
APRIL 2023

Grace Notes

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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*“Grace Lutheran Church is a family united by faith in Christ,
which seeks to grow in that faith and to share it with others.”*

From the Pastor’s Desk . . .

What is of first importance this month is that **Christ Jesus** has instituted a Holy Sacrament, died on the cross, and rose again – all for your life, health, and salvation. That is what we will be commemorating, celebrating, and participating in during Holy Week. On **Maundy Thursday** (April 6th) we gather for worship at 6 pm to mark the anniversary of the night in which Jesus instituted Holy Communion between us and God – which we participate in that evening. On **Good Friday** (April 7th) we gather for a somber tenebrae worship service to mark the dark day on which our Lord sacrificially died on the cross in our place. On **Easter Sunday** (the 9th) we gather to celebrate Christ’s resurrection from the dead and the new life He has and grants to us through faith. This day of rejoicing includes an Easter Breakfast starting at 9 am until the worship service at 10:30 am. All of this is of **FIRST** importance because Christ Jesus is the One we come to worship and praise each Sunday. HE is the one we put our faith, hope, and trust in. HE is the one who won our salvation through the cross and empty tomb. HE comes first before all else. HE is Lord!

What is of far secondary importance this month is that the Lord of the Church has called me to be the pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Elgin, Minnesota – and where He leads me, I will follow. My final Sunday here as your pastor will be **May 28th**. This will allow time to complete several things, including Confirmation classes – with Confirmation Sunday being held on **May 21st**. This will also allow all of you time to adjust to this change and start working on the steps towards what comes next. But before we rush into that, this month is a perfect time to remember what is (and remains) of **FIRST** importance: **Christ Jesus** had died and rose again for each of us. We live under our heavenly Father’s care with the resurrected, powerful new life of Christ strengthening our faith.

In Christ,

Pastor Josh

March Official Pastoral Acts:

- 14 pastoral care visits
- 7 leadership meetings
- 1 private communion
- 2 hospital visits
- 3 family visitations
- 4 circuit visitor activities
- 1 Adult Confirmation (*Hailee Plato*)

Upcoming Sermon Texts	
April 2	Matthew 21:1-11
April 9	Matthew 28:1-10
April 16	1 Peter 1:3-9
April 23	1 Peter 1:17-25
April 30	1 Peter 2:19-25

Worship Information

- A **Maundy Thursday** service with Holy Communion and the Stripping of the Altar will be held at Grace at **6 pm**. A **Good Friday Tenebrae service** will be held at **Grace at 6 pm**. Both will focus our attention on how Jesus brings and delivers the Kingdom of God to us – such BIG gifts, but oh what sacrifice...!

- Sunday morning worship continues to meet at **10:30 am** every week.

- **Private Communion** is offered at church or by pastoral home visit whenever requested. Please contact Pastor to schedule.

- Copies of the **Sunday sermons** are emailed out to everyone and a hard copy mailed out to several people without computer access. If you'd like to start receiving hard copies by mail OR if you'd no longer like to be receiving the weekly emails, please contact Pastor.

GRACE 2023 Service Schedule

PLEASE BE RESPONSIBLE FOR A REPLACEMENT SHOULD YOU BE UNABLE TO SERVE

DATE	Usher	Acolyte	Counters	Altar Guild	Lay Reader	Communion Assistant
April 2nd	Bob Izold	Carter Jones	Dave M. & Fred C.	Karen Huston	Fred Feddeck	Paul Castle
April 10th, 17th	Paul Castle	David Jones	Bonnie & Lisa L.	Colleen Karp	Dave Jones	Dave Jones
Apr. 24, May 1	Tom Monroe	Reilly Jones	Jan Koepp & Dale R.	Robin Turnbull	Paul Castle	Bob Izold

A Message from the President

An update on the dual parish agreement with Bethany Wellington.

We have had three (3) in-person meetings:

1. Worship time & special services
2. Prioritize Pastor's duties
3. Compensation for pastor

After our last Bethany/Grace meeting on Thursday, March 23, Bethany called a special voter's meeting on March 30 to evaluate all aspects of the dual parish agreement.

Glenn Gentile, council president of Bethany, contacted me on Friday this past week and told me their voter's had decided not to continue with the dual parish agreement. Bethany was frustrated with Grace as to how long it took to decide when church starts on Sunday morning, they did not feel that Grace was all in on the dual parish concept, a small number of people who disrupted the process, and that Pastor Josh was leaving for another church in Minnesota.

The Grace **Dual Parish Voter's meeting that was scheduled for April 23 has been cancelled**, as have any other dual parish meetings with Bethany.

Where do we go from here? Pastor Josh's last Sunday to preach is May 28th. Council will need to contact District to arrange for an interim pastor and how to proceed with a call for a new pastor. Our next regular scheduled Voter's meeting will be May 21st. If there is a need for a special voter's meeting prior, we will reach out to all the members.

As members of Grace, please have patience as we go through the process.

Keeping the faith,

Tom Monroe
Council President

Let's talk Coffee Hour!

As expressed in before: coffee hour has been scaled down in size and scope. This means less pressure and time needed to host. Non-perishable treats have been purchased for the use of coffee hour.

Talk to me for more details.

The sign-up sheet has been posted in the church hallway. We need your help, please find some dates that work for you to host a simple coffee hour periodically. I'm not just asking for help from the Ladies but anyone can do a coffee hour. Yes, you can!

Thank you all for your help.

Lee Anne Christner

<u>April Birthdays</u>		<u>April Anniversaries</u>	
Debbie Burt	4/4	Kert & Jan Limpert	4/7
Dale Swanzer	4/14	Ray & Beverly Hines	4/16
Britney Swanzer	4/21	Ron & Diane Senyak	4/26
Jan Koepp	4/25	John & Jan Kristoff	4/28
John Knipper	4/27		
Robin Turnbull	4/28		

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

Ladies Aid

The Ladies Aid has been working on table center pieces for our Easter Breakfast. I don't see very many names on the attendance sign-up sheet in the hallway. So, this Sunday the 2nd of April, please sign up if you are coming. If you aren't at church service then please call me asap at 440/864-9456 to sign up. We'd like to have some bodies for Breakfast. Our center pieces can be used all year round for any event as a little décor. Our last (I sure hope so) day to work on these crafty center pieces is Wednesday the 5th at 1pm. Ladies, please come if you'd like a little craftiness.

Voters' Meeting Recap

February 19th Voters' Assembly was approximately 2 hours long. All the regular reports were presented and had no questions or comments. These reports were sent out to everyone via email or with a hard copy in your Voters' Meeting Packets. The bulk of the meeting covered updates with the Dual Parish Committee Meetings that were being held with Bethany Church in Wellington. Seeing how Bethany Church has decided to no longer pursue a Dual Parish, that portion of the meeting is no longer relevant.

It's my pleasure to present, to those that don't already know that Sydney Wright, Zachary Abicht, and Renee Watson were officially received as new communicant members here at Grace Lutheran Church.

We held a Dual Parish Voters' Meeting on March 19th which covered several dual parish items and is no longer relevant. The Dual Parish Meeting on April 23rd is canceled. Our next regular, quarterly Voters' Assembly is scheduled for May 21st. I encourage all to come. I'm sure there will be discussion on Grace's future and how to move forward.

Respectfully,
Lee Anne Christner, Recording Secretary

Upcoming Church Events & Dates

- **Confirmation Class:** Monday, April 3rd at 7:00 pm at Bethany.
- **Double Confirmation Class:** Tuesday, April 11th, 18th, & 25th and Monday, April 17th & 24th at 6:30 pm at Bethany.
- **Maundy Thursday Service:** Thursday, April 6th at 6:00 pm at Grace.
- **Good Friday Tenebrae Service:** Friday, April 7th at 6:00 pm at Grace.
- **Easter Breakfast:** Sunday, April 9th at 9:00 am at Grace.
- **Council Meeting:** Wednesday, April 12th at 7:00 pm.
- **Elder's Meeting:** Thursday, April 13th at 7:00 pm.
- **May Newsletter Articles Due:** Tuesday, April 25th to Lee Anne Christner.

Two special notes:

It's been a while since we've had anyone write an article for "**Good News: Stories about what God's been doing among us**". I'm hoping some of you would pass those wonderful stories onto me to share through the Newsletter. Write me at secretary4grace@gmail.com or call at 440/864-9456 with your "Good News" stories.

Beings that Pastor Josh's last Sunday here is May 28th, I'd like to ask for any thoughts, good wishes and recollections regarding Pastor Josh and family. Any thoughts or stories are welcome. I'd like to place these in May's Newsletter. Again, send to me at secretary4grace@gmail.com or call 440/864-9456. I've only been here 5 years so I am looking forward to all your stories. I'm sure Pastor and family will enjoy them too.

Respectfully,
Lee Anne Christner