 8 years old are invited to the Easter egg hunt at 10:00 a.m.)*

**10:45 a.m.** – Easter Divine Service with Holy Communion

## NOON DEVOTIONS WITH PASTOR

Noon Devotions with Pastor is **Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, at 12:00 noon in Parker Hall.** Bring a sandwich and join us as Pastor Walter leads us in a Bible study. Drinks, chips, and dessert are provided. **Bring a friend and join us ...this is a wonderful opportunity for fellowship!!**

## Kevin and Allie Ray

Dear Brothers and Sisters at Grace,

It is great to be writing you all again! Another quarter has gone by, and that is amazing to consider! We wanted to thank you for your incredibly generous support during our time at the seminary.

Everything you all have done is truly amazing, and an incredible testimony of your faith! Thank you so much!



We are doing well. We are soon to have our next daughter, Scarlett, in early to mid-April (We will be sure to send a birth announcement). It is hard to believe that this pregnancy is almost over; with each child I feel that time goes even faster. Monica and Tallulah are continuing to grow and develop in some amazing ways. Monica is talking more and more, showing us her fun little personality. Tallulah is running all over the place and starting to say more words. She also has a favorite color, yellow, and two favorite numbers which she uses to count rather high (judging by how many times she repeats them): six and nine. Overall they are doing quite well and keeping us quite busy, but in the most blessed of ways.

School continues on as usual, but vicarage is coming. This quarter I am studying some rather exciting subjects. Systematics 3 will be focusing largely on the doctrine of the Holy Spirit and His connection to our lives. I also am taking Western Monasticism, which is covering the development of Monasticism in Western Europe from the Desert Fathers to Luther's day. Along with these, I am in World Religions, Theological German, and Pastoral Counseling (which promises to be a really great experience). Overall, I have really been enjoying my classes thus far, and I look forward to the fresh insights that hopefully the Lord will bless me with. I also will continue my resident field-work at St. Paul in Columbia, Illinois. I'll be doing quite a bit of on-site training this quarter including teaching, preaching, children's messages, liturgy, hopefully a hospital call, and some youth work.

We hope you all are doing well! We look forward to seeing you all in late May. We are coming to visit family after the school year ends. It will be great to be able see our Little Rock church family again. Until that time, our prayers are with you! Once more, thank you!

Yours in Christ,

Kevin, Allie, Monica, Tallulah, and Scarlett Ray

## STEWARDSHIP BUDGET RE-CAP

2014 budget \$531,856  
which is an average weekly  
General Fund contribution requirement of \$10,228

Average weekly contribution through week 13	\$9,206
Budgeted needs through week 13	\$133,744
Contributions to General Fund from all sources	\$119,679

## GRACE FAMILY NEWS AND NOTES

### CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY...

Our Christian Sympathy to the family of Sherry Bischof, who died Monday evening, March 24<sup>th</sup>. Sherry is survived by her husband Rudy, children Bill, Ben and Barrie, and grandchildren John David, Jesse, Maggie, Luke and Alexios. Please remember the Bischof family in your prayers.

Our Christian Sympathy to the family of Larry Jones who died Friday evening, March 28<sup>th</sup>, at Briarwood Nursing Center. The Funeral Service for Larry was at Grace on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Larry is survived by his family Dawn Cline, Mark Jones, David Jones, Lucia Jones, and Jonathan, Brandt and Erich Cline. Please remember the Jones and Cline families in your prayers.

Our Christian Sympathy to the family of David Schonert who died on March 13<sup>th</sup>. David is the son of Betty Schonert and cousin of Janet Pulliam. Please remember Betty, Janet and their family in your prayers.

Our Christian Sympathy to the family of Donald Murphy, Jr. who died on March 11<sup>th</sup>. Donald is the brother-in-law of Jim Robinson. Please remember Jim and his family in your prayers.

Our Christian Sympathy to the family of Nelle Wessels who died on March 19<sup>th</sup> in Oklahoma City. Nelle is the aunt of Debbie Penny. Please remember Debbie and her family in your prayers.

Our Christian Sympathy to the family of Billie Holzhauer who died March 28<sup>th</sup>. Billie is the grandmother of Lyndsey Dilks and cousin of Carroll Holzhauer. Please remember Billie's family in your prayers.

Our Christian Sympathy to the family of Effie Hanks, aunt of Marietta Gutierrez, who died on February 27<sup>th</sup>. Please remember Marietta and her family in your prayers.

**CONGRATULATIONS and GOD'S BLESSINGS...**

Congratulations to Aaron and Kirby Walter on the birth of their daughter Margaret Elizabeth on Friday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, in Chicago. Margaret is the granddaughter of Pastor and Paula Walter and niece of Hannah and Paul. Congratulations and God's blessings to Aaron and Kirby!

Congratulations to John Ralston and Ashley Hornbeck who were united in marriage on March 15<sup>th</sup> at Graves Memorial Baptist Church in Oak Grove. Congratulations and God's blessings to John and Ashley.

**NEW ADDRESS...**

As you know, our dear friend Nancy Finkbeiner as moved to Georgia. She is looking forward to staying in touch with her Grace Family, so here is her new address and telephone number: 6080 Lakeview Road, #703, Warner Robins, GA 31088. Telephone 484-352-9994.

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**DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES (DCFS)**

Grace continues to support the foster care program in the East Office of DCFS. Some of the items they need for the children coming into their office include:

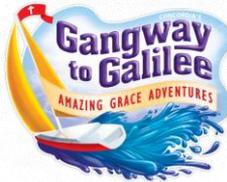
- Diaper all sizes
- Wipes
- Box of Kleenex
- Snack: pop tarts, cracker, cookies, juice
- Microwavable: ravioli, spaghetti macaroni

If you can help provide any of these items, please bring them to the church and place them in the box for DCFS which is in the church breezeway.

For more information, contact Pat Funk or any of the Board of Evangelism members.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL Grace Lutheran Church

June 15 - 19, 2014



### Gangway to Galilee!

#### AMAZING GRACE ADVENTURES

We need VOLUNTEERS to ‘dive in’ and prepare for another great VBS. Please look for the sign-up sheet on the table in the breezeway. For questions or more information, please contact Catherine Manchester at 821-4140.

### JOY CLUB FLOAT TRIP

- Date - June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013**
- Time - 8:45 a.m. for 9:00 a.m. departure**
- Place - Highway 14 bridge**
- Cost - \$40 per canoe plus \$3 per person for transport**

No lunch will be served on the river, but plans are being made to stop at Spring Creek. Call Tim Loyd at 851-6457 or 352-4908 or email Tim at [timpaul59@att.net](mailto:timpaul59@att.net). The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board by the Parlor.

## SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE

### COFFEE HOST SIGN UP

**Volunteers Needed to Serve** - Please take a minute and sign up for the Sunday on which you wish to serve. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board by the Parlor.

#### The schedule for **April, 2014** is:

April 6 <sup>th</sup>	Paul, Ron and Russlynn Krueger
April 13 <sup>th</sup>	Palm Sunday Bake Sale – Parker Hall
April 20 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Breakfast – Board of Parish Fellowship
April 27 <sup>th</sup>	Florence and Jim Marvin

#### The schedule for **May, 2014** is:

May 4 <sup>th</sup>	_____
May 11 <sup>th</sup>	_____
May 18 <sup>th</sup>	_____
May 25 <sup>th</sup>	_____

Thank you for serving!!!

## Annual Palm Sunday Bake Sale Sunday, April 13th

The *Grace Women in Mission* (also known as Grace Evening Guild) is sponsoring the **Grace Annual Palm Sunday Bake Sale** next **Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>**, in Parker Hall following the 8:15 Service. We will graciously accept baked goods from anyone in our congregation. The proceeds from the Bake Sale are for Seminary Scholarships. This is a great opportunity to purchase baked items for Easter. Matching funds from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Contact Sheila Wilimzig at [nursezig@swbell.net](mailto:nursezig@swbell.net) if you have questions.

## LWML MISSION GRANTS Your Mite Box

### Be a Missionary and Share Jesus' Love!

This month we focus on the LWML Mission Grant, **I CAN - Serving At-Risk Children with Learning Needs.** The Lutheran Special Education Ministries (LSEM) enrolls youth who are considered academically at-risk in an **I CAN** learning Center site hosted by a Lutheran Church (or school) located within a low performing public school district. The \$99,000 Scholarship Fund is established to cover program expenses as a means of reaching out to neighborhood youth, serving them by providing supplemental instruction in reading, mathematics, study skills, and fine arts within a Christ-centered setting.

You can find additional information for this grant and others on the **MITE BOX bulletin board** in the breeze way. I will post information

on one of the 18 grants each month and the ***BIG BLUE MITE BOX* will be at the front entrance every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month.** Please support these grants with prayer and a donation. There will also be Prayer Cards for different Grants for your taking. Thanks for all you do.

## **BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES AT GRACE**

Our nursery, downstairs in the church, is also available to take care of the infants and toddlers during Sunday School/Bible Class time.

**ADULT BIBLE CLASS** - Pastor Walter's Bible Class meets each Sunday at 9:45 a.m. in Parker Hall. Pastor Walter is leading a study of the book of Hebrews.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES** for children ages 3 through 6<sup>th</sup> grade are held in the lower level of the Family Life Center. Parents are invited to join us for the opening service at 9:45 each Sunday. Contact Colleen Moorman or Nathan Beethe. LCEF K.I.D.S. Saving Stamps are available from Ame Andrews during Sunday School opening time.

**JUNIOR YOUTH** class meets at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday in their classroom downstairs in the church. Joel Junkans leads the class each Sunday morning.

**SENIOR YOUTH** class meets each Sunday at 9:45 a.m. in their classroom downstairs in the church. Dave Roberts leads the class each Sunday morning.

**YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY** group meets every other Monday at 7:00 p.m. Their meetings this month are April 14<sup>th</sup> and jApril 28<sup>th</sup>. Contact Vicar David Witte at [drwitte@gmail.com](mailto:drwitte@gmail.com) for additional information.

**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY** class meets each Wednesday morning at 6:30 a.m. at St. Vincent Hospital in the 4<sup>th</sup> floor conference room (off the main elevator). Pastor Walter leads this Bible Study. All men of Grace are encouraged to attend.

**TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS** meets each Tuesday morning at 9:30 a.m. in the downstairs classroom in the church. They are know doing a

women's small-group Bible study *"The God of All Comfort"* by Donna Pyle. Contact Joan Ann Olsen for more information.

## **BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND GOD'S BLESSINGS to Grace Family Members in the month of April:**

- 2 – Roy Andrews, Marc André LeBlanc
- 4 – Hunter Goodwin, Greg Pils
- 5 – Ashley Worden
- 6 – Edward Allen, Nancy Hickey
- 7 – Edwina Atkinson, Rick Camacho
- 7 – Joel Junkans, Carmen Stewart
- 9 – Brandt Cline, Dana Herman
- 9 – Kestin Schulz
- 10 – Suzanne Lindemann Hardman
- 11 – Grover 'Bud' Evans, Angie Proud
- 13 – David Raddle
- 14 – C. C. Cate
- 15 – Abby Buchanan
- 16 – Daniel Mainard
- 17 – Joshua Bryant
- 18 – Cecillia Gelzine
- 21 – Karen Bullard
- 22 – Jo Hanna Worden
- 24 – Jeremy Camacho
- 26 – Leslie Cossey, Billy Ginocchio, Hayden Villarreal
- 27 – Carroll Holzhauser, Robert Rawlings
- 28 – Nancy Orpin, Bob Schmidt
- 29 – Willie Eustice, Mike Morrison, Ginny Ralston

### **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to these couples in April:**

- 21 – Alison and Michael Metzler
- 24 – Natasha and David Graf

*We apologize if we have missed your birthday or anniversary;  
please let us know in the church office so we can update our records.  
Thank you!!*



## ECDC News & Notes . . .

What a busy month March was! We had all sorts of fun with nursery rhymes and fairy tales, celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday and even had a Mardi Gras parade! The Senior Class had a fun field trip to the Hillary Rodham Clinton Children's Library and enjoyed lunch and play at Chick-fil-A! Then Spring sprung – and we are full of energy and ready to explore!

April is the month we learn about creepy, crawly critters—a Spring thing, and hopefully not too much show'n'tell! The Juniors and Seniors will even go to Pinnacle State Park to hike, explore, play, and have a great Spring picnic—can't wait!

And, of course we will travel in story and song through Holy Week to our Savior's glorious resurrection—don't be afraid, JESUS IS ALIVE! Our Resurrection Eggs and the story of a little boy named Benjamin take us on our journey of activities celebrating the death, burial, rest in the tomb, and resurrection of our Savior. Our celebration will culminate with our annual Resurrection Biscuits on April 17<sup>th</sup>. And, I'm sure the Easter bunny will stop by and make an appearance, too!

**Do not be  
afraid—Jesus**



To celebrate Earth Day – April 22 – we are organizing a shoe drive for the Ozark Water Project. We have done this a couple of times during VBS and the kids (and adults) had such fun we decided to give our ECDC families an opportunity to do some Spring cleaning while helping provide water sources for those in need. I'll try to remember to give you our shoe poundage when we are all done☺

A special thank you to the Board of Church Properties for addressing our

“bird habitat” issues at the north entrance. Hopefully sealing the upper rafter in the near future will encourage our little winged friends to relocate to a new nesting area.

Until next month—a joyous Easter season to each of you —

*Colleen*

## **Painless Ways to Support Little Rock Lutheran Education!**



Many of you already take advantage of company programs that provide financial incentives for Grace Lutheran ECDC and Christ Lutheran School that don't cost you any extra money — for that we all say THANK YOU! These programs are really an untapped resource that benefits Lutheran education in Little Rock by providing funds for all type of budget needs! And all the programs are very user-friendly and simple — some only require scissors!

Following are programs used by one or more of our Lutheran schools — please consider this painless way to support Lutheran Education in L.R.!

### **KROGER PLUS CARDS Grace ECDC**

The Board of Christian Education encourages you to enroll your Kroger Plus card at [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com) today. Once you choose Grace's ECDC program (code 80368), a portion of your eligible purchases at Kroger goes directly to the ECDC. Holiday shopping is around the corner so please support our ECDC. Every dollar you spend benefits this amazing program here at Grace. For questions or help with your enrollment, please contact Catherine Manchester (821-4140) or Colleen Moorman (663-0755). Thank you!

### **General Mills “Box Tops for Education” used by Christ Lutheran School Campbell's Labels used by ECDC & Christ Lutheran School**

Here's how these work:

- Remove “box top for education” labels from General Mills containers (ie Cheerios, Betty Crocker), and/or ENTIRE LABEL WITH UPC CODE from

Campbell's products (ie soup, juices).

- collection boxes may be found on the bookcase next to the breezeway or the entry area of ECDC.
- "Box Tops for Education" provide monetary support for the CLS Band, "Campbell's Labels" are turned into credit toward purchasing supplies and equipment for both ECDC and Christ Lutheran School.