

April
2019
Edition

The Lamp

Grace Lutheran Church

Growing in Grace—Making Christ Known

PASTOR SETH'S

Ponderings

Holy Week approaches!

We began Lent with the stark reminder of our own mortality on Ash Wednesday. I've been encouraged by the conversations I've been involved in and overheard in various circles of our church. Many of you are asking great questions, committing yourselves to the Lenten disciplines, and engaging in this process with sincerity and integrity. I know it's not a big, fun party, but it's immensely helpful to us as we seek to be transformed more and more into the image of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Now we approach the end of our journey together, and it gets much worse before it gets better. You know that saying "it's always darkest before the dawn?" Well, it may not always apply, but it does here. Good Friday is the darkest day of the church year. From that Friday evening until Easter morning, there's a gravity to time and weight to our souls that has the power to move us and change us.

And I'm looking forward to so much that's coming up. The palm branch-waving of Palm Sunday. The foot washing on Maundy Thursday. The Passion narrative of Good Friday. The return of the alleluias on Easter morning. They're all part of the process.

Trust the process. Trust the good work of the Holy Spirit within you. As the Apostle Paul says "I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion." Jesus has indeed begun a good work among us. It began long ago, and it continues through this day. It's a process.

May Christ give you perseverance through the process. May God guide and illumine your path. And may the Holy Spirit lift up your spirits, bind up the broken-hearted, and restore to wholeness with her healing power.

Thanks be to God!

Pastor Seth

Council Meeting Minutes

Feb. 10, 2019

Present: Pastor Seth, Dave, Dianne, Debbie, Phil, Josh and Regina

Properties Report given by Cindy Filas

1. Properties is looking into some type of electronic connection between the Sunday School room and the sanctuary.
2. Properties would like a camera to be mounted on the shed, it would record anyone entering through the black door.
3. They are looking to enhance WiFi throughout the whole building.
4. It was suggested that any work project started in the building should have a work order started and follow the project through completion.
5. NICOR rebate is still incomplete. John Filas is working on it. Our total rebate will be between \$1,000 and \$2,800.

Dave provided opening prayer.

Dianne provided devotions.

January minutes were reviewed and motioned to approve by Dianne and second by Josh.

Treasure Report

Regina presented the treasures report. We discussed the declining weekly contributions and our expenses. We are slowly getting behind. Regina reminded us that there were 3 pay periods in January. We need to take that into consideration.

We will add YTD contributions and expenses to weekly trifold.

Long range planning to increase revenue was discussed.

Debbie motioned to approve and Phil second.

Pastors report

1. VBS report clarification: generosity giving and monthly budgeted money.
2. The need to ask the congregation to increase their contributions. Pastor will send a letter to members before the May congregational meeting. He will email a draft to all council members.
3. Pastor suggested we put a hold on the Vitality Survey.

Team Reports

Youth Report

1. The youth group is planning a Family Fun Night on Feb. 10, 2019.
2. They will be planning and providing meals for Wed night Lent meals.
3. They will host a breakfast Easter morning.
4. Planning to sell hot dogs at Ace
5. Planning on selling meals at Bellattinis food truck.
6. Looking into selling Grace tee shirt and sweatshirts.

Outreach

1. They have a senior luncheon planned for Friday Feb. 15, 2019

Worship

1. There is a planned change in the Lector's and Reader's list

New Business

1. The upcoming Congregational meeting is set for May 19, 2019.

Next Council Meeting is changed to March 17, 2019

Next devotion will be given by Josh

Respectively submitted by

Debbie Robertson



In Our Prayers



Members: Frank Dickey, Cindy Filas, Marie Christian, Helen Warke, David Kirstein, Norma Siebring, & Brian Melvin

Friends and Family of Grace: Gabby (friend of Cindy Filas), Kathie Parton (Kim Bell's mother),

Juanita (Jodi Dzak's mother), Rocky (nephew of Jackie Danalewich), Barb (friend of the Sodas),

Jacob Zigafoose (neighbor of Mary Smith), Fritzie Ceveno (friend of the Kirsteins),

Kurt Stefans (son-in-law to the Warkes), Tina McBride (friend of Maryann Ricken),

David DeWald (Irving DeWald's brother), Irma Wagner (sister-in-law of Joann House),

Dorothy Ann Milling (Joann House's niece), Jack Zdanowski (Warkes' nephew),

Jeanne Kieffer (friend of the Warkes), Sarah Hazelrigg (granddaughter of Jean Peterson),

Matt Prodehl (son-in-law of Dan Bell)

Home-bound: Jean Goodwin (*home*), Theresa Klager (*Heritage Woods, Minooka*), Dolly Hoover (*Sunny Hill, Joliet*) (mother of Karen Nielsen), Edie Hess (*Heritage Woods, Manteno*)

Serving in Armed Forces:

Captain Autumn Carr (daughter of the Carrs), Captain Erik Gundersen (grandson of the Warkes)

Come Join As We Enter Holy Week:



Palm Sunday - 4/14:

9^{AM} Festival Worship - Procession of Palms & Holy Communion

Maundy Thursday - 4/18:

7^{PM} Worship - Rite of Foot Washing & Holy Communion

Good Friday - 4/19:

7^{PM} Worship - Reading of the Passion

***Easter Sunday Celebration - 4/21:**

7:30^{AM} – 8:45^{AM} Easter Breakfast Served

(Hosted by Grace's young people and Families)

9^{AM} Festival Worship - Holy Communion

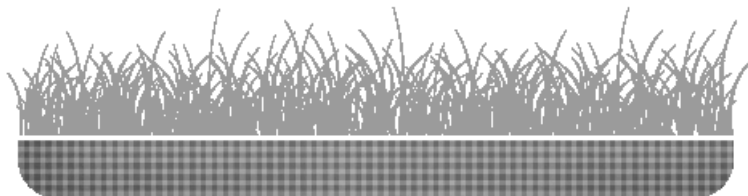


Summer Youth Events

VBS - June 10-14

Campfirmation - June 23-28

Boundary Waters - July 28-August 3



Easter Egg Festival



On April 7th, beginning at 10:30a.m. we will be hosting our annual Easter Egg Hunt, in conjunction with the Preschool! There will be the egg hunt itself (outdoors, if the weather allows), but that's not all. There will also be games, food, raffles, and all sorts of fun stuff. Join us for the festivities, and plan to get out in the light of both the sun and the children's energy!

Confirmation/Youth

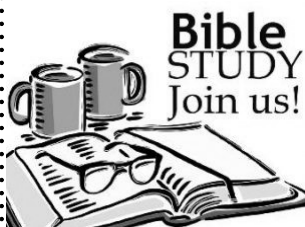
This month, we'll be packing eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt, then we'll be hiding the eggs on April 7th, before church starts. Last month, our youth led worship, and they did a wonderful job! They also hosted the soup suppers for our Lenten midweek services. Sundays at 6p.m. are when we meet for Confirmation and youth events. Pastor Seth and Christy Ziller lead Confirmation classes. Confirmation is for any baptized member who has not been confirmed yet, usually in 6th-8th grade.



Women's Bible Study

Every Tuesday, we meet here at Grace's fellowship hall at 10:30a.m. for study, discussion, and prayer. From now until Easter, we are reading together from the book "Bread and Wine: Readings for Lent and Easter." Copies are available for free for you. All women are welcome.

Men's Bible Study



Every Thursday morning at 9:30am, we have Men's Bible Study at Mikki's. All men are welcome to join us as we preview the next Sunday's lectionary together. Our discussions revolve around Scripture, current events, and our prayer concerns, all of which we

Women of the ELCA News!

Women of the ELCA met March 14th for a fun night of dirty Bingo. Dirty Bingo is no joke, the ladies were fierce about stealing gifts away from one another. The lucky ones of the group were Arlene and Joann, both took home at least 3 gift bags, but oh what fun we had!

Our next meeting will be on April 11th at 7p.m. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall.

THANKS SO MUCH!

We want to thank those who have been so generous and gracious to bring us dinners over the last two and a half months. It has been a BIG help to us. However, now that my last chemo is over, and I am beginning to feel stronger, I believe that we can manage without your further generosity. Again may I say thanks from the bottom of my heart. Having a church family that has been so thoughtful and kind has been a blessing. God bless you all!!
Helen Warke

Choir

Choir practice is starting back! Choir director, Helen Warke is recovering well through her chemotherapy. We'll be meeting on Wednesday nights after Lenten midweek services. We're getting ready for all the special music for Holy Week.

Anniversaries ♦ April 2019



04/15 Bruce & Dee Elsner 04/16 Joyce & Tom James
04/24 Lalar & Brian Melvin 04/29 Kim & Charles Schad
04/29 Doris & Frank Dickey, Jr.

Birthdays April 2019



04/03 Stephani Dzak 04/05 Darrell Carr 04/05 Kolton Hauert
04/05 Madelyn McPherson 04/05 Lauren Quigley 04/16 Chris Smith
04/20 Beverly Anderson 04/20 Kevin Webb 04/28 Hannah Melvin
04/30 Justine Reents

Missionary for a Day ~ April 2019

04/05 Lori Quigley For Lauren Quigley's Birthday
04/08 Gary Gruhn
04/10 Susan Trimby In Memory of Vivian Trimby
04/14 Bruce & Dee Elsner In Honor of their 30th Wedding Anniversary
04/19 Red & Sharon Folkestad For Todd's Birthday
04/21 Women of the ELCA In Honor of Easter
04/22 Patricia Fox For Earth Day
04/29 Doris & Frank Dickey, Jr. In Honor of their Wedding Anniversary