

# grace notes

The March 2016 Newsletter of Grace Lutheran Church

## Grace's Lent Journey Ends on Easter, March 27

### Easter Celebrates the Resurrection Life



Our 2016 *Who Is The Christ?* Lent journey comes to a dramatic climax during Holy Week as we walk Jesus' last steps to the cross. They are precious days as we gather to celebrate Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem amidst the palms and loud "hosannas." We sit with the disciples in the Upper Room and then hear the crowds shouting for his crucifixion. We stand at the foot of the cross and see his blood freely flowing for the life of this world. These treasured moments help prepare us for the wonder and meaning of Easter. We invite you to walk our Upside Down Journey all the way to the Empty Tomb.

### HOLY WEEK CELEBRATION

Palm Sunday (March 19 /20) begins Holy Week, as we celebrate Jesus' triumphant ride into Jerusalem. Palm branches will be distributed prior to worship, which will add to the festive celebration of Jesus' triumphal entrance into Jerusalem. We will see the dramatic conclusion of our Lent Video Series: The Way - Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus.

Maundy Thursday (March 24) we will celebrate the Last Supper and Jesus' command to love one another in a unique and meaningful way. The service will be part of a wonderful meal. Called The 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.

On Good Friday (March 25) we will gather at 7:00 p.m. for the "Seven Last Words of Christ: A Visual Choral Service at the Foot of the Cross. The service follows Jesus last journey of love...the journey to the cross through beautiful choral music illustrated by Pastor Steve.

### EASTER CELEBRATION (March 26/27)

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, March 26 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. This year the service will be a celebration of baptism as we celebrate those completing The Journey!

Easter morning we will celebrate Jesus' resurrection at four services. *Con't. on pg. 2*

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# Easter Worship (con't.)

## HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES AT GRACE

### MAUNDY THURSDAY

March 24 6:00 p.m. Last Supper Church

### GOOD FRIDAY

March 25 7:00 p.m. Seven Last Words of Christ

### EASTER SATURDAY

March 26 5:00 p.m. Easter Vigil – From Death to Life

### EASTER SUNDAY

March 27 6:30 a.m. Sunrise Worship  
 8:30 a.m. Traditional LBW Worship  
 9:30 a.m. Traditional Worship  
 11:15 a.m. Contemporary Praise Worship



Lent is here, and with it some very special times of worship. We want to especially make you aware of two special services:

- **Maundy Thursday Last Supper Dinner Church** March 24, 6 PM – a service in which communion and worship are celebrated in the context of and during a meal. Seating is limited, we will have tickets (\$6.50 - adult; \$4.00 - child on sale on Wednesdays during the Lenten Suppers, on Weekends at the Welcome Center and during the week in the Church Office.
- **Good Friday Choral Service with Live Art** – We will reflect on the 7 last words of Jesus on the cross while the choir sings and we sing hymns and songs together. There will also be some brief readings. Pastor Steve will be doing a performance art mural during the entire presentation.

If you would like to sing with the choir during Lent, we welcome you! We rehearse every Wednesday immediately following the Wednesday Lenten services at 8 pm, and we will also have a couple of Saturday practices. Contact Grace Choir director, Doreen Hutchings dlhsing2me@gmail.com or Jonathan Orwig jonathano@graceandover.org for more information.

# Beyond Easter! Adult Faith Formation this Spring

We are very pleased to announce some exciting opportunities for adults to connect, grow, and be equipped to deepen and experience faith in fresh ways this spring.

## On Sunday Evenings

- April 3 – May 8 (six consecutive weeks)
- 5:00pm-6:00pm Dinner is served in Fellowship Hall (suggested donation of \$4.00)
- 6:00pm-7:30pm Break out into separate classes throughout the building.
- Childcare is available for a one-time fee.

## Spring Course Offering:

### OMG! Can We Talk About God?

Learn how to talk about God without killing each other

**Teacher: Pastor Steve**

There are two things that you don't discuss at family gatherings: Politics and Religion. It doesn't have to be that way. The world would be a better place if we learned the simple skills to discuss these things in ways that promote peace.

This course is designed for the beginner who wants to learn about God, but is intimidated by words like *theology* or *Theologian*. We will realize that everyone is a theologian because everyone has ideas and opinions about what is right and wrong, what is important, and how things should work in the world (in school, work, relationships, politics, etc.)

This six-week course will equip you with a helpful framework for how to explore your own belief system and how to be gracious with others in discussing theirs.

### You've Got Mail - Looking at the Letters of Philippians and James

**Teacher: Pastor Mark**

What was it like in the early church when there was no "New Testament?" How did first century Christians worship and live without the Gospels we take for granted? The answer is the Epistles or the first century letters filled with practical advice, guidance, and pastoral instructions and encouragement for those who lived their faith amid the many other religions in the Roman Empire.

This class is designed to help us realize that although these letters were written almost 2,000 years ago, they are still relevant, easy to understand and filled with practical wisdom. Come and join for everyone will gain from opening this mail!

## You Have a Story to Tell

**Teacher: Jeannie Hellmann**

One of our 7 Habits of Effective Disciples is Sharing My Faith. This can be an intimidating one for most people. Perhaps you've thought, "I don't have a testimony? How could I possibly talk to someone about my faith in God?"

This course will:

- Help you see that you DO have a story to tell that will help and encourage others, and
- Give you the step-by-step tools to learn how to tell your story in a simple and natural way.



## Wednesday Evenings

I will offer the course OMG! Can We Talk About God? (see above) on Wednesday evenings (Mar. 30 - May 4) at 6:30 pm - 8 pm.

A Pizza and salad dinner is offered in the Narthex at 5:45. This is a great opportunity for families with children in Rockin' Kids Bible Club and/or Catechism to spend Wednesday evenings together. Come and eat pizza together, go to your separate classes, then talk about what you learned on the way home!

## Online!

The OMG! Can We Talk About God? Class will be offered online in conjunction with the Wednesday and Sunday courses. This serves three purposes:

- Those who take the live classes (Wednesday or Sunday) can interact online.
- Those who cannot make either live class times can still participate in the course.
- The course will live on after the six-week sessions are finished.

Visit [www.gracelearning.org](http://www.gracelearning.org) to see all the courses that are currently available.

*Pastor Steve*

# Such A Strange Ending to Mark!

## Pastor Mark's Remarks

*So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.*

*Mark 8:8*

It seems like such a strange way to end the Gospel, doesn't it! At what seems to be a terrific climax to the story of Jesus - the women come to his tomb, find the stone rolled away, hear from an angel that Jesus has been raised from the dead, and then, to read that the women flee in terror and fear - it seems so strange! Certainly not the way I would end the Gospel, and certainly it wasn't the way Matthew, Luke, and John concluded theirs. The ending of Mark just makes me uncomfortable. I can understand why Bible scholars believe the last twelve verses (16:9-20) are more like an addendum. They lessen our discomfort with additional stories of Jesus' resurrection appearances and a fearless Mary Magdalene sharing news of the empty tomb with the disciples.

What do you think Mark had in mind with this kind of ending? One would think he wanted his readers to be filled with joy and excitement at Jesus' resurrection! Why then do the first witnesses to the empty tomb leave with such overwhelming fear that they remain silent and don't say anything! He just leaves us hanging! Or, does he?

Is Mark interested in something more than simply telling the story of Jesus? Do you think he expects something more? A response? A struggle to faith? A reaction and/or life change? If so, perhaps that explains why the disciples have such a hard time understanding Jesus and missing the point of his parables and teachings. Throughout his Gospel, Mark seems to remember more of the moments

when the disciples blunder and say the wrong thing. Far too often he tells of their arguments about who is the greatest or their requests for seats of privilege, or their lack of faith. Seldom does he share the moments when his disciple got things right or displayed strong faith.

The reaction of the women leaving the empty tomb with fear and terror seems to fall right in line with all the rest of Mark's Gospel, as we're all left hanging, wondering:

"What's next?" And perhaps that's exactly where Mark wants us to be! Maybe he wants us to realize that just like his disciples, faith in Jesus is never easy. Does he purposefully refrain from tidying up the ending of his Gospel with incredible resurrection appearances and strong faith moments? Maybe, just maybe, he leaves us hanging so we will have to ask ourselves: "Did Jesus really rise from the dead? Is it something I truly believe?"

If so, then I guess his Gospel isn't quite finished, for we each have an

invitation to live our out own personal ending to Mark's Gospel. Each of us are invited to tell others how we encountered the living Christ in a personal way and have come to believe the very first line of Mark's Gospel: "The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God."

Perhaps the ending of Mark's Gospel isn't so strange after all!

Striving to live the Good News of the Empty Tomb,

*Pastor Mark*



# The Church has left the Building

## Join our Lent OUTREACH Efforts

Our Lenten Outreach theme this year is **“Caring for God’s Children”** as we walk in the footsteps of Jesus and care for precious children in need of God’s grace. Everyone can get involved! Everyone can help with these acts of generosity to provide **housing** in Haiti, a **school** in Uganda, **shoes** in Africa and life-saving **meals** for God’s children around the world!

ALL NOISY OFFERINGS during Lent will support children through these two ministries:

- Our Abandoned Children Ministry – funds to provide housing for eight children in Haiti
- Grace 4 Rakai – funds will help build a school-dormitory for the children in Rakai, Uganda

## HANDS on MINISTRY Opportunities

- Pack meals at Feed My Starving Children every Friday during Lent (or join us just one Friday) as we pack life-saving meals for children around the world.

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Fri. March 4	12 – 2 pm
Fri. March 11	12 – 2 pm
Fri. March 18	12 - 2 pm

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- We will host a shoe cutting party during each Wed. Lenten supper, cutting fabric to make shoes for children in Africa through Sole Hope Ministry. Please join us at Lenten Suppers 5:30-6:45 pm on Wednesdays March 2, 9, 16.

## SPONSOR a CHILD And CHANGE a life!

Your generosity will change a life . . . FOREVER! There are currently 70 children in Rakai, Uganda being sponsored by members of Grace, and there is a need for an additional seven children to gain sponsors through African Children Today.

African Children Today (ACT) is a nonprofit organization based in Minnesota that sends 100% of all tax-deductible donations directly to support children in Uganda affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. You may remember that the leaders of ACT, Richard and Johnson, spoke at our church in November 2015 and touched our hearts with their real stories and tender plea for help.

### Sponsor a Child

You will have the opportunity to build a special relationship with a child in Rakai. Follow the impact of your gift through letters, photographs and reports on the progress of your sponsored child. Your donation of \$30 per month is used for tuition, school supplies and incidental health care such as malaria treatment. For as little as one dollar a day, your contribution ensures your sponsored child attends school, learns to read and write, receives skills training and learns about HIV/AIDS.

### May I write to my sponsored child, and will I receive a letter back?

This is the best part of sponsoring an ACT child! You have the ability to email a letter and photographs to your sponsored child as often as you’d like. There is no postal service in Rakai, therefore all correspondence is done via email. Tell your child about your family, the weather, your hobbies - then you’ll be delighted when you receive a personal letter from your sponsored child too!

This is a very tangible and heart-felt way to share God’s grace – and change a life FOREBER! We are striving to find sponsors for 7 more children in Rakai - their photos

are posted on the bulletin board in the church lobby. Please prayerfully consider sponsoring a child in Rakai through the African Children Today ministry!

For more information, please contact Scott Christensen  
[scottc@nuaire.com](mailto:scottc@nuaire.com) (612) 247-3599



# We Got Your Vote

## Grace decides how to give our Free 2B Grace Tithe on March 5 & 6

It was time again for your voice to be heard as we recently decided on how to distribute our 10% tithe of our 2015 Free 2B Grace Capital Funds. The Vision Board chose 5 of our best-loved ministries to receive the more than \$19,000 of the tithe. So the question was: "How are we going to decide how much to give to each ministry?"

Thankfully on the March 5 & 6 weekend people stopped by the Fellowship Hall for some cookies and a vote to decide the percentages of the total \$19,000 we would give to the following ministries.

### GLOBAL

**Our Abandoned Children:** Seek and provide improved housing for eight children in Haiti.

Many mission team members from Grace have met these eight abandoned children in Haiti who are currently living in a room the size of our church's bathroom. We are praying and striving to build a life-sustaining program that provides for the care and needs of these precious eight children in Williamson, Haiti.

**Grace 4 Rakai:** Financial investment in construction of school/dormitory in Rakai Uganda

Over the years, Grace has helped with many projects in Uganda, including the Amazing Grace Bakery. And now the need is for a school/dormitory building – to provide education and temporary housing for many orphaned children. Nearly 70 people from Grace are currently sponsoring children in Rakai through the African Children Today .

**Feed My Starving Children:** More meals for desperate people in remote islands in Philippines

Following Typhoon Haiyan in 2013, all sources of food in these islands were destroyed – rice fields flooded and coconut trees fell. These food sources take years to redevelop. As a result, children on these islands are severely malnourished. A Grace donation would be used to pay for more meals to be sent to the Philippines.

### LOCAL

**Family Promise:** Funds to provide computer upgrades for employment and housing searches.

Family Promise in Anoka County helps homeless families achieve sustainable independence as local churches, such as Grace, provide temporary housing for guests several weeks throughout the year. These computer upgrades would greatly aid the families as they conduct computer searches for housing and employment.

**Stepping Stone:** Funds to support an enhanced security system

As Anoka County's only youth & adult homeless shelter, Stepping Stone provides a temporary 'home' to 66 men and women in a dormitory-style setting. It offers a safe and secure place to live, giving guided support for each of the resident's individual needs. The installment of an enhanced security system is a real need at this time.



## Did You Know?

Grace Lutheran Church benefits when people shop through the Amazon.Smile program which donates .5% of purchase price of any product purchased through Amazon.com! Yes, it's true for our church was issued a \$40.72 donation from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of AmazonSmile program activity between October 1 and December 31, 2015. Not bad for 3 months of shopping!

Now that may not seem like much, but \$40.72 can buy:

- A case of 7 day Sanctuary Candles
- 1 ½ Cases of Copy Paper
- A Case of toilet tissue
- A case of hand soap for the restrooms

Now imagine if we had more people sign up for this special giving opportunity and received \$50 or \$60 every three months! What a difference it would make! And best of all, it costs us nothing!

If you're interested in learning more about this opportunity and designating Grace Lutheran Church as your charity of choice, check out our website under the GIVE tab. You'll find the AmazonSmile sign up link there!

## Vision Board Sharing

As a part of our Vision Board meetings for the first part of 2016, we are reading and discussing a book called, "The Neighborhood Church" by Robert G. Moss. In talking about the spiritual discipline of tithing, Robert Moss says that giving away money in the form of a tithe does a few things: *"It helps you recognize that money is a way to work with God and not just a goal for security. It expresses where you place your trust. It helps you participate with God in revealing God to the world. It is tangible evidence that money is not the lord of your life."*

After reading that, I asked myself the question, "Why is tithing such a difficult thing for many people?" For me it is the most difficult of the spiritual disciplines (e.g. worship weekly, prayer, scripture reading, service, etc...) But why is that? I can only answer this question for myself and to do so requires me to go back to when I was quite young. Possibly as young as 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade. You see, I was one of those odd kids who, after learning about the Great Depression, became fearful of that happening again. I used to lie awake at night worrying that the stock market would crash. I said I was an odd kid, didn't I? It was in those days that I made a vow to myself. I would study hard, go to college, get a good job, and be able to provide for myself and never have to worry about not being

financially secure. Of course, at the time, what I didn't realize, was that I had basically made myself my own god. I would provide for myself and I would not need anyone, including God, to take care of me. I carried this mindset into adulthood. I got the college degree, the good job, and the 401k. I was financially secure...and spiritually broke. Fortunately, I married someone who wasn't resistant to tithing like I was and, together, we are working to try to reverse this mindset that I developed so long ago. How am I doing it? The answer is simple and yet so very difficult - by just doing it. Electronic giving has been the key for me. It allows me to make the commitment once and then just live with it. It is a slow process but I have seen time and time again how God provides. I have also noticed how much less stressful it is to let God carry the reins in my life. It's exhausting and scary to have to rely on myself to control everything, which was really just an illusion in the first place. It was foolish to think that I could control everything in my life. By giving financially to God, I have placed my trust in Him to provide. This is a freeing concept for me in that He is the only one who can truly provide anyway.

Blessings,

*Tari Yates*

## Vision Board Notes

The Grace Lutheran Vision Board met at the home of Tari Yates on Tuesday, February 9th, 2016 at 6:30. All members except BreAnn Haugrud, were in attendance, plus Pastor Mark. Good conversation and food were enjoyed by all. The group started discussion regarding the "Neighborhood Church" by Robert Moss. There were several important points:

- The relational ways in which God as Trinity acts in our world reveals that God's activity and mission in the world are based on relationships.
- God's primary mission activity in the world is the redeeming and restoring of the world's relationship to one another and to God.
- In Jesus, God entered into the world and loved the world. The Christian church therefore is called to enter into the same loving relationship in the local context - the neighborhood.
- Working through a local church may not be the most efficient way to "get the job done" (called: the inefficiency of God's plan).

- It is imperative for the local church to discover ways in which to build and grow relationships of mutuality with the local neighborhoods.

The board discusses many things, including preparation for upcoming Vision Board election. A nominating committee has been formed and progress will continue.

The board then discussed the matter of the 2015 Year End Benevolence remaining after the 14 families were helped through the "Gifts of Grace." The board voted to disperse the remaining benevolence to cover mosquito nets for 10 villages and one village well in Africa. The Free to Be Grace Fund tithe (about \$19,000) was also discussed and items to be voted on by the congregation were approved.

The meeting ended with a time of prayer.

Respectfully,

*Jessie Crooks- Vision Board Secretary*

# Youth Ministry News

## Calling all 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students!!!!

Worried you might be bored this summer? Worry no more! Summer stretch is a dynamic NEW summer program for students who have completed 5th-8th grade! Summer stretch runs every Thursday (June 23rd – August 4th) from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm. Participants will be dropped off and picked up from Grace Lutheran.



The mornings are spent doing a fun service project (Feed My Starving Children, Global Health Ministries, helping the environment etc.) and the afternoons are spent doing a fun recreational activity (Grand Slam, Bunker Beach Water Park, Zero Gravity, possibly a Twins game and more!) August 4<sup>th</sup> we will spend the entire day at Valleyfair! This year's theme is *Caring for God's Creation: Our Neighbor, Our World, Our Earth*. Students will learn what the Bible says about how we can care for ALL of God's creation at home and abroad. Students not only will spend time serving our world but will also learn about key social justice issues facing our city, state, and world such as clean water, teen homelessness, global health issues, global and local hunger, and the environment.

The early bird special fee for summer stretch is \$175 and includes 6 weeks of service/recreation PLUS an additional

day at Valleyfair on Thursday, Aug. 4<sup>th</sup>. Transportation to events, admission to all service and recreational activities, guest speakers, admission to Valleyfair, snacks, and a tee shirt are included in the fee. Register with your \$75 deposit by April 15<sup>th</sup> and secure the early bird special price of \$175.

For more information on pricing, check out the Grace Lutheran Youth Website.

## Calling all 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade students!!!!

But what about High Schoolers? Incoming 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students can participate as Jr. Leaders for a reduced rate! (\$100) Jr. Leaders help to lead games, hang out with participants, and spend time getting to know our awesome middle schoolers! We also NEED adult leaders to make this a reality. Contact Kristi if you are interested in hanging out with some cool kids for a day or two this summer!

For more information, registration, details on pricing, and FAQ please go to our youth page [www.graceandoveryouth.com](http://www.graceandoveryouth.com) or please contact Kristi Larson at [KristiL@graceandover.org](mailto:KristiL@graceandover.org) or call/text her at 651.230.6057.

## Luther Point Bible Camp

We're adventuring at Luther Point Bible Camp in Grantsburg, WI again this summer. This camp is only 1 ½ hours from Andover and has lots of options for children, youth, and families. We are planning to take a group from our church the week of July 17 - 22 (**NOTE CHANGE OF DATE!!!**) which offers the following camps:

- Confirmation Camp/Jr High Camp (7th-9th Grade)
- 5th & 6th Grade Camp
- 3 day 3rd & 4th Grade Camp.

NOW is the time to start making your summer plans. As usual, we will offer campers the opportunity to reduce their camp costs by working at the Grace Garage Sale which is June 9 – 11.

Please check out all the Luther Point Camp information and options at <http://www.lutherpoint.org/summer-camp>

and you can also register ONLINE. Please contact Tom Baker with any questions.

For more information please go to [www.graceandoveryouth.com/Summer-Activities/camp](http://www.graceandoveryouth.com/Summer-Activities/camp)





## Up Coming Special Opportunities and Thank you's

### Support Grace Lutheran Youth at Pizza Ranch

Monday, April 18th, 2016  
5:00-8:00 pm



Pizza Ranch is a buffet style restaurant known for their salad bar, pizza, cheesy bread, dessert pizza, and delicious broasted chicken! Students who participate in this fundraiser (bussing tables, clean up, etc.) will not only gain a portion of the earnings from that evening but they also will receive 100% of the tips from that night! This is a youth mission trip fundraiser!

THANK YOU for your support!!!

**Bring this card with you and tell them you are with Grace Lutheran Church!**

12443 Champlin Dr  
Champlin, MN 55316



**Want to CONNECT??**  
The Connect Class

*A great way for those new to Grace to connect!*

Join us on Sunday - April 10th - 8:30 - 10:15 a.m.  
We'll have a light breakfast and lots of connecting!  
Sign up on the blue Opportunities Sheets.



Calling all worship volunteers. If you are hearing the call to volunteer during worship, it is time to pick up. Please contact Kate Morphew at [katem@graceandover.org](mailto:katem@graceandover.org) or 763-421-6520

## LADIES, PLEASE JOIN US THE GREAT ESCAPE!

**6:30 - 9 pm Friday, April 29**

Fabulous Fun - Yummy Hors  
d'oeuvres

Lots of Laughter - Plenty of Door  
Prizes

Inspiring message by Guest Speaker  
Betsy Lee

**“Surprised by JOY”**

Tickets available  
Welcome Center/Church office

To Our Grace Family,

Thank you very much for the generous gift and all the prayers. We appreciate the support as Hunter goes through his second transplant to become cancer free. Your love is greatly felt. It will help ease some of the stress that comes with having a critical child. It will be used for gas, treats food, etc.

Thanks again!

Mitch, Mary, Anna, Hunter & Sami Danielson

# What's Happening in Children's Ministry

God continues to encourage & empower us to...

## Rockin' Kids Bible Club

We are exploring the Book of Luke with Dr. Lucy and the Chief in our Truth Lab Unit. Grab your lab coats and join us for the fun! Check out the cool videos on Facebook!



### Dates to remember:

- March 6th— Kids will sing in worship. Please meet in Room 106 at 9:35 am.
- April 10th - Kids will sing in worship. Please meet in Room 106 at 9:35 am.
- April 27th – End of Year Program at 7 pm. – Kids will share their spy and lab songs, Bible Verse music and more as we celebrate our year! Kid still need to arrive at 6:30 to rehearse!

## RKBC Lent

Kids attending the Worship Services are invited to come and be a part of RKBC. Here is our schedule for the night so you can choose what works best for your kids to join us.

- 6:30-6:50 Choir Time—we spend this time preparing music for worship.
- When RKBC leaves the worship service, kids may join us for our story and activity times. All kids need to be picked up in the Nap Room at the end of service.

## SONday School Update

### Dates to Remember

- March 6 - Family Worship Weekend  
Children will begin in Worship Services with their families and then be dismissed to SONday School after the Children's Sermon.
- March 26/27  
We will not have SONday School on Sunday, March 27th. Families are encouraged to worship together on Easter Sunday.

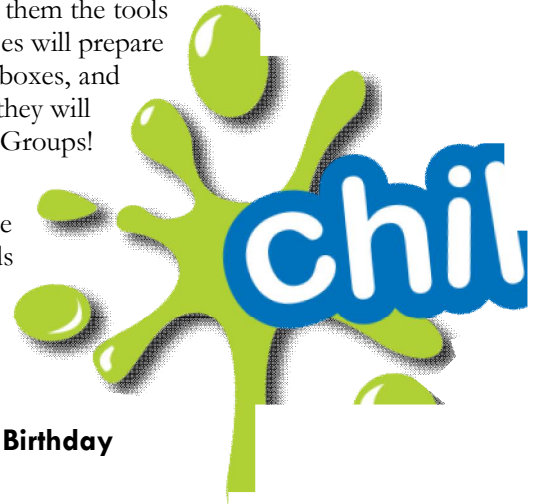


## SONday School Service Project

The 9 am class of 4th and 5th Grade and the 10:30 class of 5th Grade are organizing a service project. They have

selected Hope 4 Youth, whose mission is to help homeless youth by “meeting their basic needs, and leads to giving them the tools to thrive. The classes will prepare posters, collection boxes, and presentations that they will share in our Large Groups!

You can help us meet some of Hope 4 Youth's top needs by donating:  
Jerky, Nuts, Trail Mix or Snack Crackers.



## SONday School Birthday Offering

### We Have almost 3 Flocks!

Our Birthday Offering this year will be going to Heifer International to purchase flocks of chicks. \$20 can buy a flock of chicks which could be 10 to 50 chicks. Our offering total as is \$57.36, which is almost 3 flocks of chicks. Chicken fact – in addition to laying eggs which provide protein, chickens also eat bugs which can damage crops, and provide fertilizer.

## March Baptism Workshop

Baptism is an important step in the life of a family. A Baptism Workshop will be offered Saturday, March 5 at 9 am. for parents who would like to have their child baptized here at Grace. During the workshop, you will have an opportunity to explore what Baptism means for you and your child, as your family takes this step in your faith journey. We will share with you, insights on raising a child who knows and loves God.

Baptism Sunday in March will be March 13. Families can schedule baptisms at either the 9 or 10:30 a.m. Worship Services. Baptisms can also be scheduled for most Saturday Night Worship as well. Then, the next Baptism Workshop will be May 7 at 9 am. Please contact Monica Allen at [monicaa@graceandover.org](mailto:monicaa@graceandover.org) or the church office to sign up for the workshop.

# Special Events in Children's Ministry

## First Communion Class Saturday April 9<sup>th</sup> 9:00am - Noon.

Pastor Mark and Kim DeVries teach students in 3rd grade and up about the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Children are then invited to receive their First Communion during worship on April 9th at the 5:00 service, or April 10th at the 9 or 10:30 service. Bring a Bible, a parent, and a smile! Call the church office to sign up.



VBS 2016



## It's not too early to start thinking about VBS June 13 – 17th 9:30am – 12 pm

Get ready for a “Deep Sea Discovery”—where kids will know that God is always with them!

Get ready to dive into a life-changing adventure that leads kids deeper into God's love! At Deep Sea Discovery kids will participate in the large-group excitement of Celebration Reef, experience God's Word at S.S. Discovery, learn ways to serve others at E.C.H.O. Sea Sub, explore the mysteries of the sea through crafts and science at Curiosity Cavern, and enjoy snacks and games at Pelican Pier. There's even a place for little puddle jumpers at Tide Pool Playland!

Along the way, kids will explore the depths of the Bible using five dive markers to guide them. Through Deep Sea Discovery, they will resurface knowing that God is with them wherever they go!

More information and registrations will be available in April!



Following the 10:30 am service on March 20th, families with children up to 5th grade are invited to a yummy lunch, fun games and activities, and of course, an egg hunt! RSVP to the church office at (763) 421-6520 or Kim DeVries at [kimd@graceandover.org](mailto:kimd@graceandover.org).

### Help Needed!

- Tuesday - March 15th for a fun night of stuffing eggs!
- Sunday - March 20th for hiding eggs and general help!

If you can help, please email Kim or sign up on the blue sheets.

## Summer Musical Adventure Camp

Mon. July 25-Sun. July 31

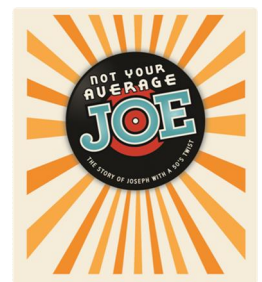
This year, we will present, the Old Testament story of Joseph set in the 1950's with music, leather jackets, and surfing beats! We learn to Trust in the Lord, no matter what!

A week of Summer Musical Adventure Camp includes:

- Devotions
- Set and Prop building
- Games
- Snacks
- Dance

Preparing a musical that we will present in worship on Saturday, July 30 and Sunday July 31st.

Summer Musical is for kids entering 3rd Grade in the fall through 9th Grade Completed. Coming soon - Registrations with information about auditions, rehearsals, and more!



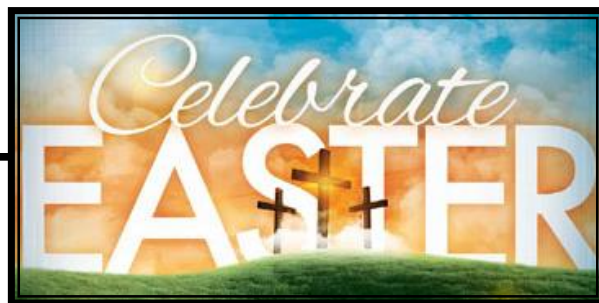
# Grace Lutheran Church

13655 Round Lake Blvd NW. Andover, MN 55304

*A Ministry of Grace in the heart of Andover and beyond!*  
*www.graceandover.org*

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## HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Thursday, March 24	6pm	Maundy Thursday Dinner Church <i>(tickets are required for this event, since a meal is provided)</i>
Friday, March 25	7pm	Good Friday Choral and Art Service
Saturday, March 26	5pm	Easter Vigil
Sunday, March 27	<b>EASTER CELEBRATION!</b> 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	