



April, 2023 Newsletter

Grace, mercy, and peace are yours in Christ the Crucified and Risen Lord!

Dear Family of God at Grace,

A blessed April to all of you! What an exciting month! We begin with **Palms to Passion Sunday** and then Holy Week, culminating in the glorious Resurrection of our Lord. Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, alleluia! May the journey at the beginning of April with Jesus, carry you through all the struggles and crosses you bear here in this life, the sorrow of Christ crucified and the joy that He who once was dead lives!

Lots of activities are happening at Grace this month. Not only is Sunday, April 2nd Palm/Passion Sunday, but we are having an Easter Egg Hunt for the kids right after the late service. Bring your baskets and fill them with eggs.

Thursday, April 6th is Maundy Thursday. "Maundy" from the Latin, man-datum, means "command," and Jesus gave His disciples a "new command" to love one another. As He washed their feet and then instituted the Supper, He commanded them to love each other in service to one another! **Friday, April 7th is Good Friday.** How can the death of someone be called good? Well, Jesus' death, while horrific, was for the whole world. ⁴⁹ But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, 'You know nothing at all. ⁵⁰ Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish.' ⁵¹ He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation..." (John 11:49-51 ESV). Jesus took our place, He became our substitute, and He died the death we deserve. The Friday on which Jesus died is good, for you!

Saturday, April 8th will be the Easter Vigil, Jesus' Sabbath day's rest in the tomb. As God rested from all His work of creation on the seventh day, so Jesus rests from all His salvific work on the cross. He rests in the tomb on that last Saturday Sabbath. And then just before sunrise on that first day of the new week, Sunday, He descends into Hell to proclaim victory over the soul held in bondage.

Resurrection Sunday, April 9th in the year of our Lord 2023, we remember that Jesus burst open the seal of the tomb. The stone was rolled back, not to let Jesus out, but so we could see in and see that He is risen!

These 4 days give you the blessed opportunity to be in God's house to hear and journey with Jesus from the upper room, to the garden, to the trial and cross, to the burial, and to the empty tomb. This journey is not just Jesus' journey alone, it is your journey as well. It is your journey with Jesus and in Jesus as one day you will pass from suffering crosses and death to the glory of an empty tomb and resurrected body to join the heavenly host for eternity, in the Lamb who was slain and now lives! These 4 days are the culmination of Christmas, this is why God took on flesh in the Babe born of Mary. This is the high fest of Easter! The finished work of Christ given to you in your baptism, received in the Lord's Supper is now joined with the eternal hope of the risen life with Christ. These are 4 days to get excited about!

On Saturday the 15th, from 1-3, in the Fellowship Hall, we will give thanks and celebrate the blessing of having the Kudart's with us these last 8 years! We will also have some cake and celebrate between the services on Sunday, the 23rd, which is their last Sunday with us. What a blessing they have been for and to us. We hope that we have blessed them as much as they have blessed us!

Have a blessed April! Christ is Risen!

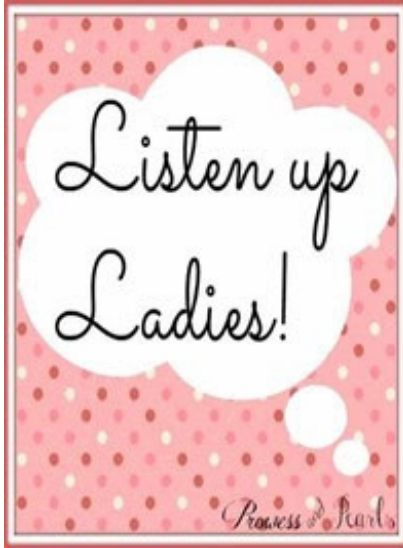
In His Service,
Pastor Lingsch



GIVE ONLINE!!

We now have **ONLINE GIVING** on our website: www.graceofnaples.com. The **GIVE** button can be accessed from your mobile device in the menu options found in the upper right corner of the page. You can also access the **GIVE** button from your laptop or desktop on the church home page. Just click on the button **GIVE** and follow the instructions.

Please keep the email that you receive from Vanco (Joyful Response) for your personal records. Contributions made through the website will not appear on your year-end contribution statement.



Men of Grace

Dear ladies, this message is partly for you. Over the 15 years that I have been here at Grace I have had multiple ladies say, “Pastor, make my husband a better Christian husband and father, and a better man.” Well not those words exactly but the sentiment of those words. Ladies, you want men in the church, in the family, in your life, that know that the Lord loves them, has forgiven them, and baptized them into the Lord Christ they now want to love and serve. Men need other men, as a band of brothers, a band of “Men of Grace,” who will build one another up, support one another, be there for one another in all of life’s joys and sorrows. That is what this **NEW MEN’S GROUP**, the “**Men of Grace**” is all

about.

To the men of Grace, we are meeting regularly, every other Wednesday, at 7:30 pm, for an hour, to study the Scriptures. We want to learn and grow as men of God’s grace so that we can be the husbands, fathers, brothers and friends in Christ that God would have us be.

We started off with the wingman event. Now we are turning our attention to study Scripture, through a book titled, “*How God Makes Men.*” Our next gathering is on Wednesday, April 12th at 7:30 pm, in the Fellowship Hall. If you want a book before the class, they have been ordered and we hope to have them for Holy Week services next week. Just ask for one and it’s yours.

Come, join in, and be a man of grace and a member of “Men of Grace!”

Mite Box Sunday is first Sunday of every Month!

A Mite Box is based on the Biblical account of the widow's mite (Luke 21:1-4), the Mite Box is intended for regular contributions of "mites" — offerings above and beyond the regular support. Mites can be you putting your pennies in the box at the end of each day, a "thank you" whenever calamity or misfortune has been averted, or simply each day empty your loose change from your kitchen coin bowl into the box to be shared with God's people on the first Sunday of each Month.



The Widow's Mite

Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth, but she, out of her poverty, put in everything — all she had to live on"

From the Director of Christian Education

Kami Jo Mogelvang

April 9 th : Easter Breakfast between worship services hosted by the Grace Youth Group

April 16 th : Youth Night, location TBD, 5-7pm

April 22 nd : Habitat for Humanity, 8am-12pm



We will be having a special packing event for Operation Christmas Child this July. We are asking everyone to be on the lookout for items to place in the boxes now.

There is a container in the Narthex for items. Some suggestions: pencils, crayons, markers, craft items, small dolls, small stuffed animals, water bottles, sunglasses, coloring books, wash towels, toothbrushes, balls, stickers, cards, games, books, barbies, soccer balls, small Lego sets, small puzzles, matchbox cars, plastic Disney figures, sticker books, be sure to go online for even more suggestions.



YOUTH NIGHT April 2

Easter-Themed
Youth Night at
Grace for all
middle and high
school youth
5-7pm.



EASTER EGG HUNT

PALM SUNDAY
APRIL 2

*immediately
following the
late worship service*

OPEN TO ALL AGES!

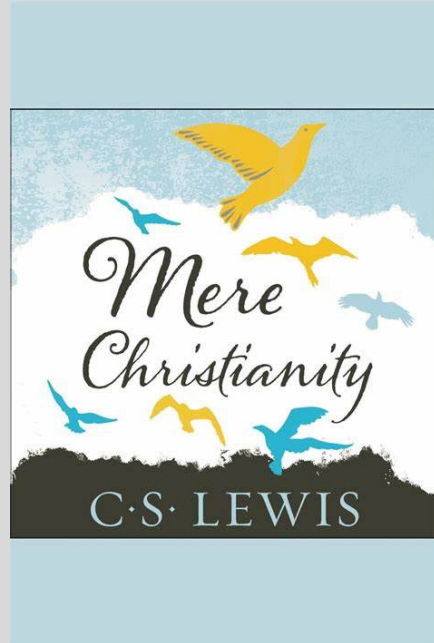
COME JOIN US!



**April 2
YOUTH NIGHT**

Easter Themed Youth Night at Grace for all middle and high school youth from 5-7pm.

**April 16
YOUTH NIGHT
Location TBD
5-7pm**



The High School youth class is continuing Sunday morning study on the book *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis. This class is held each Sunday in the Youth Room and we encourage youth and parents to attend. The discussion is based around the original interview Mr. C.S. Lewis had with the BBC and videos are sketched out during the discussion on what C.S. Lewis is talking about. This is a great way to spark conversations for the classroom and at home! If you have any questions, please contact DCE Kami Jo Mogelvang.



April 9th :
**Easter Breakfast between
worship services hosted by the
Grace Youth Group**



Altar Flower Donations

Would you like to remember your birthday or anniversary with a special offering to God? Would you like to remember someone special in your life who is with the Lord? Would you like to beautify the Sanctuary with a special offering of flowers?

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex for you to claim the date for your special occasion.



Join us for our upcoming build day with Habitat for Humanity.

Our next scheduled workday is

April 22nd

8am- 2pm

Here is Grace Lutheran's personal link:

<http://gracelutheran.habitatcollier.volunteerhub.com/>

OR

Contact DCE Kami Jo to sign up!

No experience necessary. This is a fun way to help those in need and serve with others from Grace.



Sponsor A Child

Seize the opportunity to help a child in Kenya receive an education and put them on the path

to a better life. For more details, contact

Dcs. Linda # 248-892-7405 or dcslinda1492@gmail.com



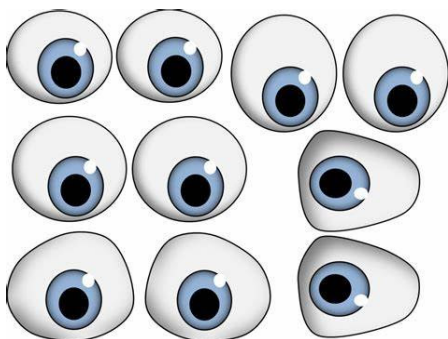
VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR ALL WORSHIP SERVICES!

There are multiple opportunities for you to volunteer for weekend services at Grace. We need Ushers, Lectors, Altar Guild Members, Greeters, Crucifers and Acolytes, Sound Board Operators and people to prepare for Coffee Hour.



Click the link below to access the signup website.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050F4AA9AA2CA0F49-april>



The Preschool Donation for the month of APRIL is Google Eyes.

Donations can be dropped off in the office or ordered from Amazon and shipped directly to the Preschool.

Mark These Dates on Your Calendar!

April 2 Palm Sunday
April 6 Maundy Thursday
April 7 Good Friday
April 8 Holy Saturday/Easter Vigil
April 9 Easter
April 15 Kudart Celebration
April 22 Habitat for Humanity

Weekly Events

Quilters'

Tuesday's, 10:00 am
Fellowship Hall

Women's Bible Study

Thursday's, 10:00 am
Contact Kami Jo

Pastor Kudart's Bible Study (Ending 4/12)

Wednesday's,
10:30 am
Fellowship Hall

Wednesday Dinner and Prayer Service

Dinner, 5:15 pm and
Prayer Service, 6:30 pm

Wingman 7:30 p

Grief Share

Thursdays, 1:00 pm

Bible Study

Thursday's, 6:30 pm

Choir Rehearsals

Choristers

Wednesday, 4:15 pm

High School Choir

Sunday, Noon

Adult Choir

Wednesday, 7:00 pm

Cool Mom Bible Study

Tuesday's, 9:00 am
Contact Kami Jo

Sunday Morning Coffee Hour

We are always looking for people to set up or clean up Sunday Morning Coffee Hour. Sign up at the table in the fellowship hall. If you want more information, please email Lori at lorilingsch@yahoo.com





- 1 Rae Anne Ouillette
- 3 Kristen Gettel
- 3 Rosemarie Lehninger
- 4 Erik Eisold
- 4 Eric Root
- 5 Jean Lindahl
- 6 Sue Hecht
- 7 Patty Sturos
- 9 Ted Sturos
- 10 Donald Hecht
- 11 Vivian Hill
- 12 Erika Mogelvang
- 12 Dylan Stephenson-Smith
- 14 Jean Freche
- 14 Rene Hazelett
- 16 Andrew Beights
- 16 Tim Meulenberg
- 18 Stan Young
- 19 Kim Gonder
- 19 Abby Ray
- 21 Erwin Bruesehoff
- 22 Cynthia Niccolai
- 25 Jerry Scholz
- 26 Chase Strackbein
- 28 Colsten McKimm
- 27 Sandy Kudart
- 28 Karen Scholz
- 29 Blaine Daugs
- 29 Flora Strackbein
- 9 Tonya Van Buren



- 8 Bill & Jeanne Allen
- 14 Mauro & Linda Nobili
- 22 Thomas & Mary Mathew
- 28 Niles & Carol Jehn



"Gift Planning Training"

Ministry leaders often appreciate unrestricted gifts to their organizations that allow leaders to apply the dollars to the current pressing needs when received. A danger of such unrestricted gifts is that they can become generic in our minds, and we don't imagine what the benefit will be someday, robbing God's intended response of joy from giving ("God loves a cheerful giver"). However, predicting future needs can be tricky.

Three sisters taught Sunday School for all their adult lives. They loved children and appreciated the chance to share Jesus with them. Their estate plans all included gifts to support the Sunday School. But today, that same congregation is planted in a community where only 1.5% of the people are below the age of 18. You can see how difficult it would be for the congregation to use substantial gifts for supporting Sunday School when there are no children.

Gifts can be earmarked for certain ministry projects. Yet it is always a good idea to include language that gives ministry ability to redirect dollars if the planned need no longer exists in the future. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help you think about the language that makes the most sense for your favorite ministry.

Contact Tony Hunt 260-222-1291 or tony.hunt@lfd.org.

Pelican LC Update

April, 2023

John 11:47-52

So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council and said, "What are we to do? For this man performs many signs." ⁴⁸ If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation." ⁴⁹ But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all. ⁵⁰ Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish." ⁵¹ He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, ⁵² and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad.

Dear Friends in Christ,

I pray that the Lord has delivered wonderful blessings to you through His word this Lenten season!!

I truly TREASURE this text above from John 11!! (It falls between the resurrection of Lazarus and the anointing of Jesus at Bethany, which leads us into Palm Sunday.)

This text reveals God's GREATER PLAN in, with, under, **and in spite of** "human plans". God gave Caiaphas the words for HIS meaning, and yet Caiaphas meant something more egocentric and selfish – as though HE, Caiaphas, were the caretaker of Israel!

Since Jesus rose from the dead on the third day, His ministry continued – without resulting in a Roman attack. Jesus' crucifixion WAS, in fact, God's plan to save the scattered people of God through the death of one man so that they would be made righteous – one nation, the "New Israel" through faith in Him – which is Jesus. (Romans 5:17-21; 2 Cor. 5:21).

This is one of those "golden nuggets", which is missed by those who are not reading the Scriptures on their own, and are not attending the special services of Lent and Holy Week.

Therefore, open your Bible today and take five to ten minutes to read John 11 & 12. Make a plan to attend services at your church on Sunday, Thursday and Friday – even Saturday – as it is offered at Grace during Holy Week. Send a text invitation or a voice message to a local friend to invite them to join you.

If the Easter Sunday Service were a treasure chest full of countless riches, Holy Week services would be akin to the exciting boat ride and swim of anticipation and hope on the way to the reaching and opening treasure chest. You really have to do the first in order to appreciate the other!

The Pelican Lutheran Church is hopping with many activities for Holy Week and into April!

Maunday Thursday (Jueves Santo), **Good Friday** (Viernes Santo), a free **Vision Clinic** with the Naples Lion's Club on Holy Saturday, and a big Celebración de la Resurrección on **Easter Sunday**!!

Also on Monday April 3, we begin to offer a series of free classes to learn **Latin Dance**! This will bless many, and we will briefly tell people about Jesus' love and transformational power before each class.

The Lord Jesus blessed us with a Baptism on March 18. He also involved me in the funeral of a 4-year-old Guatemalan boy, whose family is now connected with the Pelican LC!

First Communion Classes continue on Wednesdays from 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Classes with Vicar Rocheneel Jean Jaques continue Thursday from 10:15-11:30 a.m.

Deacon training continues on Thursday nights from 6:00-7:15 p.m.

I will be a speaker for the annual **Amigos en Cristo Ministries** fundraiser on April 13 at noon at Zion Lutheran Church, Ft. Myers.

We look forward to more news about the future of the property soon. In the meantime, *Bethlehem Haitian Lutheran Church (LC)* and its Pastor, Andre Mezilus, has had our support since January 2023. I meet with Pastor Andre about twice a month and stay in touch throughout the month with other pastors involved in the happenings at Immokalee (Pastors Selle, Zehnder, Glander, and Browning).

We will be placing a larger sign to help promote *Eglise SILOE LC* with Rev. Saint Luc Charelus by next week in front of the Pelican LC.

Deacon Ricardo Mendez faithfully leads an *English Night* WITH a Bible Study and light dinner every Monday at *Peace LC, Naples*. He is also helping with Sunday worship services and will play a larger role with other Pelican members there every third Sunday of the month.

Preparations continue for additional weddings and baptisms to come, as well as work to prepare a Mission Society to aid in the support and growth of the Pelican as well as many other new missions throughout SW Florida.

Keep us in your prayers, and remember to tell everyone you know about Jesus and His great mission to save the world through faith in Him as our crucified and Risen Savior!!

Your Brother in Christ,
Pastor Mark



The Ontiveros family after Ryan's baptism. Ryan, 7 years old, is our second baptism of 2023.



About half of the pastors at our March Circuit Conference at *Hope LC, Bonita Springs*.



Yanet and her step-brother at Grace's fish fry. Yanet is the dance instructor for Latin Dance Classes at the *Pelican* starting on April 3, 2023.



Members of *Pelican LC* enjoying the annual *St. Patrick's Day Fish Fry* at *Grace of Naples*.



Rev. Dr. Michael and
Jen-Yi "Irene" Paul
Serving the Lord in Taiwan

Rev. Dr. Michael and Jen-Yi "Irene" Paul serve the Lord as missionaries through The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in Taiwan. In this role, Michael serves as a theological educator for the China Evangelical Lutheran Church. He teaches in congregations and at China Lutheran Seminary, Hsinchu. He also writes and translates Lutheran Chinese resources and helps mentor new church workers.

Michael was born in Cotabato City, the Philippines, where his parents were LCMS missionaries. He received a bachelor's degree in linguistics, with a minor in Chinese, from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale. He received his Master of Divinity and a doctorate in doctrinal theology from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Michael served six years in Macau and one year in Taiwan as an LCMS missionary. He also served as an associate pastor at his home congregation, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Evansville, Ind., where he planted and led the Chinese Mission that began at this church in 2011. Michael enjoys music and running.

Jen-Yi "Irene" was born in Chiayi, Taiwan. Her home congregation is also St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Evansville, Ind. She received a bachelor's degree in elementary and special education from Concordia University, Nebraska, Seward. She earned a master's degree in special education from Wayne State University, Detroit. Jen-Yi "Irene" worked as a learning disabilities and special education teacher. She enjoys music and exercising.

Michael and Jen-Yi "Irene" have three adult children, Rachel, Jonathan, and Elizabeth, and one grandchild, Enoch.

Prayers

Pray for Michael and Jen-Yi "Irene" as they serve in Taiwan. Ask God to give them wisdom to use their time wisely with the many opportunities to teach God's Word and share His love with the people in Taiwan. Ask strength and wisdom to Jonathan and Elizabeth as they continue their college studies in the Milwaukee, Wisconsin area. Let's give God thanks that the Pauls serve His children in this part of the world.

