

GRACE NOTES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

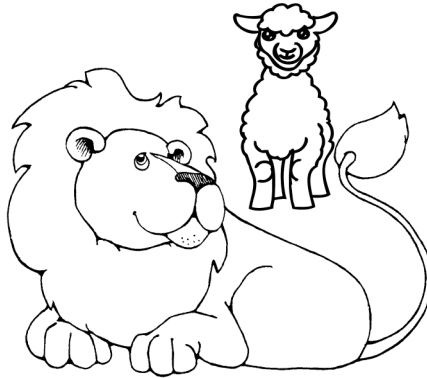
GRACE LUTHERAN'S MISSION STATEMENT

As disciples in Christ, we support our faith community, encourage spiritual growth in everyone, and serve all creation with Christ-like love.

We accomplish this by:

- ♦ *spreading God's Word*
- ♦ *building relationships*
- ♦ *serving the community*
- ♦ *reaching out to those in need*

March
2021



IN LIKE A
LION
OUT LIKE A
Lamb

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LENTEN JOURNEY



FROM THE PASTOR... *Safe Reopening* is perhaps a misnomer for Grace's committee that assess COVID considerations and passes recommendations on to Grace's Council. As Bishop Roth has noted, we aren't *reopening* because we were never closed. If memory serves, our bishop offered *renewed* rather than *reopening* for the transitions our worship have gone through during this pandemic.

The Committee is meeting March 1 and will evaluate and decide what steps we should take moving forward. We hope you can take advantage of our *Zoom* Brown Bag Bible Studies, Sunday School, confirmation class, committee and auxiliary meetings.

We hope you will continue to grow in awareness and learning through opportunities like the United Way's Equity Challenge (that runs through June 19). We hope you will keep praying for those in need, as lead by Sara Oehlert. We hope that you are finding our Parish Nurse's "Going and Growing" wholistic health Lenten journey beneficial. We thank you for your generous stewardship of financially supporting the ministry that Grace is called to.

So please keep praying, please get a vaccination, please keep social distancing, please keep (double) masking, because even though there are many people who are not, what we do does make a difference, and that is the only way we are going to get to where we need to be.

With Grace, Pastor Krieger



**DRIVE THROUGH COMMUNION WILL
BE SUNDAY, March 7
FROM 9:00—10:00AM**

New **WORD IN SEASON** devotionals are available at the church office, please let Kim know if you would like to pick one up or have one mailed to you.



Wednesdays in Lent

February 17___Who are my sisters?

February 24___Woman minister

March 3_____A woman's touch

March 10_____Mother & daughter
beyond reach?

March 17_____Woman 'giving up'

March 24_____Woman of the gospel

HOLY WEEK

WEDNESDAY March 24 & FRIDAY March 26, 2021

Food Basket Packing and Delivery

March 27 & 28, 2021

PALM WEEKEND: THE PASSION OF OUR LORD

April 1, 2021

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 2, 2021

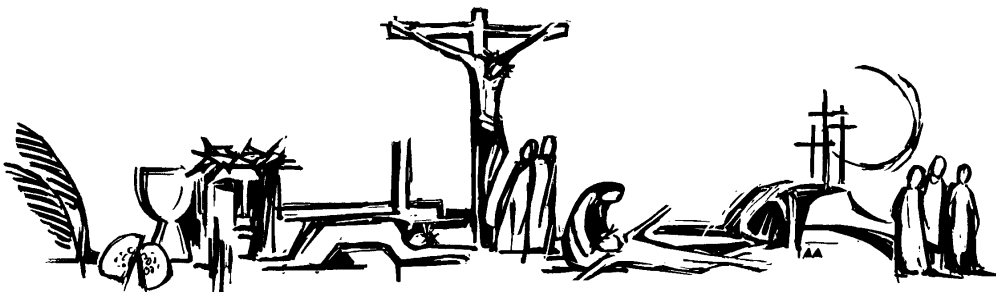
GOOD FRIDAY

April 3, 2021

HOLY SATURDAY: EASTER VIGIL

April 4, 2021

EASTER SUNDAY: THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD



When We Are Tested

This month is the *Grace Notes* article where I often highlight how Lent is different than other times in terms of hymns and liturgy. This year, it feels like Lent never ended. A raging pandemic, economic uncertainty, and divisive civil discourse have led to a sense of wilderness for many. This hymn text seems appropriate to our time. It brings contemporary application to the narrative of the wilderness temptation of Jesus (including the details in Matthew that we do not have in our readings this year). In *All Creation Sings* this hymn is set to the Irish traditional tune SLANE ("Be Thou My Vision" and "Lord of All Hopefulness")

- 1 When we are tested and wrestle alone,
famished for bread when the world offers stone,
nourish us, God, by your word and your way,
food that sustains us by night and by day.
- 2 When in the desert we cry for relief,
pleading for paths marked by certain belief,
lift us to love you beyond sign and test,
trusting your presence, our only true rest.
- 3 When we are tempted to barter our souls,
trading the truth for the pow'r to control,
teach us to worship and praise only you,
seeking your will in the work that we do.
- 4 When we have struggled and searched through the night,
sorting and sifting the wrong from the right,
Savior, surround us with circles of care,
angels of healing, of hope, and of prayer.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947 ©1996 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-724651.

I appreciate the reminder that ambiguity is often a part of life. Pastor Nadia Bolz-Weber has a great invitation to her online services: she often includes "You don't have to believe like I do to participate." What a beautiful, welcoming invitation! It is an acknowledgement that we are all on a journey, after all. "Angels" (in the broadest sense, as messengers of God) have attended me on my journey with patience, love, and welcome along the way. Some of them are you!

FOOD PANTRY REPORT

Helen Appleton

As Christ fed the multitudes, the mission of the Historical Grace Lutheran Church Food Pantry is to feed the hungry.

In January of 2021, we served 288 families composed of 825 individuals compared to 648 families composed of 1,400 individuals in 2020, and 407 families composed of 873 individuals in 2019. Even without the pandemic, January is a month that widely fluctuates from year to year largely depending upon the weather.



Our starting balance was in January was \$78,239.30. There were \$7,239.94 in receipts and \$4,616.42 in expenses for a closing balance of \$80,862.82. We were the recipient of \$1,186.00 from the Crop Walk. Thank you to all the walkers and donors!

During the last year, an extra effort was made to provide smaller bags for the homeless with items that did not require cooking. First Presbyterian has historically provided a number of services for the homeless, including regular lunches and sandwiches. They stopped these services as they lost volunteers due to the pandemic and we tried to fill in this gap. First Pres has now voted to donate \$1,000 to our food pantry each month to assist with the homeless! Thank you First Presbyterian.

In the next few issues of Grace Notes, I want to spotlight a few of our most conscientious and reliable volunteers. I am starting with Doug McFarlan, our Food Pantry Director and a member of Peace. Until I started volunteering in the Food Pantry, I did not realize how many of our volunteers attend the other Lutheran churches in town. Doug's family consists of Norma, who is also on our Food Board and started volunteering before Doug, two married daughters, and two grandsons, one of whom is only a few months old. Before retiring, Doug was a Senior VP at Edison International and President of their subsidiary, Midwest Generation. He started volunteering at the Food Pantry in 2015 and has been the Director since 2017. In addition to volunteering, he enjoys golf, reading, swimming, and time with his grandchildren. Doug states that working at the Food Pantry "has been the most fulfilling thing I could have done in retirement." He finds it both fulfilling and heartbreaking at the same time as the Food Pantry is meeting a need, but volunteering forces one to see the many needs our clients have.

**** Side note Doug, Jim Hobbs, Linda Rice and Jane Miller were here following the snow storm, Tuesday, serving those in need. AMAZING!!**

As always, thank you to the many generous donors of time and money to the Food Pantry and to all who pray for the pantry and our clients!

Christian Education News

SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL via ZOOM

For anyone that has not been able to join us on a regular basis, know that we would love to share Sunday School any Sunday that you can, even if it is once in a while, once a month, whatever works for you!

We have music and opening time with Mr. George.
Pre-K to 2nd grade taught by Kari Downey and 3-6th grades taught by Mary Plymire.

We will not have Sunday School April 4 for Easter.

Mary Plymire teaches our 2nd-6th graders in sun school via zoom. Students were using different translations of the Bible and this made learning a bit more complicated. As a result Mary gathered enough Bibles for all the students and delivered them to their homes. Thank you Mary.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES via ZOOM

Confirmation class continue each week on Sunday at 5:00 pm.

BROWN BAG BIBLE STUDY

BROWN BAG BIBLE STUDY via ZOOM is held each Thursday at 12:10. Come join us and bring a lunch.



CONGRATULATIONS!!! Emma Best (John & Debbie Rigg's granddaughter and daughter to Brett & Missy) got a Gold Key and Silver Key awards with Rochester Junior High! This is a great accomplishment! Her watercolor painting and illustration hang in the Springfield Art Association Building. Way to use those God given talents!



Letters for new parents...when a member has a baby Carolyn Nelson mails an age appropriate news letter to the parents every month for 3 years. One mother who works with a pediatrician, uses some of the information with their patients. The news letters would make a wonderful gift for family members or friends when they have a baby. If you are interested call Kim, the church secretary, and she will tell you the cost and how to get them.



Lord's Prayer Project

Hi Sunday School Families! We are working on a very fun project in which we will be putting together a video for the Lord's Prayer that will feature all of our kids in the congregation. We would like to include kids of all ages (yes this includes you teens too!). What we would like to do is have each of you take a video of your child (ren) saying the Lord's Prayer. (If they don't know it on their own, you can definitely help them out!). If you have younger kids, feel free to have them in the same video with an older sibling if that is helpful to do. We will be taking bits and pieces of each child and combining them together to create the entire prayer. This video will then be shared with the congregation during Holy Week. Then as a second part, we'd love to also have the parents do a separate recording of themselves saying the Lord's Prayer. (This will be a fun surprise for the kids!) We'll also take bits and pieces of each person's video and create a second version to surprise the kids with. If you could all submit your videos to kdowney@hprmarketing.com no later than **February 28th** that would be fantastic! If there are any questions or troubles getting the videos to send to Kari, please contact her at 217-638-3567.

***Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and ever.
Amen.***



March 14th we spring AHEAD.

Set your clock one hour ahead before bed Saturday night.

MEMBERS HOMEBOUND/LIMITED MOBILITY

DIXIE ALVIES
DOROTHY BAHRE
GLENDA BOWLES
GEORGIANN
BREDEHOFT

GLORIA GAGNON
JOHN GEORGE
MARGE HANNER
LAURIE JONES
EUNIE KRONE

HELEN MOORE
ELEANOR SAKRIS
ANN SCHLICHT
CRYSTAL SHADID

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Grace Lutheran Church council held its regular meeting February 23 at 6:30 pm via ZOOM. We came together to decide whom will represent committees and how the Council will be structured this year. The installation of the council members will take place March 7. Please welcome these congregants as your representatives on the church council. Feel free to contact them with your questions or concerns. Motions were made and approved:

1. We offer communion to all baptized persons.
2. Membership transfers of Holly Hansen and Jean Neptune to Peace Lutheran

Council Representative are as follows:

Vice President, Randy Heidorn

Treasurer, Susan LeMasters

Secretary, Phil Galloway

Administration & Finance: Ed Wollet

Christian Education: Jessica Thannen, Amy Monahan, Mary Plymire

Community Ministry: Diana Weyhenmeyer, Randy Heidorn

Evangelism: Josie Anderson, Amy Monahan

Fellowship: Mary Schofield, Wanda Williams

Long Range Planning: Ed Wollet

Parish Life: Rosie O'Fallon, Josie Anderson

Property: Mark Anderson

Stewardship: Mary Plymire, Phil Galloway

Worship & Music: Wanda Williams, Rosie O'Fallon, Randy Heidorn

Youth: Katy Gietl

Stephen Ministry Representative: Jan Conrady

January 2021

\$17,565 Income

\$27,155 Expense

Deficit (\$9,590)

January 2020

\$26,960 Income

\$29,883 Expense

Surplus \$2923

Attendance for January 2020 382 (4 weeks)

Weekly ONLINE 2021	Date	You Tube	Facebook
Epiphany 2	1/17/2021	93	236
Epiphany 3	1/24/2021	87	197
Epiphany 4	1/31/2021	75	134
Epiphany 5	2/7/2021	69	91
Transfiguration/ Bold Women's Day	2/14/2021	55	201
Ash Wednesday	2/17/2021	45	168

ALL WOMEN of Grace are welcome at the Women's Circle meetings and other WELCA events.

Please note the following things happening in March:

March 2nd: Twisted Stitchers, 7:00 pm **by ZOOM.**

TWISTED STITCHERS... is a group of ladies that get together the first Tuesday evening of the and have an evening of fellowship and stitching crafts (knitting, crochet, cross-stich, quilting or anything else).



March 4th: World Day of Prayer 2021

World Day of Prayer is a worldwide, ecumenical movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year, and who, in many countries, have a continuing relationship in prayer and service.

♥ It is initiated and carried out by women in more than 170 countries and regions.

- ♥ It is symbolized by an annual day of celebration observed on the first Friday in March to which all people are welcome.
- ♥ It brings women of different races, cultures and traditions together in fellowship, understanding and action throughout the year.
- ♥ Through World Day of Prayer, women affirm that prayer and action are inseparable and have immeasurable influence in the world.
- ♥ The motto of World Day of Prayer is "*Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action.*"

March 16th: Ruth Circle by ZOOM.

Butter braids...butter braids will be available for pickup **March 26.**

If the church is open they may be picked up after worship services on Saturday and Sunday. We will advise you later when to pick them up.

Place your order with Kim and Harold Janssen at docwho1@comcast.net or 217-753-0338.

The deadline for placing orders is **March 21.**

Butter braids: \$12 apple strawberry cream cheese, cinnamon, cherry, raspberry, cream cheese Rolls: \$12 caramel, cinnamon

Cookie: \$12 (40 pre-portioned frozen balls. They do not all have to be baked at the same time) triple chocolate, white chunk macadamia nut, chocolate chip, peanut butter, snickerdoodle

Pizzas: \$12 (two 11" pizzas of the same kind) four cheese, ultimate pepperoni, meat lovers, meat with vegetables, bbq chicken

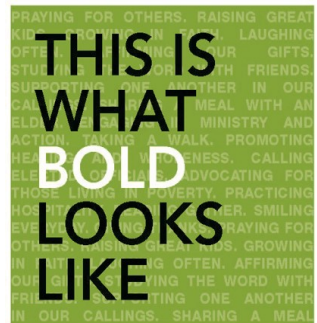
BOLD WOMEN'S DAY 2021

Bold Women's Day, as stated on the WELCA.com web page, celebrates all Lutheran women who have acted or are acting boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. Traditionally here at Grace Lutheran Church we have honored one woman as our Bold Woman for the year.

This year we are breaking tradition and honoring all Women of Grace Lutheran Church as Bold Women 2021.

BOLD WOMEN'S DAY

A Bold Woman is someone who is acting boldly on their faith by praying unceasing for others, taking time to call and check on others, run an errand for a home bound individual, offer a ride to church and other activities to those who no longer drive. A Bold Woman takes time to send a donation to the food pantry or volunteers to help in the food pantry. Other women offer their talents and organizing skills to help with projects at the church and the faith community. There are so many women, here at Grace, who do these things and more. We have sowers who make stuffed animals, masks, quilts and other items to help others. We have our Food Pantry volunteers, our choir members, our council members, and our lay readers, our wonderful cooks who prepare meals for all occasions, our committee members, and our office help. We have women who say prayers of support for the church and its activities. We have women who teach our children about our Jesus. We have women who have stepped out of their comfort zone and worked to help community organizations and world organizations make a difference in the lives of others. All women who are acting boldly on their faith by following the call that comes from our Lord and Savior are Bold Women.



**BOLD
WOMEN'S
DAY**



Just one more example of a bold woman...

Sara Oehlert, Story Teller

Sara Oehlert has begun the ministry of storytelling to the Little Lambs at the learning center in Uganda each week. She is boldly teaching those children the love of God by her stories and her actions.

PRAYERS OF GRACE MINISTRY

*Pray in the spirit at all times and on every occasion.
Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.”
Ephesians 6:18 (NLT)*

If you are in need of prayer or if you would like to join the Prayer Chain please call the church office (522-3965) or email Kim Gietl k.gietl15@yahoo.com or Sara Oehlert soehlert@aol.com



Acts 4:24 reads...“When the rest of the Lord’s followers heard this, they prayed together.” As a congregation, each day at 4:24, let us take a moment to pray. We're asking for pray-ers - at home, work or school -to stop and devote a few minutes to collective prayer. Set the time in your phone or on your calendar. Let us come together as the body of Christ and lift our prayers to God, our Father who loves us. As Christians, we are called to trust God, share His love and pray. What might we pray for?

- Pray for our leaders and unity as a nation.
- Pray for peace.
- Pray for those who are dealing with illness in body, mind and spirit.
- Pray to show mercy to the hurting, struggling, and those living in poverty.
- Pray for our homeless population.
- Pray for the health of the people of our nation, especially to eliminate the COVID 19 epidemic.
- Pray that we as a nation continue to work against racism in our nation.
- Pray that in our differences we find places where we agree and goals to which we can all agree.
- Pray for those who are out of work or underemployed.
- Pray for teachers, students and schools.

(Excerpted from St. Matthew Lutheran Church website, Rocklin, California)



BLEED AND FEED—HELP THOSE IN NEED APRIL 17 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

We plan to have a blood drive in April for Richard’s window to benefit the Grace Food Pantry. Got to:
<https://www.bloodcenterimpact.org/donor/schedules/drive/schedule>

Schedule your time to donate blood.

Easter Food Baskets

Thanks again to all who helped in the past with holiday food baskets. Hard to believe, but it is time to think about Easter Holiday Food Baskets. District 186 has their spring break early this year.



That means the baskets need to be out on nearer to Easter the last week of Lent. Wednesday March 24 and Friday March 26 while the Food Pantry is not in. Talk to Randy Heidorn for distribution or setup help. Also, consider making a donation to cover the cost of the baskets. We split the cost with Peace Lutheran based on the number of baskets we use. Grace gives away roughly 90 baskets at roughly \$50/basket. Thank you to all who have helped in the past and those who will help again this time. Please help spread the joy of our Lord's resurrection.

HELP MAKE SOME FAMILIES EASTER SPECIAL!

If you would like to sponsor a basket or half a basket to honor someone or remember someone who is no longer on their earthly journey, please fill out the form below, tear or cut it out and bring or mail it to Historic Grace. We will print your name and the name(s) of those you honor in the May Grace Notes. Thank you for helping with this special ministry. Your gift will also be recorded on your giving statement.

Easter Basket Honorary or Memorial

Your Name: _____

Phone: _____

Person(s) Name(s) to honor or remember:

Amount of gift: _____



YOUR HEALTH NEWS

Parish Nurse...Diana Weyhenmeyer

GOING AND GROWING continues...I hope everyone that has decided to participate is doing well on our wellness activity for Lent. Make it your own, if you want to do meditation only, do that. You can do any or all parts of the activity. We thought it might be a way to bring people together when we have been apart so long. It's a way to reach out to our shut ins and talk to them. That is worth 3 points.

Points will be recorded weekly by Diana Weyhenmeyer. You can either call at 217-529-5899 or email at weyhen@att.net. You can track your progress on your map in Grace Notes or there will be one on the web site to print out. Kim will also have some copies at Church. Leave your name and points total for the week with Diana. A resource person, from the committee, is always available for you.

Feel free to contact:

Josie Anderson	(217) 415-7275
Jan Conrady (leave message)	(217) 679-2237
Pat Ekle	(217) 414-9596
Jerry Janssen	(217) 691-5006
Diana Weyhenmeyer	(217) 529-5899

The main idea of the activity is to enjoy it and for your health. It was designed for your mind, body and spirit to stay healthy.

In Christ's love, Diana

Thank You's

- ♦ Thanks to everyone who donated and assisted with our Winter Warming Center meal for February 15th. We were blessed with so many donations of water and cookies, that we did not have to buy these. We prepared chili and chili Mac, canned fruit, crackers and shredded cheese, cookies and water for dinner. For breakfast, fresh fruit, applesauce, breakfast bars and water were provided. Thanks to members of the Community Ministry, Robin and Scott Mahnken, Debbie Rigg, Judy Wollet, Diana Weyhenmeyer, Randy Heidorn, Jean Scherer and the members of Grace for helping our community.
- ♦ Thank you to those children and families that showed God's love by sending out Valentines for those homebound and those in need of cheer! **We got many responses in the office of those who were grateful and proud of our kiddos and those who helped make this possible.



Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.... Encourage the faint and help the weak.

—1 Thessalonians 5:11, 14b

"It was the interaction, and I think the Christian connection, that really made me feel comfortable to open up."

"She didn't judge me; she didn't tell me what to do; she just walked side-by-side with me."

"I needed a miracle, and my Stephen Minister was my miracle."

See the people telling these stories, and many others, at stephenministries.org.

Pick up a confidential request to meet with a Stephen Minister in the box on the wall in the Fellowship Hall, near the main stairway door. Place it in a plain envelope back in the that box. Stephen Ministry is available in our congregation! We are here to help!



Depending upon which Thrivent products you have Thrivent allocates an amount of money you can direct them to give to churches, colleges, social service agencies, etc. Please contact Thrivent today to tell them where to send your allocation. If Thrivent doesn't hear from you by March 31 you lose the opportunity to direct the money and Thrivent decides who gets your allocation. Since we do not have a separate bank account for the food pantry if you want your choice dollars to go to the food pantry direct Thrivent to give your choice dollars to grace Lutheran church and ask them the amount of your allocation.

Dear Lord, when my mind races with worries...big and small...guide me to remember the many times you have provided for my needs. Help me feel your absolute peace. Amen. (from 60 days of prayer)



Tip for the month....when you send mail to a patient in the hospital and you don't know when they will be discharged, use their address as the "from" address rather than your address. If they are discharged before they receive your correspondence they will get the envelope sooner than if the hospital returns it to you.

March Birthdays

March 2 Parker Stults
Erica Cummings
March 4 Katie Klint
March 5 Michael DiGiovanna
March 6 Bill Moran
March 7 Evie Monahan
March 8 Thomas George
Theron Strike
March 11 Allison Klint
March 15 Dennis Little
Gracie McCormick
Crystal Schmidt
March 16 Denise Behl
Megan Nation
Tom Poston

March 17 Michael Carnduff
Kathy Myers
March 20 Mark Anderson
Colin Brockmeyer
March 22 Mary Folder
Kase Kepler
Ben Schlouch
March 23 Nancy Bahre
Lindsay Thompson
March 24 Patti Christell
March 25 Heidi Lowery
March 27 Sarah Jakowsky
Eleanor Sakris
March 29 Shelby Butler
March 31 Joelle Jones



***HAPPY BIRTHDAY and
GOD'S BLESSINGS TO YOU!***

Random acts of kindness

- ♥ A member, his daughter and three grandchildren ages 6, 4, and 2 shoveled snow off a senior members driveway.
- ♥ A member delivered home made soup and cookies to a senior member.

**ORGANIZATION
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Check out our website! Scan this code or navigate to <https://www.gracelutheran-springfield.org>



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Grace Food Pantry operating schedule is:

Mon, Tues, Thu 11:00 am-1:30 pm, ...522-9707

OFFICE PHONE:522-3965 FOOD PANTRY: 522-9707

www.gracelutheran-springfield.org

OUR STAFF

PASTOR

Rev. Tom Krieger

CANTOR

J.B. George

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Kim Gietl

CHURCH CUSTODIAN

Aaron VonHolten

PARISH NURSE

Diana Weyhenmeyer