

grace notes

The newsletter of Grace Lutheran Church



Grace's "The Broken Journey" Ends on Easter, April 20

Easter Celebrates The Resurrection Life!

Our Lenten journey following Jesus to the cross continues through most of April as we step toward the dramatic moments of Holy Week – Jesus’ last days before his death and resurrection. These days in April’s Lent journey are precious. They help prepare us for the wonder and meaning of Easter. Each event provides a special insight and spiritual connection to the great act of love Jesus gave to the world. We invite you to continue our Broken Journey all the way to the Empty Tomb.

In order to travel on our journey, we suggest you do the following: Make Weekend Worship and Wednesday Vespers services a high priority. Join us for Lenten Suppers on Wednesday April, 2 and 9 as we connect with others and enjoy a delicious meal! Suppers start at 5:30 p.m. Use the daily Bible readings in the Grace Lenten Brochure or on our website for your daily devotions.

HOLY WEEK CELEBRATION

Palm Sunday (April 12/13) begins Holy Week, as we celebrate Jesus’ triumphant ride into Jerusalem. Palm branches will be distributed prior to worship adding to the festive celebration of Jesus’ triumphal entrance into Jerusalem.

Maundy Thursday (April 17) will be celebrated in a unique and meaningful way at Grace this year. The service will be connected to a special meal as a way for us to experience the Last Supper and worship. Called **Maundy Thursday: Last Supper Church**, the service will offer beautiful music, simple liturgy, good food and a special celebration of Holy Communion with an “Upper Room” atmosphere. For more information please turn to page 6.

Good Friday (April 18) we will gather at 7:00 p.m. for the “**Scenes in the Darkness: The Stations of the Cross**.” The service follows Jesus last journey of love...the journey to the cross through reflective music, dramatic readings and drama music. For more information please turn to page 6.

EASTER CELEBRATION (April 19/20)

Grace will offer many opportunities to celebrate the Victory of the Empty Tomb on Easter weekend. Our celebrations begin at the **Easter Vigil Service** on Saturday, April 19 at 5:00 p.m. This service has a special “flavor” of celebrating both Good Friday and Easter morning with readings of the Old Testament stories of rescue and salvation, as a backdrop to our celebration of new life of Jesus’ resurrection. The service will have lots of music and a sense of excitement!

Easter morning we will celebrate Jesus’ resurrection at four services.

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES AT GRACE

<i>Maundy Thursday, April 17</i>	6:00 p.m.	MAUNDY THURSDAY: Last Supper Church (Note Time Change!)
<i>Good Friday, April 18</i>	7:00 p.m.	Scenes in the Darkness: <i>The Stations of the Cross</i>
<i>Easter Saturday, April 19</i>	5:00 p.m.	Easter Vigil – From Death to Life
<i>Easter Sunday, April 20</i>	6:30 a.m.	Sunrise Worship
	8:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship
	9:30 a.m.	Traditional with a Contemporary Flair
	11:15 a.m.	Contemporary Praise Worship

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Pastor Mark's Remarks:



I once heard a story about a Lutheran bishop who was visiting a parish church in California and found a stirring red and orange banner on the wall. "Come Holy Spirit!" it declared in words printed under a picture of a fire burning. The bishop was also interested in the sign directly underneath the banner which said: "Fire Extinguisher." He went away thinking: "So much for that parish's commitment to spiritual renewal!" *One World, May, 1982, WCC*

When I was asked if Bishop Ann Svennungsen could come to visit the staff and leadership of Grace, I have to admit I was a bit apprehensive. Although I believe Grace is one of the best congregations in our synod, and often sense the Holy Spirit's active presence, I wondered what Bishop Ann might notice that I'm not able to see. I was aware she is trying to visit all the 155 congregations in the Minneapolis Area Synod to get to know the different ministries and churches in our large synod. She had already visited more than 140 of the churches and Grace was next on her list.

On the day of her visit I found myself nervous. I joked with the staff that they need to act particularly holy and spiritual to make a good impression. They promised to do their best and then just laughed. I wasn't too sure how to take that, but since I knew we have a great staff, I wasn't too worried!

We were all a little anxious about the meeting. However, we shouldn't have been, because from the moment Bishop Ann walked in the door she helped us relax and enjoy the visit. What's more, we found her to be gracious, caring, down-to-earth, and genuinely interested in what God was up to at Grace. The conversation was easy and comfortable as we introduced ourselves, shared our personal histories and involvements at church. We then talked about Grace's strengths and accomplishments. It was evident Bishop Ann was a great listener as she drew us deeper into our conversation.

It wasn't always easy. She asked us about some of the difficult moments of our history, as well as times of abundance. I found it fascinating to listen to the thoughts and impressions of our leaders and staff. I wasn't surprised to hear that Grace has a warm and grace-filled welcome to anyone who comes in the doors. I hear that often. I was already thrilled to hear our leaders bubble over with enthusiasm about adult spiritual formation, our mission outreach, and our strong "connection" values.

Perhaps the best part of the discussion centered upon our Holy Conversations about same-sex weddings at Grace. She commended us for taking her directive to study the issue so seriously, as well as our commitment to remain unified even though we may have widely differing opinions. She acknowledged that although this issue could be divisive she cautioned us to see it more as a peripheral issue - not our real mission of the Gospel. It was good for us to hear her words of affirmation and caution. The meeting ended with Bishop Ann renewing the synod's commitment to help and support our church, and with prayer.

I found my worry was unnecessary. It was a great visit. We had a wonderful conversation. I sensed the leaders and staff felt hopeful and thankful for our Bishop. It was evident to all that she is a gifted and caring leader. And I believe she left filled with excitement of what God's Spirit is doing in our church. What more could I have hoped and prayed for?

At the end of the day I found myself filled once more with gratitude for this church, the people, staff, and our emerging mission to be a ministry of Grace. God has truly blessed us in the nearly 50 years of ministry. But I am also thankful for a great spiritual leader we have in Bishop Ann. I believe God is doing some great things in our church, in the area churches, as well as in our synod.

Thankful for his many blessings!

Pastor Mark



Associate Pastor Steve Thomason

The Resurrection Life

Let's be honest. This was a brutal winter. I think I even heard hard-core Minnesotans grumbling a little bit, don't ya know.

The great thing about Winter is that Spring always arrives. No matter how bad the Winter was, the sun always gets higher in the sky and melts those frozen patches away.

Have you had a brutal winter in your spiritual life? We travel together on this broken journey, trudging through the deep snow and bitter cold of our own brokenness, sin, fear, and pain. Broken families, hidden addictions, death, loss of job, sickness: these are all things that most of us have encountered this year at one level or another. I know it has been an intense year for me as I am in the final year of my Ph.D. and am writing my dissertation. That work combined with church and family life can feel like a patch of deep snow sometimes. Week after week we bring it to the altar. Slowly, the sun gets higher in the sky, the snow melts, and the ground starts to warm up.

Then it happens. Easter. New Life. The power of the Holy Spirit brings that which was dead back to new life. As many times as we have lived through this cycle, it never loses its power. We need to be renewed by the power of resurrection every day.

Here is my prayer for us as a Grace Community. May we be honest enough to see the sin and darkness—and persistent patches of winter mix—in our hearts. May we have the courage to let the light of God's love and Grace shine in and melt it away. And, finally, may we know the freedom that comes from God's resurrection power, so that we can walk in the light of God and shine it on everyone in our world. May we know the resurrection life, and live it—together—this Season. Bring on the SON!



Director of Worship Jonathan Orwig

Maundy Thursday: Last Supper Church

This year's Maundy Thursday service will be an experience of worship and a shared meal. Our aim is to replicate the feeling of both the early church and the Upper Room as we serve each other, worship, and celebrate the Eucharist together. This service is an adaptation of Dinner Church, where the meal and worship are integral and intertwined, incorporating music, liturgy, table, and worship all together in a unique experience.

After the meal portion, we will process to the Worship Center and finish around the altar, preparing for Good Friday. Come join us as we step back in time and try to get a glimpse of what it might have been like to worship together in the early church, what the atmosphere of the Last Supper might have been like.



Director of Worship Band & Singers Jenn Hubal

Scenes in the Darkness: The Stations of the Cross

This year's Good Friday service will be an artistic glimpse into the last moments of Jesus' life through real life 'snapshots' of the stations of the cross. Join us as we see, hear, and experience Good Friday in a way that we haven't before. This will be a somber prayer service by candlelight. It will be the culmination of our Broken Journey, and will leave us yearning for the promise of the resurrection.





Vision Board Reflections

When you read this, we will have completed a 5 week stewardship series on Living Generously. During that time we followed along as Frank and his family took risks, had doubts, endured suffering and finally the joy of embracing a generous life. Like Frank and his family, we are challenged to live generously.

Fortunately for our family at “Grace” we don’t have to wait for someone like Re (Ray) to show us how to live generously. We have plenty of opportunities available to us. During a quick scan of our web page I counted over 43 opportunities to connect and serve. I am not going to try to list all of them. If I did I would surely miss one or two. I would rather challenge you to go to the “Grace” web site and check them out for yourselves. Find an opportunity that interests you and try it.

My personal journey began when I joined the “Graceful Seniors” for their monthly breakfast. I know the only person I served at breakfast was me. The point being, every journey begins with the first step. That experience introduced me to the “Property Team”, and progressively to Family Promise, Feed My Starving Children, The Vision Board, the Free 2B Grace Steering Team, and last spring VBS.

Each new experience has expanded my comfort zone. The rewards were ten times more than I could ever hope. Through these ministries I have connected with more people, both here at “Grace” and within the community. I have seen how my service can help others first hand, as well as through the eyes of our members who have gone on the Haiti Mission trips. I have prayed with homeless families who have lost everything as they praise God and thank him for the blessings they have received, and I have been humbled. I am eager to learn where God leads me next.

My prayer for each of you is that you find an opportunity to generously serve, where you are comfortable; so that, you may experience the joy I have.

Blessings,
Alden Riley



Church Administrator Ralph Holbrook

Thank you for your vote of confidence as we submitted the 2014 Annual Budget for your approval! As we mentioned at the January Annual Budget hearing, following prayerful discernment the budget is our attempt to put on paper the financial costs related to the hopes & dreams of the Staff and Leadership here at Grace. As a Staff, we will continue to be fiscally responsible by adjusting our spending according to the gifts we receive. Please take the time to prayerfully discern your part in helping us attain our 2014 Goals.

Due to the financial constraints of ending 2013 with a deficit in our Operational Fund and lower than anticipated Operational offerings, we have taken steps to help us maintain our fiscal responsibility for 2014. This has included not replacing the Administrative Assistant position formerly held by Tyree McDowell. Several staff members have stepped up to help cover the responsibilities – Kris Miller, Bonnie Trembath, and Jenn Hubal.

In addition, we have made the difficult decision to no longer fund one of the part-time Visitation Pastor positions. Please take a moment to thank Pastor Carol Moler for her ministry here at Grace. She has made many friends and wonderful contributions to the ministry of Grace. Her responsibilities will be absorbed by the pastoral staff and Parish Nurse ministry.

Thank you to the families who have contributed to the Free 2B Grace Stewardship Campaign, we are excited to provide an update on the three main priorities. **First**, we have continued to make an additional \$5,000 principle payment each month in 2014. **Second**, we were able to present a \$12,000 tithe from the funds received and send it to four different organizations in February: Hope 4 Youth (\$4,479.96), Family Promise of Anoka County (\$3,564.98), New Creation ELCA Church in Texas (\$1,298.13), and World Wide Village (\$2,656.93). What an incredible blessing to each of the organizations! **Third**, we are preparing to address more deterioration & safety issues. We have signed contracts to replace the asphalt roof, so it no longer rains in the worship center and repair the tuck point issues with the brick on the outside of our building.

We have an exciting year of ministry ahead of us! May we continue to be a ministry of Grace in the Heart of Andover and beyond!



Graceful Seniors:

The quilters are now providing Shriners Hospital with quilts and recently toured the hospital, which provided an opportunity for them to personally see how much the quilts are appreciated. The quilters are to be commended for their ongoing contributions to many worthwhile organizations and recipients.

The anticipated senior fishing expedition during January is still being anticipated so if you think you missed it, stay tuned. We don't need to tell any of you how uncooperative this winter weather has been!!!

In January the property team: removed the large wreath over the main door; stored the outdoor nativity scene and the Advent Wreath; packed and stored the Nativity scene from the altar.

In February the property team repaired the playground gate; adjusted table legs on two of the tables in day care; closed off a vent that was allowing cold air into the Day Care and painted trim throughout the building. A new shelving unit is also being built for day care.

We pray for the family of John Dailey during their time of grief and will miss his presence in our midst.

In February several seniors attended the final production of "Church Basement Ladies" at Plymouth Playhouse. Everyone was appreciative of the good weather on that date.

On the third Tuesday of each month, Pastor Gene Heglund leads the "breakfast" seniors in a Biblically-related study at the Farmstead in Andover. The current charge for a delicious breakfast buffet served by the Farmstead staff is \$6.50. The meeting begins at 8:30 and is usually completed by 9:45 (because the seniors have other commitments!). Reservations need to be made for the breakfast and there is a calling committee who does this each month. If anyone is interested in joining, please contact Kris at the church office and she will follow through. We are continuing to study parables.

**Check Out our Online
Calendar of Events at
[www.graceandover.org!](http://www.graceandover.org)**



SPRING it FORWARD

All ladies are invited to the **SPRING it FORWARD** Women's Fellowship Event on Saturday, April 26 from 9 am to noon in Fellowship Hall at Grace. We'll celebrate this spring season with a tasty brunch and an inspiring morning together.

Our guest speaker will be Amanda Ficek, owner of Mama's Happy stores. We'll learn about 'recycle & upcycle' as we listen to the amazing story of God's creative guidance and provision in her life. And friends from Grace will share their own stories and talents regarding 'recycle & upcycle' too!

Bring your friends, neighbors and co-workers along with you too! Please purchase your \$5 tickets in advance at the Welcome Center and in the church office during April.

Don't miss all the fun, food & fellowship at **SPRING it FORWARD** on



Join the **BIRTHDAY PARTY** at **FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN**

Come & celebrate Jeannie Hellmann's 60th Birthday at Feed My Starving Children on Thursday, May 22 from 8 to 9:30 pm. Your presence at FMSC is the only present she wants for her Birthday!

The Broken Journey Holy Week Services

The Broken Journey Holy Week Services

As we take our final steps on The Broken Journey, we invite you to experience the deeper meaning of Jesus' death and resurrection through these special services. Each one is a moment for us to enter into these holy moments where we see the full extent of God's love poured out in Jesus Christ.



Maundy Thursday: Last Supper Church (April 17 @ 6 p.m.)

This year's Maundy Thursday service will be an experience of worship and a shared meal. Our aim is to replicate the feeling of both the early church and the Upper Room as we serve each other, worship, and celebrate the Eucharist together. This service is an adaptation of Dinner Church, where the meal and worship are integral and intertwined, incorporating music, liturgy, table, and worship all together in a unique experience.

After the meal portion, we will process to the Worship Center and finish around the altar, preparing for Good Friday. Come join us as we step back in time and try to get a glimpse of what it might have been like to worship together in the early church, what the atmosphere of the Last Supper might have been like.

Tickets for the Last Supper Church will be available at the Welcome Center and Church Offices. The cost will be: \$6.50 Adults and \$4.00 Children.



Scenes in the Darkness: The Stations of the Cross (April 18 @ 7 p.m.)

This year's Good Friday service will be an artistic glimpse into the last moments of Jesus' life through real life 'snapshots' of the stations of the cross. Join us as we see, hear, and experience Good Friday in a way that we haven't before. This will be a somber prayer service by candlelight. It will be the culmination of our Broken Journey, and will leave us yearning for the promise of the resurrection.

It is so hard for us to imagine the pain and suffering that our Lord went through in his final hours. Our goal is that this service will help us conceptualize what it may have been like through a type of performance art that we are calling "human sculpture". We are hoping that the combination of scripture, haunting music, and this new way of visualizing Good Friday will touch your hearts and challenge you in a new way.



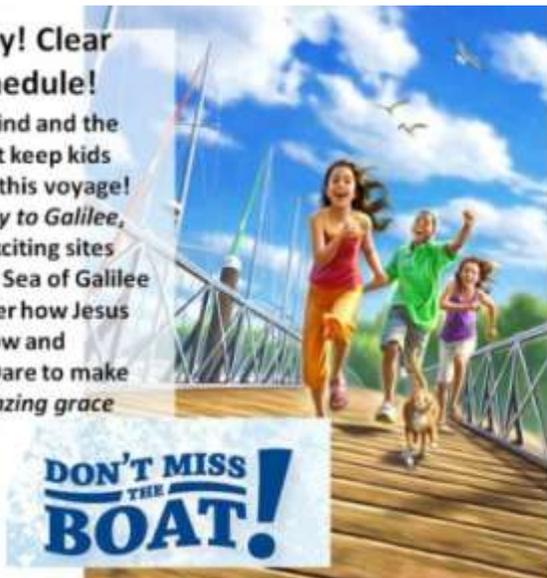
From Death to Life: Easter Vigil (April 19 @ 5 p.m.)

Our Easter Vigil is an invitation to enter into the lives of Jesus' followers who waited for the joy of Easter's empty tomb. It begins with darkness as a way for us to experience the loss and confusion of the disciples after Jesus' death. But then a light is struck. Candles are lit as a sign of hope that God who has always rescued his people in their darkness and brokenness will do it again at the Empty Tomb. At the heart of our Vigil are a series of familiar stories of God's rescue and deliverances of his people. As we listen we are filled with hope and anticipation of what he is able to do at the Empty Tomb.

The Easter Vigil is filled with a mixture of experiences... darkness, joy, sorrow, and celebration. The Easter Vigil will help you experience some of the joy and excitement of that first Easter morning.

Gangway! Clear your schedule!

Even the wind and the waves can't keep kids away from this voyage! At *Gangway to Galilee*, kids visit exciting sites around the Sea of Galilee and discover how Jesus saves us now and eternally. Dare to make this an amazing grace adventure!



DON'T MISS THE BOAT!

Vacation Bible School 2014

June 16 – 20, 2014

9:30 a.m. to Noon

For those 3 years old thru 5th grade

Gangway to Galilee VBS will take us on and around the Sea of Galilee with five accounts of Jesus' ministry there. By grace through faith, Jesus, God's own Son our Savior, calls us, teaches us, keeps us safe, saves us, and provides all we need, now and forever. That's amazing grace! Get ready to meet new friends, do fun activities, sing great songs, make crafts, play games, eat snacks, and more!

Volunteers & Helpers Needed

Our *Gangway to Galilee* Vacation Bible School needs great volunteers, and we're hoping you will help. Please help children know and grow their belief in Jesus by serving this year! You can sign up on the opportunity sheets in the bulletins or contact Kim DeVries (kimd@graceandover.org) We provide all the resources and training you need!

Pinterest



Follow *GraceKids* on Pinterest!

www.pinterest.com/devries0973

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Thrivent Financial for Lutherans®
Let's Thrive! Learn how



Thrivent Choice Dollars give people the opportunity to designate which non-profit organizations their "charity dollars" will benefit.

Please consider designating to us again in 2014! Be aware—there have been some important changes to Thrivent Choice. Thrivent has ended the recurring direction option.

What does this mean to you? If you would like Grace to continue to benefit from Choice Dollars, you must annually re-identify us as the beneficiary of your choice Dollars. Do this by contacting Thrivent @ www.thrivent.com/choice or call 800-THRIVENT (800-847-4836) and choose Grace Lutheran Church as the recipient of your choice dollars for this year.

Thank you for your partnership in our ministry here at Grace!



S.W.A.T. Saturdays

High school students will take over the 5:00 Worship service on the second Saturday of every month. Invite your friends. Let's get as many high school students as we can to attend this worship service.



Parish Nurse News

Lily Tunby & Lori Ackerson



Why nursing is more than just bandaging wounds and blood pressures

On March 20th I returned from a 2 week mission trip to Haiti. I went with my husband Greg and our daughter Sara. We were blessed to go with two teams from Grace with the organization, World Wide Village. The first week we were there I was also blessed to meet up with a medical mission team from Iowa. We took blood pressures, cleaned wounds, and gave out medication as appropriate. We prayed with the people who came to see us, and while those stories could fill a multitude of pages, I want to share with you about an experience I had after the team left. Here in bold is what I wrote in my blog post that night after it happened;

A mother is a mother where ever you go...

Today was a hard day. You would think that after day 11 on the ground I would be a little more accustomed to what I am experiencing in Haiti, but clearly God has more to teach me. Renee (Miller) introduced me to a woman who was walking with us as we headed back to the school from a house we were building and painting. Renee noticed that the woman had a large sore on the bottom of her foot and she thought that I should look at it. So I grabbed my medical bag to examine it. The sore was about the size of a quarter and had lots of dirt and black dead tissue on it. After I cleaned it up I found a fairly clean wound. I dressed it and gave her a small amount of supplies for her to redress it on Sunday night. I went on to treat several other people and a small crowd began to form. I changed a dressing on a small boy who cut open his head, talked to people about acid reflux and various "rashes". Then, when the crowd died down, the same woman came back with her child. Through the translator she described how her husband had died and she was having difficulty providing for her child. She was worried he was ill and could not provide the water I said was important when he was ill. I told her I did not have anything that could really help with that... I wasn't sure what could I do; give her money, give her supplies, take her child to a different location to be cared for?

I couldn't take it. I tried my best to cover my emotions. I told her that she was a good mom and that she was doing the best she could, but inside I was dying of grief. I know she feels like all of the other mothers I know. She was worried about her kids, wanting the best for them, and not having the resources to even provide the basics.

I worry about paying for Sara's various extra-curricular activities, what kind of clothes to get for her and what apps she is playing on her ipod. I don't have to worry about whether I can get water for her when she is ill, getting enough food for her to eat, or providing a safe place to live. People ask why come to Haiti instead of going to a place in the United States to do mission work, and I am not sure I can totally say why, but this interaction was one of the reasons...

I was humbled that day. The wound on her foot was a burn from stepping on hot charcoal, likely from the open fire she made in order to cook her family a meal, perhaps the only meal they had that day. She walked to a market to get the food, walked to the well to gather water, slept in a structure that is substandard to what our local live-stock live in, all with a burn on her foot and a sick boy.

How does that compare to our average day?

It did not take a nurse to have this conversation with this young mother, but God used my skills as a nurse to introduce this woman to me. It taught me a valuable lesson in the love that a mother has for their child no matter their place on this earth, socio-economic status, or color. We all want what is best for our kids. We want them healthy. We want them to feel loved. We want to provide for them. I will pray for this woman every day until hopefully we can meet again. Even if we never meet again, her impact on my life has been profound.



Thank You:

Grace Family & Friends-

We would like to thank you all for the love, compassion and kindness to us during our difficult loss of Marina, our daughter, sister & granddaughter. It was overwhelming and greatly appreciated.

God's Blessings
Jackie Beckman, Montana, Ed & Kathy Beckman

Men's Ministry Reboots

Engage

As a first step to reboot our Men's Ministry at Grace Lutheran Church we invite the men of our church to a **Bowling Kick-Off Challenge** on Saturday, April 5th, 7-9 p.m. at Andover Lanes. We have six captains who are actively looking for raw recruits to form teams to battle it out in fun, food, fellowship, and funds for charity.

Our Captains for the Night? They are: Daron Yates, Mike Schaaf, Travis Heifort, Jason Hoopman, Dennis Szymanski, and Pastor Mark. Each captain will choose a charity for the team to support and the Team with the most points collects all the funds for their particular charity.

Come and join us for a night of fun and friendship! Cost is: \$20.00

E - everyone
N - eeds
G - od
A - nd
G - race
E - veryday

ENGAGE

Mission Statement The men's ministry at Grace will:

Welcome and encourage all men to engage in events that will develop and strengthen their relationship with God, their families, and other men.

Equip all men with a variety of events that will meet their needs and support them as they explore and grow in their faith.

Send them out as spiritual leaders and servants of Christ into their homes, communities, work places, and the world.



Children's Summer Worship Bible Time

While we enjoy the sunny days of summer, it is also an opportunity to worship with the children of Grace. Children will be in worship beginning May 25. For the Sunday morning services at 8:30 and 10 a.m., we offer a **Special Summer Bible Time**. Children will be in church with their families, come forward for the Children's Message with the pastors, and then they will be dismissed for a lesson in the Fellowship Hall. Children will return to worship after the Sermon. We need many enthusiastic, willing hearts and hands to help with this adventure. Materials and ideas will be provided to help you prepare for the 15 minutes with the children. See Monica Allen, monicaa@graceandover.org or Kim DeVries kimd@graceandover.org if you have questions.



Summer Musical Camp

Monday, August 4 – Sunday, August 10

Our Summer 2014 musical is **Jailhouse Rock!** Our musical will be set at Camp Koinonia when a sudden storm threatens to take the fun out of camp. Kids are stuck in the Mess Hall where they learn about the experiences of Paul, Silas and Peter and the power of praise and prayer. Kids entering Grade 3 in the Fall and older are invited to be a part of this great week! Musical camp is a 7 day Adventure. We will practice every weekday from 9-12:30 p.m., have dress rehearsal on Saturday, August 9th and share our musical in 3 worship services, Saturday, August, 9 at 5 p.m. and Sunday August 10 at 8:30 and 10 a.m. Cost is \$50 per child with a \$90 family max. Registration fees include, book, CD, t-shirt, and field trip. Registration form is available on-line. Please contact Monica Allen with any questions.

Children's Ministry:



Kim DeVries
Co-Director of
Children's
Ministry



Monica Allen
Co-Director of
Children's
Ministry



Grace Lutheran Children's Ministry

Like our new Facebook page and keep up with everything happening in Children's Ministry here at Grace! Discover weekly newsletters, updates, and latest events!



Rockin' Kids Bible Club

We are telling the stories of Jesus and the Parables this Lenten Season. Learning about God's Kingdom, working the FAITH5, and being a part of Lenten Worship. We are beginning to work on our spring music project, **Hide 'em in Your Heart**, a musical where we will share verses from the Bible. Please mark your calendars for April 30 at 7 p.m. There will be **No RKBC on April 16 – Holy Week**.



Nursery

We will offer nursery at these Sunday morning Easter Services: 8, 9:30, and 11:15 a.m. Nursery will also be provided at all Holy Week Worship Services. If you can help with any of these services, please sign up in the nursery, or contact Monica Allen -monicaa@graceandover.org; or Kim DeVries - kimd@graceandover.org.



Family Worship Weekend - April 6th & May 4th

Children will begin in Worship Services with their families and then be dismissed to SONday School after the Children's Sermon. The SONday School children will be sharing a special song in worship. Children may just come forward when it is time to sing.



SONday School

At Grace, we believe in engaging the whole child—heart, soul, mind, and strength. Our SONday School curriculum has a fresh, creative, approach that will encourage children and families to nurture life-long relationships with Jesus Christ. We offer SONday School on Saturday at 5 pm and Sundays at 9 and 10:30 am.

SONday School Memory Champs – Please check out our Memory Champ Bulletin Board! Kids have been busy hiding God's Word in their hearts this year, learning Bible Verses set to music. April/May Grade 1-5 Bible Verse – 2 Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away, behold the new has come.” **No SONday School April 19/20.**

Last Day of SONday School is May 17/18. Pre-School & Kindergarten's are going to have a “Praise the Lord” Celebration! Grades 1-5 will play Jeopardy (review sheets will be sent home after Easter).



We have 3 Flocks. Our Birthday offerings now total \$129.34! Through Heifer International, \$20 can buy a flock of chicks which could be 10 to 50 chicks, so doing the math, we have a potential of 150 chicks. Birthday offerings will be taken the 2nd-5th weeks of the month in Large Group. Kids can bring their money from home on those weeks and be recognized, receive a sticker, and a birthday pencil. Remember silver coins add up fast!



VBS 2014 - June 16th to 20th from 9:30 Am to Noon. Ages 3 years old thru 5th grade

Gangway to Galilee VBS will take us on and around the Sea of Galilee with five accounts of Jesus' ministry there. By grace through faith, Jesus, God's own Son our Savior, calls us, teaches us, keeps us safe, saves us, and provides all we need now and forever. That's amazing grace! Get ready to meet new friends, do fun activities, sing great songs, make crafts, play games, eat snacks, and more!



Easter Egg Hunt ! Saturday, April 12th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

We will have fun games, crafts, stories, and an exciting hunt! RSVP to Kim DeVries (kimd@graceandover.org)



Youth Ministry Happenings: Steve Thomason & Tom Baker



Youth Mission Teams Fundraising News

We have 26 youth who need to raise funds so that they can serve in Puerto Rico and Thunder Bay, Ontario this summer. Check out how you can support their mission to be the hands and feet of Jesus:

Need some help with Spring Cleaning?

Sign up on the blue sheets or contact Tom Baker to request help for your spring home projects. This can include anything from yard work to garage cleaning, washing windows, or even providing childcare so that you can get your home projects done. We will match you up with one (or more) of our youth team members, and they will contact you concerning the details of what you need done and when.



Nails for Jesus Sponsorship

You can support our team by pledging one of our 10 girls and 2 adults who are going to Puerto Rico in June or one of our 16 youth and 4 adults who are going to Thunder Bay in July. Beginning on April 26th and for the first two weekends of May, we will be gathering support from our congregation. Our youth will be in the narthex to talk with you and to give you the opportunity to support them through prayer, and financially.



Garage Sale

As you begin your spring cleaning, don't forget to put aside some items for the **Grace Garage Sale** to be held **June 12th – 14th**. This year's sale will benefit **our Puerto Rico and Thunder Bay Mission Teams** and the children and youth who are going to **Luther Dell Bible Camp** in July.

Beginning on Monday, May 19th, we will be accepting clothing and household items in Portable #1 (the portable closest to the church building). Items can be dropped off during normal, weekday business hours and on Saturday and Sunday from 9:30-noon. Please make sure all items are clean

and in good condition.

We would appreciate **NOT receiving any of the following items as they are hard to sell and are expensive to dispose of:** No computers, monitors, printers, TV's, appliances, electronics, mattresses, or exercise equipment. All furniture donations must be in good condition and must be "approved for sale" before you leave it at the church. You may contact Tom Baker (tomb@graceandover.org) concerning questions on items, or to arrange pick up of bulky items, after June 1st.



A great year in Dojo! We have had four dedicated Tribe Leadership teams. This group of four adults and 10 students has served faithfully all year long and done an outstanding job planning and running our weekly meetings for high school students. Great work, SaLT (Servant Leadership Team)! Our final Dojo meeting for the 2013-2014 school year will be on Sunday, May 4. We will start the Summer Dojo on Wednesday, June 18th, 6:30-8:00. The Summer Dojo is a space for High School AND Middle School students to hang out together on Wednesday nights all summer long.



Key Dates for Confirmation

We have over 40 students being confirmed this May! Here are key dates to mark on your calendar. Please pray for these students as they prepare to join the adult membership of the Grace Community. April 26th – Confirmation Retreat/Preparation Day begins at 10:00am and ends with the 5:00 Worship Service. April 28th – May 14th Confirmation Interviews. Individual students will meet with a Minister leader or Pastor to discuss readiness for Confirmation. May 17th – Rehearsal Banquet: 6:30pm. May 18th – Confirmation Services at 1:30pm and 4:00pm.

Have you visited the youth website yet? All the up-to-date information is there:

www.graceandoveryouth.com

Grace Lutheran Church

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A Ministry of Grace in the heart of Andover and beyond!

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Catechism Wrap UP

This has been a great year in Catechism. 120 students in 21 small groups have journeyed together through the greatest story ever told: The Bible. We will be sad to see the eighth graders move on, but super excited to see them enter Own Your Faith in the Fall.

A special thanks to all of our dedicated adult and junior leaders for another great year!

Here are some key dates for the end of the Catechism year:

April 23 – Normal Catechism resumes 6:30-8:00 | Final Bible Wrap-Up!

April 30 – Last Night of Catechism PARTY!!

May 7 – Own Your Faith (OYF) Preview for 8th Grade families | 7pm – 8pm

