
April 2019

Grace Notes

Grace Lutheran Church

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From the Pastor's Desk . . .

How well do you listen to your spouse or close friends?!? If you don't listen very well, chances are good they'd say you aren't a great spouse or friend... because listening is VITAL to relationships. It's important for communicating, intimacy, connection, conflict resolution – you name it. Listening allows you to get to know someone else.

So it's very fitting that this Lenten season our sermon series is "***Our Lord's Last Words in Luke.***" We stop to hear and reflect on His last 8 declarations on the way to the cross. What does He have to say to those around Him? What does He have to say to us? For our Maundy Thursday (April 18) and Good Friday (April 19) worship services we'll make a concerted effort to emphasize the words of Jesus.

All of this is so fitting because **Lent** is that season of the church year when we reflect on Christ's suffering and passion on our behalf. It's a time for us to seek to grow closer to Him and to become more like Him. Some Christians do this by denying themselves things ("giving them up") during Lent. Others do this by spending more time in prayer. This year let me invite you to do this by coming to hear our Lord's words from Luke's Gospel. What is on His heart and mind as His death inches closer? How does this help us connect to who Jesus is and why He has come? How might Christ communicate to us about how we are living our lives?

Words can be such a powerful way to communicate something – though certainly not the only. The beauty of Christ's words is that He promises to work through them – to change, mold, guide, direct, and train us. It's one of the prime ways ***Christ is growing in us and through us*** here at Grace. Thus it is necessary for us to celebrate this Lenten season by listening to our Lord – and then rejoicing Easter Sunday with the celebratory refrain: "**He is risen!!!**"

March Official Pastoral Acts:

6 sick/shut-in visits
6 private communions
2 circuit visitor activities
5 leadership meetings
3 hospital visits
2 family visitations

Upcoming Sermon Texts	
April 20	Luke 20:9-20
April 14	Luke 19:28-40
April 18	Luke 22:7-30
April 19	Luke 22:31-23:56
April 21	Luke 24:1-12
April 28	John 20:19-31

Join us in the weeks ahead as the **Sunday morning Adult Bible Class** studies tough real-life issues like euthanasia, end of life decisions, capital punishment, the morality (or immorality) of war, and more.

Hopefully by this time everyone has already received a letter or email about our **re:Vitality Congregational Self-assessment**. It's all online and everyone's encouraged to do it. Just go to www.lcms.org/survey/revitality and enter our congregation code: **C662162**.

When you do you'll notice that some of the questions should stop and make you think...about Grace...and about yourself. They certainly lead to some reflection. And that's a good thing – because the survey is only the first step. On Saturday, May 4th. **Rev. Derek Mathers**, the English District Mission Executive, will be at Grace from 9 am to noon to share the results of the survey and to work with us on ideas and plans for revitalizing Grace Lutheran Church. *What needs to happen next around here? What does God have us poised to accomplish?* Come May 4th as we discover together.

April Birthdays

Debbie Burt 4/04
Grace Folley 4/04
Dale Swanzer 4/14
Britney Swanzer 4/21
Jan Koepp 4/25
John Knipper 4/27
Robin Turnbull 4/28

April Anniversaries

Ray & Beverly Hines 4/16
Ron & Diane Senyak 4/26
John & Jan Kristoff 4/28

* If we accidentally forgot your birthday or anniversary, please tell Pastor and we'll add it to our list.

Worship News

The Grace 2019 Service Schedule for May – August has been posted and emailed out to many. If you would like to receive a copy (and didn't), please contact Pastor Josh. Thank you for everyone on the schedule for their willingness to serve our Lord. A special thanks to all those who put in extra time and effort during Lent to make our services meaningful – from the Wednesday night acolytes, the Thursday night decorating crew, the Friday lay readers, ladies who arrange the Easter lilies on Saturday, and those who clean up Sunday after the Easter Breakfast! So many little jobs and it all works out so beautifully when everyone pitches in to help take care of things.

Maundy Thursday – 7 pm worship service with Holy Communion & stripping of the altar
Good Friday – 7 pm Tenebrae service (of darkness) ending in reflective silence
Easter – 10 am worship service & celebration of Christ's Resurrection

Evangelism News

The Mission of the Month for April is **Rev. Andrew Schlund**, an LCMS missionary to **Mexico**. Check out the bulletin board in the hallway and you'll see an intriguing article from the Spring 2017 issue of "*Lutherans Engage*." Life for this missionary looks a lot like the everyday life of a parish pastor – yet vastly different in a few details. The article does a nice job trying to consider what being a "missionary" or "cross-cultural" looks like.

For those of you receiving this by email, you can read the article by going to <https://engage.lcms.org/mexico-missionary-spring-2017>

Altar Guild News

Altar Guild will be offering to purchase Easter Lilies to decorate the chancel for Easter. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board in the coming week with the details.

Serving in April:

7 – Robin Turnbull

14 & 21— Kathy Knipper

28 & May 5 –Karen Huston

~ Robin

Lutheran Women's Mission League News

Serving coffee in April will be:

- 7 Rachel Koch
- 14 Lori Izold
- 21 EASTER BREAKFAST
- 28 Lisa Lalonde

Jan Koepp and Jan Limpert will be hosting the monthly Community Free Hot Meal on April 20. This meal is open to all including our own members!

Easter breakfast on April 21 will be served between 8:30 and 9:30 a.m. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board so please sign up so we know how many to expect. Colored eggs, home-made coffee cakes, muffins. This is a nice time to greet your fellow worshipers Happy Easter. Breakfast is always open to all.

At our last meeting we voted not to have a father/son or mother/daughter dinner this year. We will be doing the Love, INC program that furnishes new clothing for school children. This program begins in June. Also later in the year of course is the rummage sale which will be held August 30 and 31. The rummage sale is not just the women's league mission project; it is the entire church's project. All women are encouraged to join us. The more involved the more we can do.

~Carolyn

Church Classifieds:

- Do you have an old full-size **filing cabinet** that you don't need any more? Would you consider donating it to the church? If so contact Dale Rider or Jen Moldenhauer.
- WANTED: someone to temporarily update the **church website**. Only takes an hour a month. Contact Pastor Josh for more information.

New Pastor Warranty:

It has come to our attention that the pastor you received was shipped with a slight defect – he is not psychic. Because of this, you must observe certain procedures to ensure optimum performance:

It is necessary to inform him of any members who are hospitalized.

If someone you know is in need of prayer, the pastor must be told, or he won't know.

If you are in need of a pastoral visit, you will get best results if you ask him.

We regret any inconvenience this may cause.

The Adult Bible Class has recently been studying the Christian perspective on life ending issues such as suicide and euthanasia which in turn led to a discussion of *End of Life* issues in general.

This past Sunday, we talked about preparing for end of life care and considerations on how best to prepare ourselves and our loved ones. Communication, that is sharing our wishes, is an important part of that planning.

Advance Directives are legal documents that provide instructions about your healthcare wishes should you become unable to speak for yourself due to a medical condition. Advanced care planning is important for people of all ages because anything can happen to anyone at any time and having a plan in place can help ensure that your health care wishes can be known and honored in any situation.

Advance Directives are a powerful tool to help inform your medical team about your health care wishes. Did you know that no more than one third of all American adults have an advance care plan in writing? This is particularly concerning because studies suggest that roughly 70 percent of Americans will be unable to make decisions for themselves at some point in their lives. This is why advance care planning is so important. And, it is not just important for the elderly or those with severe illness. Health crises can happen to anyone at any time

In the state of Ohio, four documents are recognized:

Health Care Power of Attorney – Designates the person who is legally able to make health care decisions for you if you become unable to make them for yourself.

Living Will – Outlines a person's wishes should they become terminally ill or in a permanently vegetative state and unable to state their wishes.

DNR Order (Do Not Resuscitate) –Is an order written by a physician after discussion with the patient/family outlining the burdens and benefits of CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) given the patient's current status.

Organ Donation – Outlines a person's wishes regarding organ or tissue donation should they be determined an appropriate candidate for donation.

Resources:

www.midwestcarealliance.org (Family Resources>>Advance Directives)-Forms and also on this site is: [Conversations That Light The Way](#) - a workbook designed to assist you in making choices about the kind of healthcare you want as you journey through the final phases of life. Although this subject can be uncomfortable for many people to address, it is important that each person has the opportunity to make these important choices for themselves

If you would like further information, please let me know and I can assist you in finding the answers you need.

Jan Koeppe

April 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lenten Soup & Sandwich 6 pm Lenten Service 7 pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elder's Meeting 4 pm 		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worship 10 am Adult Bible Class 11:40 am 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council's Meeting 7 pm 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lenten Soup & Sandwich 6 pm Lenten Service 7 pm 			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worship 10 am Adult Bible Class 11:40 am 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OCS Food Box Delivery 2 pm 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maunder Thursday Service 7 pm Mental Illness Support Group 7 pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good Friday Service 7 pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free Hot Meal 5 pm
				25	26	27
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Last Day to fill out the church survey 		
21 Easter Sunday	22	23	24			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Easter Breakfast 8:30 to 9:30 am Worship 10 am 						
28	29	30				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worship 10 am 						

Upcoming Important Dates:

- May 4: Survey Results 9 am -12 pm
- May 19: Voter's Meeting