

Grace Lutheran Church
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April 2024



Dear Saints of Grace,

You probably have seen that in a week we'll be experiencing a significant astronomical event: a total solar eclipse visible in our region. In Chicago the coverage of the moon visible in front of the sun won't be total, but will still be somewhere around 94%. This means that in Chicagoland observers will see 94% of the sun covered by the moon. With this being so close to Good Friday and Easter, though, I couldn't help but think about the darkness experienced from noon to three when Jesus was on the cross. It's often asked whether that darkness could be explained by an eclipse. I'll admit in writing this that I had to look it up. Then I felt a bit embarrassed because I should have known. It couldn't have been caused by an eclipse. Why not? Because the timing of the crucifixion fell within the festival of Passover. The timing of the Passover feast was related to a full moon. You see the Hebrew Calendar would begin its months at the New Moon (when the moon isn't visible, the opposite phase of the Full Moon). But Passover is always celebrated at the Full Moon of the first Hebrew month of Nisan. This is why our Easter celebration shifts in its timing from year to year. It's always the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Vernal Equinox (the day in the Spring when there is equal sunlight and darkness). So, because of the timing with the Full Moon in conjunction with Passover, you couldn't have an eclipse. Eclipses can only be caused by New Moons.

So, then what do we do with the darkness on the cross? We understand that this is a miracle by which our Heavenly Father testified to the darkness of Christ's death on the cross, that is to the darkness of death itself and the importance of Christ the God-Man suffering death in our place. To describe this, the gospels tell us that darkness was spread across "the land." Now, this word for land here could be just the local region, or it could be over the whole earth. Some early Christian writers claimed to have found evidence in historians at that time that were outside of the region of the Middle East who spoke of some kind of darkness. They said this was that darkness when Christ was on the cross. If this is actually the case, we're not certain. But that doesn't matter. We trust the testimony of the witnesses of Christ's crucifixion we have in Scripture. All the more, we trust in the joy of Easter which shows the victory of Christ's death over death, and the light of His life which overcomes the darkness of sin, death, and the devil.

So then, as we experience the darkness we'll be having April 8th, especially with this falling so close to Easter, let that remind you also of Christ's victory over darkness. As the moon recedes from the sun and light returns be reminded of how darkness has overcome the world in sin, but Christ has overcome sin, the world, death, and the devil himself! Rejoice in how that victory and light is promised to you in the waters of baptism and is fed to you in His Holy Supper. Thanks be to God!!

Soli Deo Gloria,

Pastor Zickler

Fundraising drive for church parking lot

At the most recent Voter’s Meeting, it was acknowledged that we need to resurface the parking lot. This will likely cost around \$50,000 possibly more. In view of this, a designation for gifts was established to begin funding this need, seeded by the \$15,000 remaining after replacing the roof (thanks be to God!).

Please consider giving to the parking lot!! Thank you!!



Issues, Etc.



Talk Radio for the Thinking Christian

www.issuesetc.org

April Birthdays!!

Carolina St. Charles	4/1
Liam Blessman	4/2
Christina Enright	4/7
Emily Tribuzio	4/7
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

April
SHOWERS
BRING
May
FLOWERS



SCRIP



Orders taken on
Sunday, **April 10th** after the Service
Questions?

Please call Sara Fitzgerald
708-822-8094



Mark your Calendar
Sunday, April 21st
5:00pm-7:00pm
ALL Youth Service Event
Beds Plus

Please
**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!**

**Carwash Fundraiser
Supporting
GRACE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY**

Here at Grace Lutheran Church!
Carwash times 8am – 11:30am
Saturday, April 27th
Rain date May 4th



Keeping you in our thoughts and prayers

Marilee Altenhofen, friend of Linda McGuire

Lesley Arca

Terese Barron, friend of Mark Rehn

Sandy Barry, friend of Pastor Zickler

Walt Bergenthal

Jim Beutjer, father of Denise Stetler

Linda Blanek-Novak, friend of Pat Schlueter

Bob Blessman

CJ Brown

Cheryl Brubaker, friend of Pat Schlueter

Nancy & Kent Cloninger

Jerry Cohen, husband of Tracy Cohen

Blake Donegan, grandson of Lois & John Flood

John Donegan, friend of Lois & John Flood

Sarah Figueroa, friend of the Claster Family

Richard Flatley, Vietnam Veteran - WS Post

John Flood

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

Ken Fuller

Jerry Gajda, brother-in-law of Linda McGuire

Cassie Gray, cousin of Paul Sulak

Emily Hall, friend of the Rehn family

Dave Hansen, friend of Linda McGuire

Bruce Harken, Commander of WS VFW Post

Joanne Hass, mother of Glen Hass

Doris Jacobson

Margaret Abel Johnson, wife of Carlye Abel

Dan Kaiser, friend of the Claster Family

Kelly Keeler and Unborn child

Kooy Family, friends of Eleanor Kulaga

Chris Lange, son of Cheryl Dore

Steve Latman

Eleanor Kulaga & Family

Allison, Rose, & Rachel, nieces of Chris & Bob Dame

Michael Martinez, step-nephew of Pastor Zickler

John Fred MacLean, friend of the Stetler Family

Bruce Mazurkiewicz, cousin of Tyna Eggert

Rod McInerney, friend of Pat Schlueter

Ellen Morgan, friend of the Stetler Family

Lisa Mullarkey

Cathy Muszynski Cox, friend of the Blessman Family

Benjamin Napolitano, g.grandson of Sue & Tony Napolitano

Frank Napolitano, brother of Tony Napolitano

Dorothy Neugebauer, friend of Nancy & Ron Kolar

Rachel Novak, friend of the Stetler Family

Joyce Oberst, sister of Sue Napolitano

Karen O'Donnell, friend of Linda McGuire

Levi Olson, cousin of Paul Sulak

Linda Parlin, sister of Carol Hassel

Jamie Pestien, niece of Chris & Bob Dame

Leah Picek

Jürgen Pietzsch, cousin of Jennifer Claster

Caitlin Place, granddaughter of Ron & Nancy Kolar

Regina Polistano, friend of Mark Rehn

Bill Raysa, friend of Paul Sulak

Kurt Seehofer, son of a friend of Pastor Zickler

Rose Sirois, grandmother of Jacob Corzine

Adam Skelton, grandson of a friend of Pastor Zickler

Kimmey Skelton, daughter of a friend of Pastor Zickler

Don & Gayle Steele

Judy & Kurt Steiner, family of Nancy & Ron Kolar

Vanessa Stetler, sister of Chris Stetler

Noah (Picek) Tovar, g.granddaughter of Lois & John Flood

Athey Ulrich

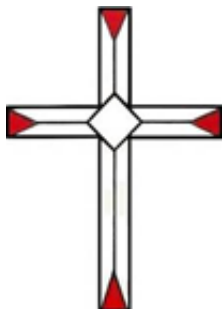
John Weiffenbach, cousin of Pat Schlueter

Jim & Pat Williams, friend of Doris Svec

Joe, Paula, and the Whiteaker Family, friends of the Schlies

Nancy Wolff, sister of Tyna Eggert

Carly and Owen Yocius



Please remember our shut-ins in your prayers
Eleanor Kulaga - Suzette Olszewski