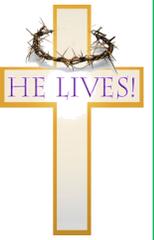


Grace Lutheran Church
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April 2021



Dear Saints of Grace,

As I was considering what to write this month, I went back and looked at some of my previous newsletter articles for the Easter season. One struck me in particular for its pertinence in our current circumstances. In it, I made that connection of how in Spring we see the flowers blooming and life returning to the grass and the plants and the like. I noted how this life from the dead of winter parallels our own resurrection in Christ as He was raised on that first Easter. How good is that for us to remember this year?

This past year has been so challenging in so many ways. And as we have experienced all that we have in the last year, in particular with the pandemic, it has felt like there has been a weight and a pall of darkness over so much of our world. With the increasingly widespread distribution of the vaccine, it also seems like we're seeing a bit of a light at the end of the tunnel. The timing of Easter with this is also pertinent.

As we see the relief that we feel with that, we can shift our eyes to the cross and empty tomb of Jesus. There we can see that the relief we might be experiencing with regard to worldly things has an even greater promise with regard to eternal things. What I mean is this. It is good that we are relieved at the thought of returning to a more normal routine for our lives. However, when we see Jesus' death and resurrection that shows us something even greater. It shows us that the cause of all of our trouble here, whether that be pandemics, or sufferings, or trials, or wrestling with our own sin, all of that has been crucified and buried with Christ. Now, there is His resurrection, which brings freedom from those things.

Or, another way to consider it would be to say that the things we experience all reflect a normal we've become accustomed to that isn't how God intended it in the beginning. He didn't intend for us to have to endure all of those experiences, to know all of that evil and darkness. But our sin brought it about. In the resurrection, then, we have the knowledge that there will be the dawn of a New Day when Jesus comes back and raises us from the dead. On that day, we will live without any of these sorrows. Even our very bodies which experience breakdowns and viruses and death itself, those will be made anew in the glory of this resurrection.

As we celebrate the resurrection and the promise it gives of that eternal Easter, I encourage you all to reflect on the joy that is ours in that. As we see the world returning back to normal, I encourage you to ponder the joy that will be ours in the greater normal that God will give to us in His eternal Kingdom, the normal without suffering, sin, and death. As we see the plants returning back to that greenness of life that we see in the summer, consider the life that is yours in Christ as He has raised you in His resurrection in your baptism.

In our time, there is no greater hope, and no greater comfort, and no greater joy. And as Christ has died and been raised again for that life and joy, we see the goodness of God and His great love for us.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Pastor Zickler



April Birthdays!!



Carolina St. Charles	4/01
Emily Tribuzio	4/07
Jennifer Claster	4/13
Linda McGuire	4/14
Mark Ulrich	4/15
Marilyn Clausen	4/17
Sarah Arata	4/22
Mark Rehn	4/25
Joseph Stetler	4/27
Gayle Steele	4/29
Alex McLendon	4/30



SCRIP



Orders taken on
Sunday, **April 11th** after the Service
Questions?

Please call Sara Fitzgerald
708-822-8094



**Please remember
to pick up your Easter
lilies after Easter
Sunday service**



Have you seen our kitchen updates? It's just the "first phase" but there are lots more updates to come. Stay tuned & be gentle when opening or closing cabinets. These changes have to last a long time!!!!



Keeping you in our thoughts and prayers

Lesley Arca

Garry Atkins, friend of the Blessman family

Peggy Barbieri, friend of Heidi and Myrna Garton

CJ Brown

Ann Cannon, friend of Doris Svec

Jennifer Cinelli, niece of John Huebner

Jerry Cohen, husband of Tracy Cohen

Isaac Defee, friend of the Claster family

Richard Dominguez, friend of Pat Schlueter

Blake Donegan, grandson of John & Lois Flood

John Donegan, friend of John & Lois Flood

Shirley Doyle, friend of Doris Svec

Tim Eggert

Richard Flatley, Vietnam Veteran - WS Post

John Flood

Phyllis Floyd

Christine Fry, daughter-in-law of Bill & Betty Tanzer

Laurie Georgas, friend of Judy Latman

Cassie Gray, cousin of Paul Sulak

Richard & Joanne Hass, parents of Glen Hass

Jack Hockman, friend of Linda McGuire

Doris Jacobson

Kooy Family, friends of Eleanor Kulaga

Mary Jane Kowal, family member of Peggy Keeler

Eleanor Kulaga & Family

Jack Lapice, cousin of Doris Svec

Steve Latman

Gail Loos, friend of Karen Hayes

Sonny Mansor, friend of Joey Keeler

Bruce Mazurkiewicz, cousin of Tyna Eggert

Rod McInerney, friend of Pat Schlueter

Debra Muir, daughter of Ron & Nancy Kolar

Lisa Mullarkey

Cathy Muszynski Cox, friend of the Blessman family

Dorothy Neugebauer, friend of Nancy & Ron Kolar

Joyce Oberst, sister of Sue Napolitano

Col. Carol Ann O'Donnell, Ret. VFW

Levi Olson, cousin of Paul Sulak

Leah Picek

Jürgen Pietzsch, cousin of Jennifer Claster

Kurt Seehofer, son of a friend of Pastor Zickler

Jamie Serrano, friend of Linda McGuire

Adam Skelton, grandson of a friend of Pastor Zickler

Kimmey Skelton, daughter of a friend of Pastor Zickler

Shirron Reid, daughter-in-law of Jim & Ruth Reid

Sharon Riordan

Judy & Kurt Steiner, family of Nancy & Ron Kolar

Don & Gayle Steele

Megan Torreson & unborn child, sister of Christopher Krohe

Noah (Picek) Tovar, great-granddaughter of the Floods

Jennifer Voelker, friend of Pat Schlueter

Zachary Vossoughi, g.grandson of friend of Dave Haffner

Mike Walters, friend of Donna Perkowski

Addison Wille

Nancy Wolff, sister of Tyna Eggert



Please remember our shut-ins in your prayers

Karla Bergenthal Eleanor Kulaga

Lorraine Moller Suzette Olszewski