

This Week at Grace

Sunday, April 8, 2007

Easter Sunday

INTRODUCTION

The Lord is risen indeed! The open tomb of Jesus is the door to a new way of being in the world. Easter is not one day but fifty. For a week of weeks—fifty days—the church will explore the dimensions of this new life and raise a joyful alleluia!

FIRST READING *Acts 10:34–43*

Peter's sermon, delivered at the home of Cornelius, a Roman army officer, is a summary of the essential message of Christianity: Everyone who believes in Jesus, whose life, death, and resurrection fulfilled the words of the prophets, receives forgiveness of sins through his name.

³⁴ Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ — he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

SECOND READING *1 Corinthians 15:19–26*

Paul describes the consequences of the resurrection, including the promise of new life in Christ in a world that has known only death since Adam, the destruction of the forces of evil, and the establishment of God's victorious rule over all.

¹⁹ If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. ²¹ For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; ²² for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. ²³ But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those

who belong to Christ. ²⁴ Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

GOSPEL *Luke 24:1-12*

The women who followed Jesus take the lead in proclaiming his resurrection.

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they went in, they did not find the body. ⁴ While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. ⁵ The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. ⁶ Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷ that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." ⁸ Then they remembered his words, ⁹ and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰ Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹ But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹² But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

TODAY: *Easter Sunday*

6:30a Sunrise Worship Service

7:00a Easter Breakfast (Serving 7:00-10:00a)

Menu includes pancakes, eggs, muffins, fruit,
sausage, and more!

Matching Funds by *Thrivent Financial*

8:00, 9:30, and 11:00a Festive Easter Worship Services with Holy
Communion

NO Sunday School / Education Hour

MONDAY: Church Offices Closed

7:00p MS Society Meeting

7:30p Cantori Rehearsal

TUESDAY: 9:30a Ladies Bible Study

11:00a Pastor's Text Study

2:30p 3D Meeting

6:30 or 7:00p Council Ministry Team Meetings

8:00p Church Council Meeting

WEDNESDAY: 9:00a Staff Meeting
2:00p Grace Seniors
5:00p Chew-n-Chat
5:30p Cherub / Chancel Choir Rehearsals
6:30p 7th-8th gr. Classes
6:30p 9th gr. Confirmation
6:30p Sr. High Bible Study
6:30p Bells of Praise
7:30p Adult Choir

THURSDAY: 6:00a Early Morning Bible Study
9:00a BERC Pastor's Meeting
6:30p GLCW Board Meeting
7:00p Thursday Evening Bible Study

FRIDAY: 1:30p ThorneCrest Bible Study
3:30p Youth Room for 4th-6th Graders

NEXT SUNDAY: *May Newsletter Deadline*
8:30a and 11:00a Worship Services
9:45a Sunday School / Education Hour
2:00p Girl Scout Meeting
2:15p Good Samaritan Sunday

MISSIONARY FOR A DAY: [Apr. 8: Sunday School] [Apr. 8: Given by Pastor Milton & Delores Ost.] [Apr. 8: Given by Babe & Lois Brandt.] [Apr. 9: Given by Pastor Walsh.] [Apr. 11: GLCW].

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS our members and friends known to have been hospitalized this past week: Owen Kvenvold (St. Mary's, Rochester), Joyce Schreiber, and Sarah Stay.

PLEASE REMEMBER those needing the continuing prayers of our congregation: Janice Anderson, Larry Bergo, Kathy Diaz, Mark & Carol Fisher (parents of Lynn Stadheim), Theresa Gamble, Jan Guse, Dan Hagen, Tara Hanson, Arvella Henderson (mother of Greg Henderson), April Hustoft, Marlys Jahnke, David Johnson (son of Norman & Irene Johnson), Norman Johnson, Ethel McGill, Vern Nasby, DeAnna Nelson, LeMoyne Oakland, Marian Odson, Lissa Parrish, Joyce Schreiber, Sally Skrlin, Mark Stevens, LaVon Stewart, James Vangen, Leland Wadding, Sally Witham (mother of Greg Witham), and Eleanor Wolfe.

IN YOUR PRAYERS, please also remember the family of Janelle Reule whose funeral was held this past week.

GREETERS THIS MORNING are Paul & Lorraine Nagel, and Larry & Sandy Petersen at 8:00; Carlyle & Dona Matheson, and Dale & Paula Buendorf at 9:30; and Shirley Gold, Todd & Kris Heavner, and Janell Johnson at 11:00.

ACOLYTES, CROSS AND BANNER BEARERS at our worship services are Amber Zemek, Andrea Crom, Paige Hanna, and Sam Matheson at 8:00; Jenna Bowman, Makenzie Johnson, Gracie Thomas, and Jeff Thorstad at 9:30; and Alex Lau, Nikko Grace, Lars Gjersvik, and Troy Seberson at 11:00.

LESSON READER at 8:00 is Erica Sorenson, and at 9:30 is Becky Tennis Hanson.

COMMUNION BREAD AND WINE is given today in memory of Lindsey (Loehr) Diemer by Craig, Becky, Jordan and Jillian Loehr.

ASSISTING WITH COMMUNION are Gary & Karen Ohlmann at 8:00; Ray & Joyce Langerud at 9:30; and Julie Groeneweg, and Truman Thronnd at 11:00.

OUR THANKS to all those who have given extra time and talent in preparing for our festival worship this morning, and to those providing special music: including the brass players, and Cherub, Chancel, and Adult Choirs. Thanks be to God!

A BLESSED EASTER TO YOU from the entire staff of Grace Lutheran. Thank you for holding us in your prayers during these extra busy weeks, and thank you also for your cards and kind expressions of love and caring. God grant you all joy in celebrating the great victory of Christ over death. The Lord's blessing as you continue to walk with Him in worship and life.

WELCOME TO ALL VISITORS TODAY! We rejoice to have you worship here, and invite you to return again. If you are living here and have no church home, please consider becoming part of the Grace Family.

A SPECIAL 'WELCOME HOME' to our college students, service members, those living elsewhere, and those returning from spending the winter months in the south. It's so good to have you here for worship again.

EASTER BREAKFAST is served downstairs this morning from 7:00-10:00a. Come and enjoy a full breakfast of pancakes (specially prepared by Dennis Brue), eggs, sausage, fruit, muffins, and more. Cost of the meal is \$5.00 (families of 4 or more, \$20.00). Matching funds will be provided by *Thrivent Financial for Lutherans* and proceeds will go toward this summer's youth mission trip.

EASTER LILIES, given to share with the congregation today, may be picked up after worship services. Thank you again so much for adding to the beauty of the services today with your gifts of love.

CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED tomorrow, for a bit of rest for the staff after the hectic pace of Lent and Easter.

GRACE SENIORS: Wednesday, Apr. 11th, 2:00p

Grace Seniors will meet that day in the Fireside Room to hear speaker Romoke Ogunkanbi who was born and raised in Nigeria, Africa. Her family and friends deserted her as she turned from their religion to Jesus Christ. You can see, this will be a most interesting program, so come out and bring a friend along – you will be glad you did! *If you need a ride to a Senior's activity, please call Lisa in the church office, or the Kleih's at 826-3176.*

CONFIRMATION CLASSES will resume on Wednesday, Apr. 11th, 6:30p, for grades 7, 8, and 9. There will also be Chew-n-Chat at 5:00p, with time for fellowship.

CHILDREN'S VISION INTERNATIONAL founder, Jeanene Thicke will be here for a presentation next Sunday, Apr. 15th. She will be here to greet our congregation at both services and will lead a presentation about the orphanage in Bogota in Fellowship Hall at 9:45a. The congregation is invited to attend.

GLCW GUEST NIGHT: Tuesday, Apr. 17th, 6:30p

Grace Lutheran Church Women will host a WELCA Guest Night on Tues., Apr. 17th, beginning at 6:30p. Mary Nelson, author of two books, *Grace for Each Hour* and *Grace for the Tough Times*, is a survivor of breast cancer and prays for other women who have the disease. She leads the Pray for the Cure cancer ministry at Hosanna!, a church of 5,000 in Lakeville. Plan to join us!

"CHURCH BASEMENT LADIES" TRIP: Tickets have been ordered for the Plymouth Playhouse presentation of *Church Basement Ladies* for Sunday, May 20th, at the 2:00p matinee performance. A sign up sheet is located on the GLCW table in the narthex today. We will also plan to enjoy a buffet lunch at the theatre (however, you are welcome to bring a bag lunch if you so desire). More details about bus departure time will be announced soon. Tickets are going fast! Sign up today.

APRIL IS KITCHEN CLEANING MONTH! The cleaning will begin next week. The sign up notebook is located on the GLCW table in the narthex. Choose a job to do with others and make it a great fellowship time. The coffee is always on!

LAST YEAR, SHINEFEST was a great success. This was a great time to network with other churches while working to make our community better. As the church's liasons to the Shinefest meetings, we selected to do a Chili Cookoff and Brookside School Project. We are looking for 6-8 volunteers to help with the cookoff to be creative to prepare the chili, set up, decorate, and come up with a creative way to sell our Brookside Project at the cookoff. Also, if there is a service project that you would like to do for our community or a give away, please let the liasons know so they can relay the information. Anyone interested in participating in the Chili Cookoff is encouraged to attend a meeting on Thurs., Apr. 12th, 7:00p, at the home of Melvin & Arlene Hobbiebrunken, 73742 240th St., Albert Lea. To indicate your interest, please call Melvin at 826-3703, or Mona at 377-3131.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF TRUCK will be here in May. We will be assembling kits in April to be included in the shipment. We are in dire need of the following items: cloth school bags (about 12" x 14"), colored construction paper, cloth diapers and pins, receiving blankets, nail files or clippers, toothpaste, and wide-toothed combs. Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

MONTHLY CIRCLE NOTES are available on the GLCW table in the narthex as well as our sign up sheets for monthly Caring and Sharing co-chairs for the year. Please help us out to get the remainder of the year filled in.

ANYONE WHO HAS "OLD" GLCW INFO (announcements, newspaper ads, etc.), please turn in to the church office and we will have our GLCW Ed/Historian Chair add them to our GLCW scrapbook.

SPRING IS HERE!! DO YOU WANT TO GO FOR A BIKE RIDE? Grace Lutheran Church is putting together a team to ride in the Freeborn County Cancer Society Bike-A-Thon to be held on May 5th. Time is short so sign up *now* on the poster in the Narthex. Questions?? Call Jeanette at 377-1871 or talk to Pastor Todd.

SENIOR BRUNCH AND BACCALAUREATE has been scheduled for Sunday, June 3rd.
(Please note the change of date and mention it to those involved.)

GIVING AT GRACE:

The Property and Finance Ministry appreciates your generous support. Your faithful stewardship is essential for us to continue to support our ministries at Grace.

| | Sunday, April 1st | <u>Year to Date</u> |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| General Fund Giving | \$ 12,714.00 | \$ 135,310.00 |
| Budgeted Need | \$ 10,096.00 | \$ 131,248.00 |
| Quarters for World Hunger | \$ 54.00 | \$ 625.50 |
| Stones, Rocks, Boulders Fund | \$ 282.00 | |

Attendance Last Sunday - 544; Last Year - 442