

# Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD

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## April & May 2022

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**“Yet even now,” declares the LORD, ‘return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments.’ Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.” (Joel 2:12–13; ESV)**

Dear Friends in Christ:

Having observed Ash Wednesday on March 2nd, the Church has entered the Season of Lent. Ash Wednesday also marks the beginning of the Time of Easter, which runs through the Day of Pentecost, fifty days after Easter. As I did in my previous newsletter article concerning the Season of Epiphany, I would like to share with you a lovely description of the Season of Lent from the *Pastoral Desk Diary 2022* published by Concordia Publishing House:

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The Time of Easter invites us into the story of Jesus’ sacrificial death and His glorious resurrection. The resurrection of Jesus gives proof that our salvation has been completed and that our hope for eternal life with God is secure.

Easter was the major celebration of the Early Church, which also set aside a period of preparation to celebrate the Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord (Easter). Lent was a period of preparation first prescribed for baptismal candidates. During this period, the candidates were examined in preparation for Baptism at the Easter (or Paschal) Vigil. Later, these forty days were associated with Jesus’ forty days in the desert prior to His temptation (Matthew 4:1–11) and with the forty years the children of Israel spent in the wilderness (Numbers 14:34), becoming a period of preparation for every Christian.

The Sundays during this season are not “of Lent” but “in Lent.” Thus, the Sundays retain an Easter tone and may be less solemn than the midweek services that congregations typically offer. The observances of Lent are concrete reminders of the greater solemnity of this season, yet Lutherans emphasize the Gospel of Christ as central even to this penitential season.

### *Lent Practices and Traditions*

- The church is decorated in violet, the color of royalty and repentance. This period of repentance is marked by a purposeful turning away from our sin and turning toward Christ for His mercy and forgiveness.
- Ash Wednesday begins the observance of Lent. Ashes on the forehead is a sign of penitence and a reminder that we, too, shall die and therefore need forgiveness from Jesus. Black may be used to decorate the church on Ash Wednesday.
- *Alleluia* is the Hebrew word for “Praise the Lord.” It is a joyous expression of faith in God. During Lent, we forgo using this joyous response in order to focus on our need for repentance and faith.

- As in Advent, so in Lent, we do not sing the *Gloria in Excelsis* in the Divine Service. We do this to focus our worship on repentance.
- Fasting is giving up eating at a particular meal or time in order to devote that time to prayer and meditation on the Word of God.
- Many churches observe Lent by gathering for midweek services. These additional times of worship and gathering around God's Word help us prepare to observe Holy Week and celebrate Easter.

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Lent is probably my favorite season of the Church Year. I especially love the hymns of Lent. One of our newer hymns beautifully summarizes this rich and solemn season for us (LSB 418):

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| <p>1 O Lord, throughout these forty days<br/>You prayed and kept the fast;<br/>Inspire repentance for our sin,<br/>And free us from our past.</p>   | <p>3 Though parched and hungry, yet You<br/>prayed<br/>And fixed Your mind above;<br/>So teach us to deny ourselves,<br/>Since we have known God's love.</p> |
| <p>2 You strove with Satan, and You won;<br/>Your faithfulness endured;<br/>Lend us Your nerve, Your skill and trust<br/>In God's eternal Word.</p> | <p>4 Be with us through this season, Lord,<br/>And all our earthly days,<br/>That when the final Easter dawns,<br/>We join in heaven's praise.</p>           |

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB  
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May God richly bless you and your family this Lenten season and always.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Brian Crane

### **FROM THE BOARD OF ELDERS**

The saying goes that everything old is new again. And our two millennia of worshiping Jesus Christ finds itself at the center of new disputes seemingly daily.

We consider our faith to be a trusty, sturdy foundation of belief. Jesus was born over 2000 years ago. Our Lutheran church has more than 500 years of history. The cross that is our symbol is old and rugged for a reason.

Yet it feels like some in the world are just hearing about the core beliefs of our faith. How can we value unborn human life or traditional concepts of marriage over individual freedoms? How can we believe our Earth is not millions of years old in the face of competing scientific beliefs?

If it feels like our faith stands in opposition to popular opinion, you're not wrong. And it's also not new.

The Old Testament prophets preached God's Word against a series of false prophets and gods that God's chosen people had fallen under the sway of. Jesus was a radical to the authorities of His time, overwriting the traditional Jewish ceremonial laws with the Gospel of love and forgiveness. Martin

Luther was a heretic to the leaders of the Catholic Church of his time, his teaching of salvation by faith and grace found in the Bible an offense punishable by death.

Our faith stands in contrast to a self-centered world. Our beliefs are foolishness to a society that has labeled us as cruel and irrelevant. As LCMS President Matthew Harrison said in a recent article:

“I give thanks for you and for the courageous ways you promote life in a culture of death. May God grant you strength and encouragement in these gray and latter days.”

We are the outsiders; we are the revolutionaries; we are the radicals in a sin-addled world. Here we stand; we can do no other.

God's blessings,  
Matthew Olson

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### FROM THE BOARD OF PARISH FELLOWSHIP

#### Dates to Remember

- April 7<sup>th</sup> – 5:15 PM Lenten Pot-Bless meal; theme is Italian Night.  
April 8<sup>th</sup> – 11:30 AM Ladies of Grace Luncheon will be held at Olive Garden in Racine.  
April 20<sup>th</sup> – 11:15 AM Pot-Bless meal, Growing Strong with Grace, and Game Day.  
May 13<sup>th</sup> – 11:30 AM Ladies of Grace Luncheon; location will be announced at a later date.  
May 15<sup>th</sup> – **GRACE FAMILY GATHERING:** A brunch in the Fellowship Hall will be provided following our worship service.  
May 18<sup>th</sup> – 11:15 AM Pot-Bless meal, Growing Strong with Grace, and Game Day.

Thank you!  
The Board of Parish Fellowship

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## Holy Week

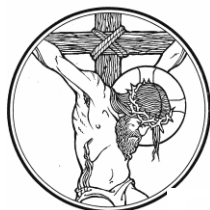
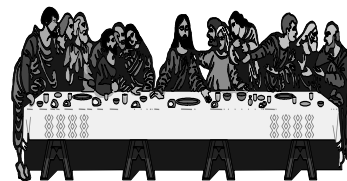
### PALM SUNDAY – APRIL 10<sup>TH</sup>

**9:00 AM** – Divine Service with Holy Communion



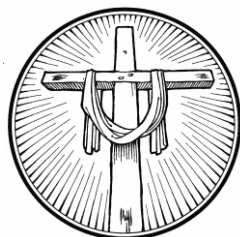
### MAUNDY THURSDAY – APRIL 14<sup>TH</sup>

**6:30 PM** – Divine Service with Holy Communion



### GOOD FRIDAY – APRIL 15<sup>TH</sup>

**6:30 PM** – Tenebrae Vespers Service at  
Grace Lutheran Church  
(No Tre Ore service at Racine Lutheran High School)



### EASTER SUNDAY – APRIL 17<sup>TH</sup>

**7:30 AM – 8:45 AM** Easter Breakfast  
**9:00 AM** Divine Service with Holy Communion

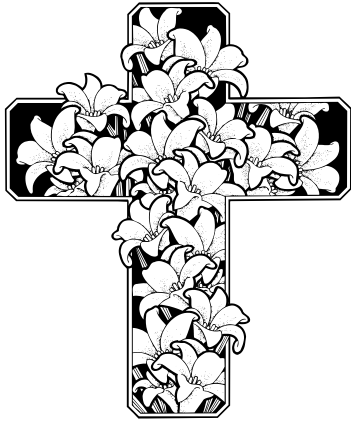
## PARISH FELLOWSHIP DATES TO REMEMBER

April 2022

Lenten Meal	Ladies of Grace	Easter Sunday	Growing Strong with Grace	Game Day
 <p>April 7, 2022 5:15 pm Italian Night Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>April 8, 2022 11:30 am Olive Garden</p> 	 <p>April 17, 2022 7:30 am Fellowship Hall Hosted by the Youth</p>	<p>April 20, 2022 11:15 am Fellowship Hall</p> <p><b>IN CHRIST I AM STRONG</b> 2 TIMOTHY 2:1</p>	 <p>April 20, 2022 after Growing Strong with Grace</p>

	
<p>May 13</p> <p><b>Ladies of Grace</b> 11:30 am Location TBD (watch church bulletin for details)</p> 	<p>May 18</p> <p><b>Growing Strong with Grace</b> 11:15 am Fellowship Hall</p> <p><i>God gives me strength when I am weary</i> <small>Lamentations 10:29</small></p>
<p>May 15</p> <p><b>Brunch</b> After Service Fellowship Hall</p> 	<p>May 18</p> <p><b>Game Day</b> Fellowship Hall after Growing Strong with Grace</p> 
<p>Parish Fellowship Events MAY 2022</p>	

# **E A S T E R F L O W E R S**



This year, we are again asking for a cash donation to help purchase Easter lilies for our Easter celebration. If you would like to make a donation, please fill out the form below and put it with your cash or check payable to:

## **GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

For each \$15 donation, if you wish, you may take one Easter Lily after the 9:00 AM Worship Service on Easter Sunday. When taking your Easter Lily from the chancel, please be respectful of the altar, as it symbolizes the presence of our Risen Lord.

**PLEASE DO NOT** place orders or envelopes in the offering plates on Sunday as this has caused considerable confusion in previous years. Instead, please place your order in the secretary's mailbox in the Communication Center.

**DEADLINE** for returning your donation and form is **Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup>**. If you have any questions, please call Dorothy at the church office at 633-4831.

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**(Please print clearly)**

Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_ toward Easter flowers.

**GIVEN BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**IN MEMORY OF/OCCASION:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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## **FROM THE BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP**

### **Blessed Shall You Be**

“Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field. Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.” (Deuteronomy 28:3–6)

This is God’s promise to the Israelites as they stood beyond the Jordan outside of the Promised Land. He promises blessing to His people. He will make them prosper, whether they are in the city or the field. He will make their fruit of their work to prosper, whether from the ground, their wombs, their flocks, or their herds. He will make them to prosper in all things, whether upon their coming in or their going out.

But there’s a catch. He would do this for Israel only “if you obey the voice of the LORD your God” (Deut. 28:2b). If they did that, He would cause that “all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you” (Deut. 28:2a). If they didn’t obey the voice of the Lord, if they didn’t keep the commandments of the Lord and “walk in his ways” (Deut. 28:9), they would be met with curse and woe. The blessings would be replaced with curses. Everything that the Lord promised to prosper and bless would be cursed and fail.

Thanks be to God that our Lord Jesus Christ has come into our flesh and fulfilled the law for us – in our place and for our benefit. Our Lord Jesus Christ died for us – in our place and for our benefit. Our Lord Jesus Christ is risen from the dead for us – in our place and for our benefit. By this we have justification before God. We are forgiven, clean, holy, and righteous. The blessing of God is promised to us in Christ Jesus. It depends upon His work, not ours.

All this is ours in Holy Baptism. For in Holy Baptism, God claims us as His own, makes us His children, His heirs, and His holy people. And so it is that the work of our hands and its fruit is holy because we are holy in Christ. It is pressed into His service, and it thereby becomes a blessing to us and to our neighbor.

For this great gift, our reception of the blessings of God because of Christ Jesus our Lord, it is our duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is not in order to receive the blessings but because in Christ we already have. With this in mind, we sit down on the first day of the week and set aside as He has prospered us to give to His church for His work of blessing in our midst (1 Cor. 16:2).

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**PORTALS OF PRAYER:** Quarterly daily devotional books for April through June are available in the narthex. If you wish to donate to cover the \$5.00 cost per year, please place your gift in the appropriate slot in the narthex. Help yourself!

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**ELEVATOR:** As of March 15<sup>th</sup>, the balance on our elevator loans stands at **\$174,536.70**. Thank you for your support and generosity!

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**2022 FLOWER CHART** is available for sign up in the narthex. The cost is **\$27.00** for two bouquets. To reserve a Sunday, please sign your name and the occasion. Please make your checks payable to “Grace Lutheran Church” and place in the secretary’s box in the Communication Center. Thank you!

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**KWIK TRIP CARDS ARE FOR SALE** before Sunday’s service in the Office Equipment Room and before Bible Study on Sunday in the Fellowship Hall. Grace gets a percentage back on all cards sold. Kwik Trip cards are currently available in \$25, \$50, and \$100 amounts. Thank you for supporting Grace this way!

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**EASTER BREAKFAST:** Please join us for Easter Breakfast on **Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>**, in the Fellowship Hall from **7:30 AM – 8:45 AM**. The menu will be egg bake, ham, baked goods, cereal, fruit, beverages, and other yummy items. We hope you will join us for food and fellowship before the Easter Worship Service. Freewill donations will be gladly received.

## **THE GROWING STRONG WITH GRACE**

group will continue with our monthly meetings on **Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>**, at **11:15 AM** and **Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>**, at **11:15 AM**. Hope you all can make it!

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**MEMORIALS AND GIFTS FUND** giving opportunities include Bibles, Audio/Video, Pew Cushions (pew backs?), Sound System, Stained Glass Windows, Decorations, and Sunday School. Memorials and Gifts also takes in contributions to the Elevator Fund.

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**ELECTRONIC GIVING** is available at Grace through Vanco. Questions can be answered by Lori Heidenreich. Enrollment forms are available in the Office Equipment Room. Completed forms can be returned in a sealed envelope and placed into Lori’s Financial Secretary mailbox outside the church office.

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**THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS®:** Eligible Thrivent members who have available Choice Dollars® from 2021 have until **March 31, 2022**, to direct them to Grace or other charities. Call 800-847-4836 and say “Thrivent Choice” after the prompt or visit [thrivent.com/thriventchoice](https://thrivent.com/thriventchoice).

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**WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY:** Please join us for Bible study from **10:00 – 11:00 AM** each Wednesday. We will be taking a closer look at the Bible lessons that will be read in church the following Sunday. I hope this study will help to prepare us as we hear God’s Word in worship. – Pastor Crane

## Daily Lectionary Readings April -- May 2022

Friday, April 1:	Genesis 47:1-31 Mark 13:24-37	Sunday, May 1:	Exodus 32:15-35 Luke 6:39-49
Saturday, April 2:	Genesis 49:29-50:7, 14-26 Mark 14:1-11	Monday, May 2:	Exodus 33:1-23 Luke 7:1-17
Sunday, April 3:	Exodus 1:1-22 Mark 14:12-31	Tuesday, May 3:	Exodus 34:1-28 Luke 7:18-35
Monday, April 4:	Exodus 2:1-22 Mark 14:32-52	Wednesday, May 4:	Exodus 34:29-35:21 Luke 7:36-50
Tuesday, April 5:	Exodus 2:23-3:22 Mark 14:53-72	Thursday, May 5:	Exodus 28:21-39:8, 22-23, 27-31 Luke 8:1-21
Wednesday, April 6:	Exodus 4:1-18 Mark 15:1-15	Friday, May 6:	Exodus 39:32-40:16 Luke 8:22-39
Thursday, April 7:	Exodus 4:19-31 Mark 15:16-32	Saturday, May 7:	Exodus 40:17-38 Luke 8:40-56
Friday, April 8:	Exodus 5:1-6:1 Mark 15:33-47	Sunday, May 8:	Leviticus 8:1-13, 30-36 Luke 9:1-17
Saturday, April 9:	Exodus 7:1-25 Mark 16:1-20	Monday, May 9:	Leviticus 9:1-24 Luke 9:18-36
Sunday, April 10:	Exodus 8:1-32 Hebrews 1:1-14	Tuesday, May 10:	Leviticus 10:1-20 Luke 9:37-62
Monday, April 11:	Exodus 9:1-28 Hebrews 2:1-18	Wednesday, May 11:	Leviticus 16:1-24 Luke 10:1-22
Tuesday, April 12:	Exodus 9:29-10:20 Hebrews 3:1-19	Thursday, May 12:	Leviticus 17:1-16 Luke 10:23-42
Wednesday, April 13:	Exodus 10:21-11:10 Hebrews 4:1-16	Friday, May 13:	Leviticus 18:1-7, 20-19:8 Luke 11:1-13
Thursday, April 14:	Exodus 12:1-28 Hebrews 5:1-14	Saturday, May 14:	Leviticus 19:9-18, 26-37 Luke 11:14-36
Friday, April 15:	Exodus 12:29-32, 13:1-16 Hebrews 6:1-20	Sunday, May 15:	Leviticus 20:1-16, 22-27 Luke 11:37-54
Saturday, April 16:	Exodus 13:17-14:9 Hebrews 7:1-22	Monday, May 16:	Leviticus 21:1-24 Luke 12:1-12
Sunday, April 17:	Exodus 14:10-31 Hebrews 7:23-8:13	Tuesday, May 17:	Leviticus 23:1-22 Luke 12:13-34
Monday, April 18:	Exodus 15:1-18 Hebrews 9:1-28	Wednesday, May 18:	Leviticus 23:23-44 Luke 12:35-53
Tuesday, April 19:	Exodus 15:19-16:12 Hebrews 10:1-18	Thursday, May 19:	Leviticus 24:1-23 Luke 12:54-13:17
Wednesday, April 20:	Exodus 16:13-35 Hebrews 10:19-39	Friday, May 20:	Leviticus 26:1-20 Luke 13:18-35
Thursday, April 21:	Exodus 17:1-16 Hebrews 11:1-29	Saturday, May 21:	Leviticus 26:21-33, 39-44 Luke 14:1-24
Friday, April 22:	Exodus 18:5-27 Hebrews 12:1-24	Sunday, May 22:	Numbers 3:1-16, 39-48 Luke 14:25-15:10
Saturday, April 23:	Exodus 19:1-25 Hebrews 13:1-21	Monday, May 23:	Numbers 8:5-26 Luke 15:11-32
Sunday, April 24:	Exodus 20:1-24 Luke 4:1-15	Tuesday, May 24:	Numbers 9:1-23 Luke 16:1-18
Monday, April 25:	Exodus 22:20-23:13 Luke 4:16-30	Wednesday, May 25:	Numbers 10:11-36 Luke 16:19-31
Tuesday, April 26:	Exodus 23:14-33 Luke 4:31-44	Thursday, May 26:	Numbers 11:1-23, 31-35 Luke 17:1-19
Wednesday, April 27:	Exodus 24:1-18 Luke 5:1-16	Friday, May 27:	Numbers 11:24-29, 12:1-16 Luke 17:20-37
Thursday, April 28:	Exodus 25:1-22 Luke 5:17-39	Saturday, May 28:	Numbers 13:1-3, 17-33 Luke 18:1-17
Friday, April 29:	Exodus 31:1-18 Luke 6:1-19	Sunday, May 29:	Numbers 14:1-25 Luke 18:18-34
Saturday, April 30:	Exodus 32:1-14 Luke 6:20-38	Monday, May 30:	Numbers 14:26-45 Luke 18:35-19:10
		Tuesday, May 31:	Numbers 16:1-22 Luke 19:11-28