

The News of Grace

Volume 37, no. 5

May 2014

“GOOD SHEPHERD”

(Jesus said) “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.” (John 10:11-15)

We continue to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ as we move through the seven Sunday season of Easter. The second Sunday in May, which is also the holiday for honoring our mothers, is The Fourth Sunday of Easter, traditionally called “Good Shepherd Sunday.” We will also observe that Sunday as Confirmation Sunday for three of our young people as they publicly confess their faith in the Triune God into whose name they were baptized. The rite will be in the 10:45 Service. Since Pentecost Sunday is the second Sunday in June, it makes sense for us to use this Sunday in Easter that gives us a beautiful account of the relationship between our Lord and His people, Shepherd and sheep, which is shared in Jesus’ words above.

Maybe more familiar to you, but not by much, is Psalm 23 which together with Jesus’ words above show us who the Shepherd of Psalm 23 truly is. The imagery of shepherd and sheep is played out throughout the Scriptures as it relates to God and His people. Actually Jesus is both the Good Shepherd and the Lamb of God who was sacrificed for the sheep. That language is carried through the above verses from John’s Gospel account.

Certainly the events in our area of this past Sunday evening should remind us that when we are in “the valley of the shadow of death” He, the Lord our Good Shepherd, is with us. Repeatedly people who lost everything have confessed the goodness of the Lord in sparing them. But what does that say about those whose lives were lost? How do we explain why some whose homes were completely destroyed survived, while others who may have been in safe places did not? Does that mean

that the Lord was not with them? Does that mean they were being punished for something they had done or failed to do? Why were some affected and others not? Jesus answered similar questions saying, “No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will likewise perish.” (Luke 13:3)

Because the Lord is with us does not mean that we will not be subject to events that are beyond our control in this sinful and broken world. What it does mean is that the Lord who made us His own in the waters of Holy Baptism will take us from this place to the place that He has prepared for us when that time comes for each of us.

The text that I preached this last Sunday morning reminds us that we are to rejoice in God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who “has caused us to be born again into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you.” (1 Peter 1:3-4) While we are rejoicing in this Good News we may also at the same time, “have been grieved by various trials.” (1 Peter 1:6) “Various” is important for us to understand. Our trials, temptations and tests come in many and various ways. Some of those folks in Vilonia are left to rebuild again, three years later. Sometimes we may find ourselves overcoming one health condition, only to be confronted by another. It may be that we lose a loved one and then, a month later, lose another one. It might mean that we help our children get through one crisis only to see them get themselves involved in another. The same can be said about parents. Certainly in all these “various trials” the Lord is still with us through Word and Sacrament. The Psalmist writes, “even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.” (Psalm 23:4) Shepherds used rods and staffs to lead, guide, direct and protect their sheep. They may also have need to be disciplined. The Lord, our Good Shepherd leads, guides, directs and protects His sheep through Word and Sacrament.

Sometimes we need the word of the Law to call us back to the Lord. “Unless you repent,” Jesus said. The Law quickly convicts us of our sins and our need for the Good Shepherd’s rescue. Try as we may, we cannot rescue ourselves. The Law shows us that reality and it leads us to repentance, acknowledging that we too often live for ourselves, “like sheep without a Shepherd” (Matthew 9:36) or “like sheep (who) have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way.” (Isaiah 53:6) This imagery reminds us that we need the Gospel, which is the Good News of salvation that is found in the above text. Jesus said, “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” That is what we celebrate week in and week out!

Certainly events beyond our control bring fear and great discomfort, even personal loss. Those things can further lead us to doubt and anger, even a despairing of our faith. Why do I have to suffer in this way? Why do bad things happen to good people? Where is the Lord in all of this? The Lord is where He always promises to be for us, in Word and Sacrament, giving us forgiveness of our sins and eternal life. That is where He has always been and He is always giving us what we truly need. While we might think we are good, we also need to remember the words of Jesus that “there is no one good except God alone.”

By His grace He had made us good. In the words of St. Peter, He “has caused us to be born again into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” Believe me when I say that there are many, many good people as we personally speak of good. The response shown in these last days in the recently hard-hit communities by neighbors, friends, family and complete strangers is a testimony to the good that many seek to do and truly do. We know that the Lord has prepared good works for us to do, so that, by His grace, we might do them, “that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10) We will continue to be given opportunity to do these works in whatever way the Lord gives us to do them, because we will continue to hear about needs and consequences of disasters, and we will even experience trials ourselves.

The Good News that our Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ, laid down His life for us sheep is the motivation for our reaching out in love to others. The Gospel is the power to salvation and it is further the power the Lord uses in us to be His people and His witnesses wherever we might be. Let us pray for one another. Let us pray that those we personally know who struggle with living, might know the reason for the hope that we have. Let us witness to them in love. Let us never tire in doing good works in whatever way we might be able to do them. By doing so we may be helping a brother or sister in Christ, or we may be helping someone who needs to know that Jesus is their Good Shepherd.

As our Good Shepherd, Jesus laid down His life for us. In so doing He asked the “why” question. “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me.” I truly hope you know the answer to that. He was forsaken by the Father so that you and so that I would never be God-forsaken. Jesus is the Good Shepherd who knows His own and calls His own to help others know Him through us. **“Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!”**

*The Lord Be With You,
Pastor Walter*

Director of Parish Music

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

This summer the Sunday School Children will be learning the hymn “God’s Own Child, I Gladly Say It” (LSB 594). This is a wonderful hymn that teaches both the children and parents about the great gifts given to us in Baptism, gifts that we continue to receive in Word and Sacrament.

Stanza 1: God’s own child, I gladly say it: I am baptized into Christ! He, because I could not pay it, Gave my full redemption price. Do I need earth’s treasures many? I have one worth more than any That brought me salvation free Lasting to eternity! The phrase “I am baptized into Christ!” is all over this hymn. Throughout all the worries and struggles of the world, the refrain continues: “I am baptized into Christ!” Our comfort in this world, and the world to come, is drawn from God’s promises, which we receive through Baptism. What are these promises? In this stanza we hear of Christ’s substitutionary atonement for our sins, a treasure greater than all the riches of this world.

Stanza 2: Sin, disturb my soul no longer: I am baptized into Christ! I have comfort even stronger: Jesus’ cleansing sacrifice. Should a guilty conscience seize me Since my Baptism did release me In a dear forgiving flood, Sprinkling me with Jesus’ blood? Our past sins can come back into our thoughts, troubling the conscience. But we can say in response to each sin, “I am baptized into Christ,” and each sin has been forgiven for Christ’s sake. The hymn-writer then asks the question, “Should a guilty conscience seize me...” This is answered in the next stanza.

Stanza 3: Satan, hear this proclamation: I am baptized into Christ. Drop your ugly accusation, I am not so soon enticed. Now that to the font I’ve traveled, All your might has come unraveled, And, against your tyranny, God, my Lord, unites with me! Satan loves to throw our sins in our faces. Everything we’ve ever done is fodder for him as he reminds us of sins that we’ve committed, and which have already been forgiven in Confession and Absolution. But he still brings them up again and again. However, we have died with Christ, and all our sins were drowned in the waters of Holy Baptism, releasing Satan’s hold on us. We are no longer slaves to sin, but slaves to Christ.

Stanza 4: *Death, you cannot end my gladness: I am baptized into Christ! When I die, I leave all sadness To inherit paradise! Though I lie in dust and ashes Faith's assurance brightly flashes: Baptism has the strength divine To make life immortal mine.* This is a gutsy statement, to say to death that it has no hold on us. Yet we are indeed free from the fear of death, and are instead given eternal life, a gift we have already, and are still waiting to receive. Though our body will sleep in the grave, we know that God will raise us on the last day to eternal life.

With the Fourth Stanza completed, we have now learned how we can draw comfort from Christ's promises given in Baptism when we are confronted by our three chief enemies: Sin (Stanza 2), Death (Stanza 4), and the Devil (Stanza 3). Stanza Five will sum it all up.

Stanza 5: *There is nothing worth comparing To this life-long comfort sure! Open-eyed my grave is staring: Even there I'll sleep secure. Though my flesh awaits its raising, Still my soul continues praising: I am baptized into Christ; I'm a child of paradise!* Throughout all the troubles we experience in this life, we have the ultimate comfort in knowing that we are baptized into Christ, we are children of God, destined for paradise. When we stare the grave in its ugly face, even there we can have confidence in the promises of Christ. We know that our life does not end in our death here on Earth, but it is merely the beginning of our eternal life to come.

Merciful Father, through Holy Baptism You called us to be Your own possession. Grant that our lives may evidence the working of Your Holy Spirit in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, according to the image of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Peace in Christ,

*Nathan Beethe
Director of Parish Music*

THOSE WHO SERVE in MAY

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

8:15 a.m. Service – Annalia Buchanan

10:45 a.m. Service – Lauren Faulkner

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

May 4th – 10:45 Service – John Calvillo

May 11th – 8:15 Service – David Graf

May 18th – 10:45 Service – Greg Warren

May 25th – 8:15 Service – Raymond Harrill

USHERS' SCHEDULE

8:15 a.m. Services – Tim Loyd's team
Bobby Bemberg, Daniel Loyd, Ed Mahnken

10:45 a.m. Services – Richard Sanders' team
Rudy Bischof, Jeremy Hammond, Ken Ross

CANTORS' SCHEDULE

8:15 a.m. Services – Paula Walter

10:45 a.m. Services – Jeff Ralston

GREETERS' SCHEDULE

8:15 a.m. Services –Lori Bloom

10:45 a.m. Services – **May 4th & 18th** – Shaun, Justine and
Maxwell Baker

May 11th & May 25th – Dawn Cline

ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE

8:15 a.m. Services –Janet Killough and
Carol Ann Honeywell

10:45 a.m. Services – Beverly Sanders

Wednesday Mid-Week Services – Suzanne Raddle & Wilma Richter

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

**ANNUAL GRACE CONGREGATION
WIDE PICNIC
SUNDAY MAY 4th
RESERVOIR PARK
(just past Pavilion in the Park on Cantrell)
FOOD, FELLOWSHIP & FUN
a FRIEND or TWO
for HORSE SHOES, FRISBEES, and PRIZES**

Bring a bucket of chicken and/or your favorite picnic dish and join us for good food, fun and fellowship. Drinks will be provided.

We will have our regular Sunday worship services at 8:15 and 10:45 a.m. and the picnic will start around 1:00 p.m. There will be plenty of time after the 10:45 service to change into your casual clothes and get your picnic food together.

Everyone is invited to come together for great food, lots of fun, awesome prizes and fantastic fellowship!

See you there,
Board of Parish Fellowship



Fun, fellowship and great food!!!

STEWARDSHIP BUDGET RE-CAP

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

Budgeted needs through week 17	\$173,876
Contributions to General Fund from all sources	\$164,626
Average weekly contribution through week 17	\$9.684

GRACE FAMILY NEWS AND NOTES

WELCOME...

Ms. Jordan Rowe was received into communicant membership in our Grace Congregation by Adult Confirmation on Sunday, April 27th. Please welcome Jordan to our Grace Family.

Congratulations to our 2014 Confirmands. Their **Question and Answer Service** will be **Wednesday, May 7th, at 7:00 p.m.** and **Confirmation** will be on **Sunday, May 11th, in the 10:45 a.m. Worship Service.** Our confirmands are:

Maxwell Baker, son of Shaun and Justine Baker
Kaylee Hammond, daughter of Jeremy and Jennifer Hammond
Abby Litwa, daughter of Michael and Katie Litwa

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY...

Our Christian Sympathy to the family of Dewey Fastenau who died April 9th in Pella, Iowa. Dewey is the brother of Dennis Fastenau. Please remember Dennis and Judith and their family in your prayers.

Our Christian Sympathy to the family of Viola Kueck who died April 17th in Springfield, Missouri. Viola is the sister-in-law of Bill Jones and aunt of Sandy Price, Robert Jones and Pat Funk. Please remember Viola's family in your prayers.

CONGRATULATIONS...

Congratulations to Elisabeth Graf who recently won 3rd place at the state science fair in the category of Environmental Management. Congratulations, Elisabeth!!

Congratulations to Kevin Ray as he received his Vicarage assignment to St. Paul Lutheran Church in Concordia, Missouri. God's blessings on Kevin, Allie and their girls as Kevin begins his Vicarage.

CONGRATULATIONS and GOD'S BLESSINGS...

Congratulations to Jeremy and Jennifer Hammond on the birth of their daughter Cecelia Noelle Hammond who was born on Monday, April 21st. Cecelia has three sisters Kaylee, Claire and Hope, and her grandmother is Vicki Stigall. Congratulations and God's blessings to the Hammond family!

Congratulations to Craig and Lauren Schulterman on the birth of their son Henry Joseph Schulterman who was born on Monday, April 28th. Congratulations and God's blessings to the Schulterman family!

Congratulations to Kevin and Allie Ray on the birth of their daughter Scarlett Josephine on Friday, April 11th in St. Louis. Scarlett has two sisters Monica and Tallulah and her great-grandparents are John and Emma Jane Ohnemus. Congratulations and God's blessings to Kevin and Allie and their family!!

THANK YOU...

As you cross the bridge outside of Parker Hall, take a moment to stop and enjoy the beauty of the new Pentecost stained glass art that was designed and made by Nancy Wade. The Pentecost stained glass has 12 red triangles that represent the 12 disciples and the gifts given to them by the Holy Spirit to spread the Gospel. The Holy Spirit is symbolized by the white dove. Our thanks to Nancy for using her gifts and talents as she designs the stained glass art for each of the seasons of the church year. Thank you, Nancy, and Jim too for assisting Nancy!!

OUR GRADUATES

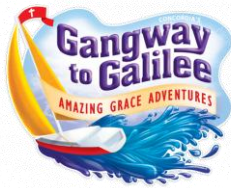
High School and College

In the **June Newsletter** we will be publishing the names of all those who are graduating from junior high, high school or college this spring. We would also like to know of any awards or scholarships you have received, and if you are graduating from high school, please share your plans for after graduation. Please call the church office with this information or e-mail it to Pat at patfunk@gracelutheranlr.org.

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.

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 **May, 2014** is:

May 4th Jim and Florence Marvin

May 11th _____

May 18th Jeramy and Angie Stephens

May 25th Gary and Angie Proud

The schedule for **June, 2014** is:

June 1st _____

June 8th _____

June 15th _____

June 22nd _____

June 29th _____

Thank you for serving!!!

BABY BOY SHOWER

May 18th

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

All are invited to a **Baby Boy Shower for Courtney Sutterfield** on **Sunday, May 18th**, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Church Parlor. Courtney is registered at Target. Hostesses are Ame Andrews, Crissy Beethe, Sammye Sue Harrill, Gina Junkans, Riley Middaugh, and Joan Ann Olsen.

WEDDING SHOWER

May 31st

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

You're invited to a **Wedding Shower for Ashley Hornbeck and John Ralston** on **Saturday, May 31st**, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Church Parlor. Hostesses are Rebecca Cate, Suzanne Lambert, Sharon LeBlanc, Florence Marvin, Diane Roberts, Beverly Sanders, and Margaret Schulz.

JOY CLUB FLOAT TRIP

Date - June 8th, 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.

The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board by the Parlor.

NOON DEVOTIONS WITH PASTOR

Noon Devotions with Pastor is **Thursday, May 8th, at 12:00 noon in Parker Hall**. We eat first and then Pastor Walter leads us in a devotional Bible study. Drinks, chips, and dessert are provided. **Bring a friend and a sandwich and join us...this is a wonderful opportunity for Bible study and fellowship!!**

FELLOWSHIP CLUB

Parker Hall

Fellowship Club will meet on Tuesday, **May 20th**, at 12:00 noon in Parker Hall. Our ACTS friends will serve another delicious meal. Mark your calendar and plan to come and have a great time of fun and fellowship.

SIT AND SEW

Sit and Sew will meet on **Tuesday, May 6th**, at 12:00 noon. Bring your project and join them in the downstairs classroom in the church. For details call Carole Nichols or Sammye Sue Harrill.

ENDOWMENT NEWS

The Endowment Committee is currently accepting applications for scholarships for the 2014-2015 school year. Applicants must be attending a Lutheran University or Seminary to be eligible. Applications are available through the church office. If you are currently receiving a scholarship from Grace, we ask that you update us with your fall plans. **All applications due by May 30th.**

Rudy Bischof, Director
Grace Board of Endowment

Women of Grace
Join us for our May Outing
May 8th

ATTENTION! Women of Grace - Thursday, May 8th, at 6:00 p.m. is your opportunity to take a tour of Chris Olsen's home and gardens.

R.S.V.P. Joan Ann Olsen at 851-4223 by May 4th if you plan to attend!

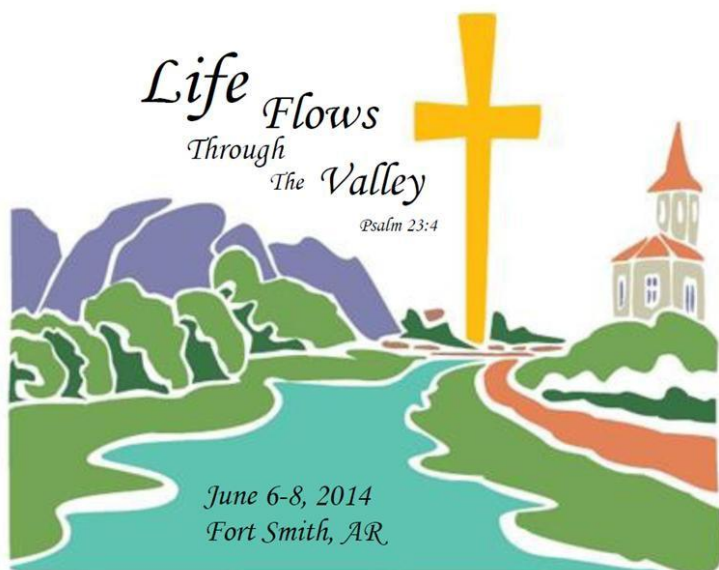
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LWML MISSION GRANTS
Your Mite Box

LWML MISSION GRANT.....Bible Story Books in Sign Language and Written Text

Lutheran Friends of the Deaf produced their original Religious Educational Materials for the Deaf from 1950 - 1970. The request for materials for the deaf has not declined, in fact it has grown to include countries such as Kenya, Ghana, Zambia, Macau, India, and Russia. A mission grant of \$100,000 will continue their work to produce a new Bible story series for the deaf. Each book tells a story about Jesus' love and life. They are also translated into several languages and reach non-Christian deaf people. They are in use in schools for the deaf in Jamaica, China, and India.

For more detailed information see the MITE BOX BULLETIN BOARD in the breeze way. You can support this and the other 17 mission grants with your prayers and donations. There is a Mite collection box at the ramp entrance at all times. Thank you for your donations and prayers.



LWML Mid-South District Convention 2014

June 6-8, 2014

Holiday Inn Fort Smith City Center
Fort Smith, AR

Registrations ends May 15

Visit www.midsouthlwml.org for
registration and more information
about the convention.

BOARD OF EVANGELISM
Outreach Ministries

6th ANNUAL DISNEY EXTRAVAGANZA

May 31st
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Grace Lutheran Board of Evangelism is again sponsoring a booth at the 6th Annual Disney Extravaganza. Each booth has a Disney theme and our booth is “**Nemo’s Fin-tastic Bean Bag Toss.**”

The Disney Extravaganza is sponsored by “Project Zero” formerly known at the Pulaski County Adoption Coalition and will be held Saturday, **Ma 31st**, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at **Immanuel Baptist Church**. This carnival style event brings children available for adoption and approved adoptive families together and gives them an opportunity to meet!

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.

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 6th 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 next time to meet is May 12th. Contact Vicar David Witte at 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 4th 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 now 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 May:

- 2 - Kaye Gilbert
- 3 - Russlynn Krueger
- 4 - Ruth Whitney
- 7 - Courtlyn Eubanks, Becky Ross, Eric Westerfield
- 8 - May Harrell
- 10 - Owen McCrory, Eldon Schulz
- 12 - David Witte
- 13 - Christian Johnston, Richard Sanders
- 14 - Ross Holzhauser, Lauren Keppel, Sean Moorman
- 15 - Rachel Allen, Annabelle Conrad
- 16 - Jonathan Cline, Allie Ray, Emily Stein
- 18 - Robert Grant
- 19 - Casey Jenkins, Emma Lile, Bowman Stein, Sandy Sweeney
- 21 - Sandy Price
- 23 - Cole Jenkins
- 24 - Robert Bemberg, Jr., Judy Rivers
- 25 - Nancy Finkbeiner, Warren Rivers
- 26 - Spencer Lile, Johnna Litwa
- 28 - Tullio Jacuzzi
- 29 - Bill Jones
- 31 - Allen Deislinger

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to these couples in May:

- 1 - Sandy and Tim Sweeney
- 3 - Anita and Bill Allaben
- 4 - Sharon and Gervais LeBlanc
- 12 - Heather and Travis Starr, Sheila and Robert Wilimzig
- 13 - Jan and Robert Grant, Tiffany and Richard Warriner
- 15 - Emily and Carter Stein
- 16 - Judy and Dennis Fastenau
- 18 - Carmen and Drew Stewart
- 20 - Angie and Gary Proud
- 21 - Karen and Roy Bullard, Lindsay and Jarrod Zweifel
- 22 - Lauren and Craig Schluterman
- 26 - Leah and Demetri Villarreal
- 27 - Phillis and Eric Westerfield
- 28 - Crissy and Nathan Beethe

*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

Despite being a weather rollercoaster April has been a great and busy month! We found ourselves making alternate plans numerous times when the weather didn't cooperate, but always having fun!

We traveled in story and song through Holy Week to our Savior's glorious resurrection—don't be afraid, JESUS IS ALIVE! The kids know the story so well and tell it with great joy! And, yes, the Easter bunny made a special visit; and we made our annual resurrection biscuits – always yummy! We learned about Thomas, and Jesus speaking to US—"blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed", and that He gave US all a job to do "...go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." AND the best message ever "and surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

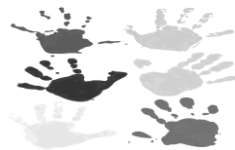
And no slowing down for May! We'll learn one of our favorite Bible stories—Noah—boats—and water—and animals—and rainbows—and most of all God's promise! Lots of outside time to play and explore, plus swim lessons for the Juniors and Seniors! The Senior class will most likely make a special trip to wrap up their year – haven't quite decided where yet☺.

Early June will find our summer friends joining us for fun. More on that next month.

See ya again next month, until then—
God's continued blessings 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 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.