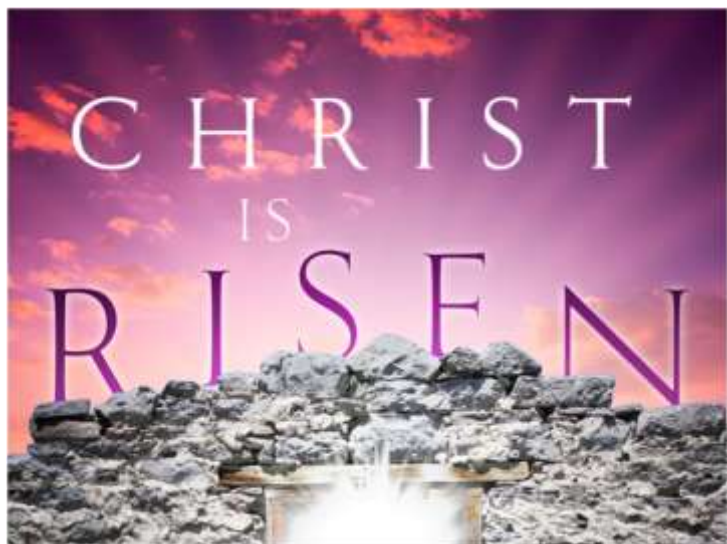


grace notes

The newsletter of Grace Lutheran Church



Grace's Covenant – Pursuit of God Lenten Journey ends on Easter, April 8th

Easter Celebrates Christ is Risen!

Our Lenten Journey of Covenant continues through the first week of April as we journey toward the dramatic moments of Holy Week – Jesus' last days before his death and resurrection. These last days of Lent are precious and help prepare us for the wonder and meaning of Easter. Each event provides a special insight and spiritual connection to the great sacrifice Jesus made for the salvation of the world. We invite you to continue the journey all the way to the Empty Tomb.

Whereas our focus in March was on hunger, in April we direct our thoughts upon our spiritual thirst for God, as well as the thirst for clean drinking water in our world today! As part of our Lent projects, we will collect a 4 week Noisy Offerings that will be used for a "water filtration system" for an elementary school in Rakai, Uganda.

HOLY WEEK CELEBRATION

Holy Week begins on Saturday, March 31st and Sunday, April 1st as we celebrate Palm Sunday. Palm branches will be distributed prior to worship which will add to the festive celebration of Jesus' triumphal entrance into Jerusalem. The Grace Music Ministries Team will present: *HERE IS OUR KING – A Musical Journey of the Passion of Lord* at all worship services this weekend.

Maundy Thursday, April 5th, will be celebrated in a unique and meaningful way this year. The service will be a special dramatic "living" presentation of the "Last Supper." The Grace Contemporary Worship Team will provide a beautiful, musical setting and live staging of one of the most important events of Holy Week...Jesus celebrating with his disciples in the Upper Room, for one last meal. The service will conclude with a dramatic moment in the Garden of Gethsemane.

On Good Friday, April 6th we will gather at 7:00 p.m. for the **"THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS"**. The service follows Jesus last journey of love...the journey to the cross through dramatic readings, beautiful artwork, and reflective music.

EASTER CELEBRATION

Grace will offer many opportunities to celebrate the Victory of the Empty Tomb on Easter weekend. We will begin our celebration at the Easter Vigil Service on Saturday, April 7th at 5:00 p.m. This service has a special "flavor" of celebrating both Good Friday and Easter morning with readings from the Old Testament, and include stories of rescue and salvation as a backdrop to celebrate new life through Jesus' resurrection. This service will continue the wonderful atmosphere and feel of our Lent Vespers Services. Easter morning will offer four celebration services on April 8th. Special music and inspiring worship will be offered at all of our services. Please come and share where hope comes to life at Jesus' empty tomb!

Our HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE is shown on the back page.

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Pastor Mark's Remarks:



When It's Impossible to Hear the Good News...

I haven't been able to stop thinking about the passage from our Daily Lent Journal concerning the inability of the people of God to believe the good news that God was going to free them from captivity. It was the reading for Tuesday, March 13 – Exodus 6:1-9. As I read it, I found myself hardly able to breath. It was these words that struck me as so sad:

Moses told this to the Israelites; but they would not listen to Moses, because of their *broken* spirit and their cruel slavery. (Ex. 6:9)

What a terrible tragedy! Here was Moses bringing the greatest news to these poor slaves! God was about to act in a mighty way. He was about to give them land in Canaan. He was going to deliver them from slavery AND he was going to "take them as his personal people." All this good news; yet, the people were unable to hear these promises. Discouraged, beaten down in spirit, and hopeless, they could not dare to believe the good news.

I found myself wondering if this has been a problem in my life, or in the lives of any of us who call Grace our spiritual home. Have there been times when I have been so discouraged, broken, and depressed that I haven't been able to comprehend the good things God desires to bring in my life? Have there been difficult seasons in the life of Grace when situations have sucked the hope and abundance God has showered upon us, away? Could I...could we suffer from the same problem as the Israelites did when they could not hear the good news Moses brought to them?

As I have journeyed this Lent, it seems that these feelings feel "right" and "normal" for people who are just about ready to experience the events of Holy

Week. For in a just a little while, we will retell the familiar stories of Jesus' last week of life. And as we do, we anticipate the disciples' raw emotions and terrible shock as they witnessed the betrayal, sufferings, and brutal execution of Jesus.

Even though we've heard it many times, we will see them devastated, broken, and so discouraged. And after seeing such terrible things, they will hardly be in any position to hear the good news of the empty tomb. For they were just like the Israelites – too broken and discouraged to even comprehend the angels' good news! Would we be any different?

I am so thankful God doesn't wait until we're able to hear the good news to act! I am so grateful he is constantly in our lives, bringing healing, forgiveness, salvation, and new life, regardless of whether we're in the right frame of mind to see it, hear it, and/or experience it! That's the good news of the Empty Tomb! God did not wait until the broken disciples were ready to accept that Jesus had risen from the dead! And God doesn't wait until we're ready, to bring new life to us! He just does it!

Isn't this good news as we wait to gather on Easter morning? No matter what the situation or circumstance in our lives, God is bringing hope, rescue, freedom, and new life. How reassuring that it took a while for the Israelites to grasp their hope. How comforting it is to know that it took the disciples a while to comprehend the miracle of Jesus' resurrection. And perhaps, it will take us a while to see what God is doing in our own lives. But perhaps not; for you see, we've already been to the Empty Tomb and we know what God is about! He's bringing new life and hope and salvation to you, me, and to his world!

Happy Easter!

Pastor Mark

Stewardship :



Pastor Karri Anderson,
Interim Associate Pastor

We are living in a new world. It is an unnerving time. Many of the norms and certainties of our childhood no longer make sense to us, and these changes are coming at such a fast pace it can feel as if our lives are in constant chaos. Many historians believe that we haven't seen change of this magnitude since Martin Luther and the Reformation.

None of our forbearers had access to knowledge and opportunity in the way that we do today, and none of our forbearers were faced with the ominous truth that some of the simplest choices we make today will have a major impact for generations to come. These endless choices that we face on a daily basis can paralyze us. Too often we are left feeling exhausted and hopeless about any difference we might make.

This new world requires a redefining of who we are and what we are called to be, in this time and place in history. It demands a redefining of our relationship with God, with each other, to the global community and to the earth itself. Though it can feel overwhelming and frightening, it is also an undeniably exciting and promising time in human history.

The week after Easter, we will begin to explore what it means for us to be God's stewards in this new world.

Over the course of four weeks we will be asking the question "What difference does it make?"

- What difference does it make that we call ourselves Christian in this new world?
- What difference does it make that God is relying on us to bring a word of hope and love for all people?
- What difference does it make when we understand that we do not own our time, our unique talents, or any of our money and possessions, but that they belong to God who has entrusted us with their use for the sake of the world?

Together we will celebrate all the amazing ways the people of Grace are already making a difference, and take time to consider the joy and possibilities still waiting for us! I hope you will make it a priority to join in "the question" as we seek to live as God's people in this new world!

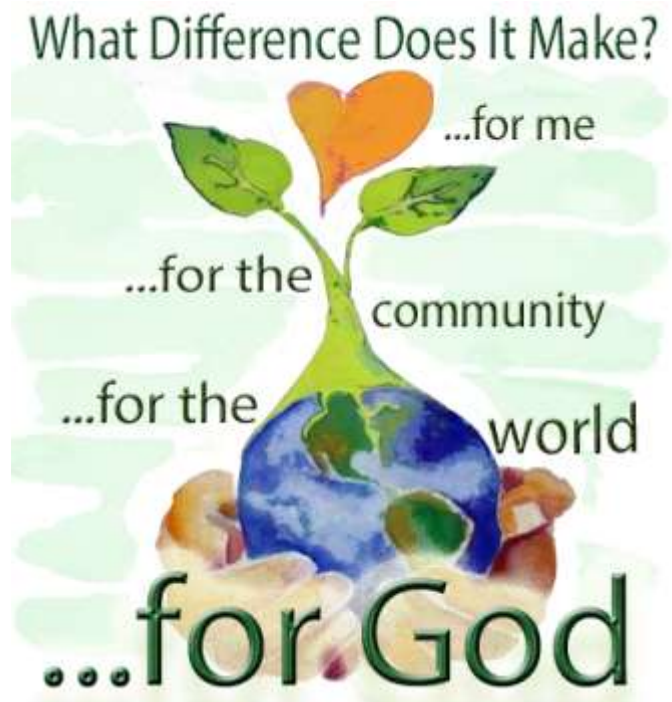
In Christ's Joy,

Pastor Karri

What Difference Does It Make?

- April 14th & 15th ...for me?
- April 21st & 22nd...for the community?
- April 28th & 29th...for the world?
- May 5th & 6th...for God?

"You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God." 2 Corinthians 9:11-12





A Note from the Church Administrator

It's hard to believe that we are nearing the end of the first quarter of 2012! Our annual school spring break is over, the kids are back in school, and we have enjoyed the early arrival of Spring! The Property Team, custodians, and many others have been busy preparing our facility for the Holy Week events. As we take time to reflect upon this first quarter of ministry at Grace, we give thanks to God for the ways in which we are allowed to be a part of His ministry in the heart of Andover.

During the first quarter, we have also been reviewing our contracts with several vendors. Through this effort we have been able to reduce our administrative costs by almost \$3,000 for the remainder of the year.

As a staff, we have worked to be fiscally responsible with the gifts we have received. Here are a couple of highlights that we have obtained related to the 2012 forecasted Missional budget:

- We have increased our Benevolence by 0.5%.
- We have continued to make payments towards the remaining \$6,000 owed to the Capital Fund.
- We have continued to make minor improvements to the computer environment.

While we made great strides in 2011 towards our Capital giving, we have struggled in our ability to build contributions to fully fund the monthly mortgage of \$10,066. In January and February, we averaged a \$2,300 short fall each month. We are still current in our mortgage payments, but this has resulted in a reduction of the Capital Fund balance.

Following our Easter Celebration in April, we will begin our Stewardship Sermon Series in order to bolster the spiritual growth that was initiated through the "Keep It Simple" Campaign in 2011. We look forward to sharing with you what a difference stewardship can make to each person, the community, the world, and God. Thank you for all you do to keep the ministry of Grace moving forward in the heart of Andover.

In Him,

Ralph



Holy Week Services at Grace!

We hope you will join us on this incredible journey!



Maundy Thursday - April 5th, 7:00pm
"The Living Supper"

Good Friday - April 6th, 7:00pm - Worship
"The Stations of the Cross"

Easter Saturday - April 7th, 5:00pm - Worship
"God's Story of Salvation"

Easter Sunday - April 8th Worship Services
6:30am- Sunrise Service
8:00, 9:30, 11:00 am
Nursery available at 8, 9:30 & 11
ASL interpretation at 11:00



*For God so loved
the world that he
gave his one and
only Son....*

JOHN 3:16, NIV

Upcoming Events:



Family Promise is coming to Grace!

Grace will host Family Promise the week of May 13-20, 2012. Our church family will provide warm hospitality and safe shelter for families that have found themselves without a home or place to stay. And we will provide training for all volunteers who would like to be involved in this ministry.

What Is It? Family Promise of Anoka County (FPAC) is a network of 15 congregations who provide temporary housing to families without homes. Guests are housed at each host congregation for one week on a rotating basis, moving to a new location in the network each week until they are able to become self-sufficient. Grace will provide lodging, meals and caring hospitality 4-5 weeks each year.

How Does It Work? The FPAC van transports guests to Grace each evening for dinner and an overnight stay at the church. After breakfast, families are returned to the Day Center on Coon Rapids Blvd. From there the children can go to school, and parents can go to work, or use the resources at the center to seek employment, shower, and do laundry.

How Can I Help? Everyone can participate: children, teens, adults and seniors.

- Prepare an evening meal for 16 people
- Serve the meal and clean up the kitchen (5 - 7:30 pm)
- Provide overnight security at the church (8:30 pm – 7 am)
- Be an Evening Host - chat with guests, play games, help with homework, etc. (5 – 9 pm)
- Set up rooms for our guests, then take down beds the following Sunday.
- Donate food supplies - such as milk, juice, bread, lunchmeat, fruit and snacks.
- Transport guests in the FPAC van (either at 7 am or 5 pm)

To volunteer, please sign-up on the blue opportunity pages in worship or contact Jeannie Hellmann at 421-6520, or email jeannieh@graceandover.org. For more information about this ministry, go to www.anokacountyfamilypromise.org.

Future Dates: Grace will host Family Promise during the weeks of September 2- 9, & December 9 – 16, 2012.

Together we can make a difference in the lives of God's people!

Calling all Ladies: Join us for . . . “The Great Escape”

All ladies are invited to:

“The Great Escape,” a special fellowship event for women, to be held at Grace on Friday, April 21st from 6:30-9 pm.

Escape from ... **your daily grind, TV reruns or even dish duty** that night!

Escape to ... **the joy of laughing, relaxing and connecting** with other ladies!

Escape with ... **your sister, neighbor or co-worker.** ... yes, bring a friend with you!

And you guessed it, there will be a tasty treat or two waiting for you that night!

Advanced \$5 tickets will be available at the Welcome Center on weekends or in the church office during the week. **Don't miss out on the fun and fellowship at “The Great Escape.”** For more information, please contact Jeannie Hellmann, at jeannieh@graceandover.org or call the church office at 763-421-6520.



Outreach Ministry Highlights:



Vacation Bible
School
June 11th—15th
9:30– Noon
Ages 3 years—
5th Grade

Our theme this year is “Adventures on Promise Island”, where God’s promises never change!

Each day at Promise Island, kids will participate in the excitement of Seaside Celebration, experience Bible stories about God’s promises at Lifeguard Lagoon, create service or craft projects at Project Pointe, enjoy snacks and learn more about God’s promises at the Coconut Café, and play great games at Fun Time Falls! And, through it all, they’ll discover God’s promises and His lifesaving love!

Amid the swaying palm trees, exotic wildlife, and welcoming sunshine, new friends at Promise Island—Kamalei, Hunter, and Madi—will help kids experience the powerful, unchanging promises of God. They’ll see Him at work in the lives of Old and New Testament Bible people and realize that God’s promises are for us too! Kids will discover that God promises to be with us, to care about us, to give us what we need, to save us, and to answer us!

So put on some sunscreen and head to the Islands with us where we will learn that God’s promises never change...but your life definitely will!

Registration forms are available at the Welcome Center in the Narthex, or you may register online at www.graceandover.org.

If you have any questions, please contact: Kim DeVries Director of VBS at 763-421-6520 Ext. 112 or email kimd@graceandover.org



Volunteer at Feed My Starving Children!



At the Feed My Starving Children warehouse in Coon Rapids, children & adults hand-pack meals specifically formulated for malnourished children, then the meals are shipped to nearly 70 countries around the world.

PLEASE join other Grace volunteers on
Saturday, April 14th from 2:00– 4:00pm

Sign-up procedure:

Please register on-line for faster check-in at Feed My Starving Children.

- Go to website for Feed My Starving Children – www.fmssc.org
- Click “Register to volunteer”
- Click “Permanent site” to register on line (Coon Rapids)
- Click “Join an existing group or family”
- Under group name, type in “Grace Lutheran”
- Choose the shift that you’d like to volunteer, then click “join”
- Click “confirm”
- Then you will be prompted to set up an account the first time you register, after that it will be easy for you to re-serve or change your volunteer spots on line.

*** If you do not have access to a computer, please call the church office to register or sign up on the blue opportunity pages in worship.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Jeannie Hellmann at Grace 421-6520, ext.116 or email Jeannie at jeannieh@graceandover.org

Volunteer TODAY and change
the life of a child
FOREVER!

APRIL 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:00 AM Blended Worship & SONday School 10:20 AM Contemporary Worship & SONday School 1:00 PM Maundy Thursday Drama Rehearsal 2:00 PM Youth Band Practice 3:00 PM Sr. High Youth 5:00 PM Sunday Evenings @ Grace	2 6:30 PM Pastoral Care Meeting 7:00 PM Women's Small Group	3 Holy Week 6:00 PM Maundy Thursday Drama Rehearsal	4 Holy Week 9:00 AM Quilters 9:30 AM WOW 10:00 AM Leadership Team Meeting 1:00 PM Ruth Circle 6:45 PM Adult Choir	5 Holy Week 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service	6 Holy Week 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study 7:00 PM Good Friday Service	7 Holy Week 7:30 AM Men's Ministries 10:00 AM Easter Egg Hunt 3:00 PM Worship Team Practice 5:00 PM Easter Vigil
8 Easter Sunday 6:30 AM Sunrise Service 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:30 AM Traditional Worship 11:00 AM Contemporary Worship	9 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED! 7:00 PM Women's Small Group	10 6:30 PM Vision Board	11 9:00 AM Quilters 9:30 AM WOW 10:00 AM Leadership Team Meeting 1:00 PM All Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Catechism 6:30 PM Rockin' Kids Bible Club 6:45 PM Adult Choir	12 6:30 PM Yoga Devotions 7:00 PM Small Group Leaders Meeting 7:00 PM Worship Team Practice	13 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study	14 First Communion Saturday 7:30 AM Men's Ministries 9:00 AM First Communion Class 9:00 AM Youth Car Wash 2:00 PM Feed My Starving Children 5:00 PM Worship & SONday School
15 First Communion Sunday 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:00 AM Blended Worship & SONday School 10:20 AM Contemporary Worship & SONday School 2:00 PM Youth Band Practice 3:00 PM Sr. High Youth 5:00 PM Sunday Evenings @ Grace 5:30 PM Family Table	16 7:00 PM Women's Small Group	17	18 9:00 AM Quilters 9:30 AM WOW 10:00 AM Leadership Team Meeting 6:30 PM Catechism 6:30 PM Rockin' Kids Bible Club 6:45 PM Adult Choir	19 6:30 PM Yoga Devotions 7:00 PM Worship Team Practice	20 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study 6:00 PM Frarck / Dietz Rehearsal	21 7:30 AM Men's Ministries 2:00 PM Frarck/Dietz Wedding 5:00 PM Worship & SONday School
22 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:00 AM Blended Worship & SONday School 10:20 AM Contemporary Worship & SONday School 2:00 PM Youth Band Practice 3:00 PM Sr. High Youth 5:00 PM Sunday Evenings @ Grace	23 7:00 PM Women's Small Group	24	25 9:00 AM Quilters 9:30 AM WOW 10:00 AM Leadership Team Meeting 6:30 PM Catechism 6:30 PM Rockin' Kids Bible Club 6:45 PM Adult Choir	26 6:30 PM Yoga Devotions 7:00 PM Worship Team Practice	27 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study 6:30 PM Great Escape	28 7:30 AM Men's Ministries 10:00 AM Own Your Faith Retreat 5:00 PM Worship & SONday School
29 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:00 AM Blended Worship & SONday School 9:30 AM Children's Ministry Volunteer Reception 10:20 AM Contemporary Worship & SONday School 2:00 PM Youth Band Practice 3:00 PM Sr. High Youth 5:00 PM Sunday Evenings @ Grace	30 7:00 PM Women's Small Group	1	2 9:00 AM Quilters 9:30 AM WOW 10:00 AM Leadership Team Meeting 1:00 PM All Staff Meeting 1:00 PM Ruth Circle 6:30 PM Catechism 6:30 PM Rockin' Kids Bible Club 6:45 PM Adult Choir	3 6:30 PM Yoga Devotions 7:00 PM Worship Team Practice	4 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study 6:00 PM Johnson/White Rehearsal	5 7:30 AM Men's Ministries 9:00 AM Baptism Class 2:30 PM Johnson/White Wedding 5:00 PM Worship & SONday School



Youth Happenings:

Summer Youth Mission Teams News



This summer we have two teams of youth that are going out into the world to serve. In June, we have a team of middle and high school girls who will be serving with YouthWorks in Milwaukee. In July, we have a group of our high school girls who will be representing our church at the 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Please check out the upcoming opportunities that are available for you to support and encourage our youth as they grow in their faith and serve this summer.



Green Valley Greenhouse

Our teams will be taking orders and selling gift cards for REAL flowers from Green Valley Greenhouse like we did last spring. Flower orders will only be accepted through April 10th and the orders will be delivered during the week before Mother's Day. The \$25 gift cards will be available through April 29th and can be redeemed at the greenhouse beginning May 1st.



Grace Parking Lot Carwash - April 14th

Bring your grimy vehicles to the Grace parking lot on Saturday, April 14 and we will help to get rid of the pollen and dust that your car attracts! We will be washing from 9am until 2pm, weather permitting.



Grace Garage Sale

As you do your spring cleaning, don't forget to put aside some items for the Grace Garage Sale that will be June 21-23. This year's sale will benefit our Milwaukee and New Orleans Mission Teams and the children and youth who are going to Luther Dell Bible Camp in July.

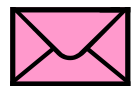
Beginning Monday, May 21st, we will be accepting clothing and household items at the church and we will store them in Portable #1. Items can be dropped off during normal weekday business hours and we will post specific weekend drop off times in the bulletins. *Please make sure all items are clean and in good condition.*

We would appreciate NOT receiving any of the following items as they are hard to sell and are expensive to dispose of:

No computers, monitors, printers, TV's, appliances, electronics, mattresses, or exercise equipment. All furniture donations must be in good condition and must be "approved for sale" before you leave it at the church. You may contact Tom Baker at tomb@graceandover.org concerning questions on items and for pick up of bulky items after June 1st.



Nails for Jesus and Four P's Support Opportunities



Coming in May, our Milwaukee students will again be offering nails for \$5 to support their trip. Along with the nails, our New Orleans students will be offering their Pink Provision & Prayer Program so that our congregation can partner with them as they work to raise money to serve in Louisiana this summer. Both teams will also be sending out sponsorship letters to help raise support for their mission. If you would like to sponsor a specific student, please contact Tom Baker at tomb@graceandover.org or call 763-421-6520.

The Vision Board:



Hello!

As I write this article, it feels like Spring is here! 73 degrees in March, who would **have thought?** **I don't know if you have** noticed recently but our church seems to be so active! I have been so pleased to see the number of people attending Lenten services and this installment of Sunday Evenings at Grace. We are truly blessed to have staff that provide us with such amazing programs, education, worship experiences and friendship. I encourage you to take some time to say THANK YOU! Lori Ackerson

Haiti Mission Trip Update



You may have heard that we have 17 people who are planning to head to Haiti in July of this year. We are traveling with World Wide Village. Recently our group met with Randy and Pat Mortenson, the president and administrative director of the organization. They helped give us a flavor of the experience, skills needed and project ideas that we could accomplish in our time there.

As a group we settled on two projects we hope to complete during our visit. The first is to build a playground for a school in the town of Luly. World Wide Village has already built the Christian school in Luly and it currently serves 340 children. Right now, these children **don't have any playground equipment at all, and simply** play in the dirt outside of the school. Our other goal is to help build a community garden in the neighboring community of Williamson. World Wide Village has already built a community garden for 30 families in Luly and it has been a great success. Those gardens provide fresh fruit and vegetables for the families in that community, as well as an income for them as they sell the excess produce. The success of that project has attracted the attention of families in Williamson, and they have been asking for the same type of project in **their community.** **We won't be able to provide enough** gardens for another 30 families, but we are hoping to be able to raise enough funds so that we can provide gardens for 10 families.

As a team, we are extremely excited about this trip. We will spend at least one day distributing "Feed My Starving Children" food, and the remainder of our time working on projects. We are excited about the possibility of providing a playground for the children and gardens for the families.

As a team, we are extremely excited about this trip. We will spend at least one day distributing "Feed My Starving Children" food, and the remainder of our time working on projects. We are excited about the possibility of providing a playground for the children and gardens for the families.

If we could achieve all of these things during our short time there, we would consider our trip to be a great success and **feel as though we acted as the "hands and feet of Christ".**

In order to accomplish all of these projects we need to raise funds. The total cost of the two projects is \$16,000. To date we have already raised about \$5,000. So now, we are trying to raise the remaining funds so that we can accomplish everything we are trying to do.

We are also raising funds for Creole Bibles. It was especially shocking to learn that Bibles were not only in great need for the Haitian people, but that even Pastors rarely have their own Bible! Creole Bibles can be purchased in Haiti for \$10. If you would specifically like to donate a Bible, we would be happy to write your name, or a dedication to a loved one in the front of the Bible after we purchase them.

If you would like more information on World Wide Village I would encourage you visit their website at www.worldwidevillage.org.

Our team is asking that everyone pray for us and our trip. We will need all of the strength, encouragement, and prayers that we can get. If you would like to participate in our trip by sponsoring our work, that would be great. You can also donate to our project via their website! Click on Donate and place our team name in the box in the Mission Teams section. Our team number is VT-1223, or just type Grace Lutheran- Andover.

Blessings & thanks for your prayers & support,

The Grace Lutheran Haiti Trip Participants



MOBILE ONLINE GIVING IS AVAILABLE!

Grace Lutheran Church now offers a mobile version of our online giving page to make it easy for you to give at any-time from your smart phone.

Simply scan the image you see here using your phone's Quick Response (QR) code reader! If you have any questions, please contact Bonnie Trembath in the church office or email bonniet@graceandover.org.



Children Ministry:



First Communion Class
Saturday, April 14,
from 9:00am - Noon

Pastor Mark and Monica Allen teach students in 3rd grade and up about the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Children are then invited to receive their First Communion during worship on April 14 at the 5:00 service, or April 15 at the 9 or 10:20 service. Bring a Bible, a parent, and a smile! Call the church office to RSVP at 763-421-6520.

SONday School- Palm Sunday Weekend
Saturday, March 31 & Sunday, April 1

The SONday School Children begin their morning in the Fellowship Hall, instead of their classrooms. We will be passing out palms and lining up to process into worship during the hymn. We will stay for a choir anthem and the Children's Message, then go to our classes after that.



Easter Egg Hunt!
Please join us on Saturday,
April 7th, 10:00am-12:00pm

All children age 2 through Grade 5 are welcome! Our morning will include an Easter Egg Hunt, pictures with the Easter Bunny, Bible Story Time, Easter Movie, Games, and more.... All children must be accompanied by an adult for the entire morning.

Rockin' Kids Bible Club

Please join us as we learn about the Early Church in April. We are busy learning the Books of the Old Testament! Congratulations to Beth DeFoe and Isabelle Hoopman for going from Genesis to Malachi!



Important Dates:

Wed. April 4—**No Rockin' Kids Bible Club**
Wed. April 18 – Malt Night
Sun. April 22 – Kids Bible Club will sing in church.
Wed. May 2 - **Rockin' Kids Bible Club Musical**
Revue! Our program will begin at 7pm.
Wed. May 2—Last RKBC until the Fall!



Children's Summer

Musical Adventure Camp



Kids and Youth who are entering Grade 2-9 in the fall, are invited to be a part of Are We There Yet? The Story of Moses and the Exodus. This exciting musical tells the story of God's people, the Israelites as they endure slavery in Egypt, experience the 10 plagues, see God part the Red Sea, and learn to live with freedom in the Wilderness.

Musical Adventure Camp will be Monday, July 30-Sunday, August 5. Our week-long camp includes:

- Music and Drama
- Creating Sets and props
- Snacks
- Field Trip to a local theater production.
- Rehearsals, Monday-Friday
9:00am -12:30pm each day.
- Dress Rehearsal on Saturday Morning
- Sharing our musical with the congregation
at the 5 pm Worship service on Saturday,
and 8:30 and 10 am Sunday Worship Services.

Volunteers are needed to make this a great Children's Ministry! Please contact Monica Allen at monicaa@graceandover.org if you would like to learn more!

May Baptism Workshop

Baptism is an important step in the life of a family. A Baptism Workshop will be offered for parents who would like to have their child baptized here at Grace, on Saturday, May 5 at 9:00am.

During the workshop, you will have an opportunity to explore what Baptism means for you and your child, as your family takes this step in your faith journey. We will share with you, insights on raising a child who knows and loves God. The next Baptism Workshop after May will be July 14 at 9 a.m.

Please contact Monica Allen at monicaa@graceandover.org or call the church office at 763-421-6520 to sign up for the workshop.



Volunteer Opportunities:



VBS Opportunities!

There are many opportunities this year to use your gifts and talents at Vacation Bible School!

You'll want to grab a role soon because we are anticipating a

huge crowd of excited kids who will be depending on YOU! Sign up on the opportunity sheets or contact Kim DeVries at 421-6520#112 or email her at kimd@graceandover.org.

So please join us at "Adventures on Promise Island" where we will learn that God's promises never change...but your life definitely will!

VBS Training Dates are:

May 30th and May 31st from 6:30pm-8:00pm
(you only need to attend one)

Children's Ministry

Volunteer Reception

Sunday, April 29, 9:30-10:30 in the

Fellowship Hall

Each week at Grace, amazing teams of Children's Ministry Volunteers share their time, faith, love, and smiles with our children. They meet new families, clean up sticky messes, and create wonderful adventures for Vacation Bible School, SONday School, Rockin' Kids Bible Club, the Nursery and Faith Explorers. We so appreciate their loving dedication to our Grace Kids.

To honor our amazing volunteers, we will be hosting a morning reception in the Fellowship Hall for all adult and youth volunteers and their families. We need your help! If you would like to donate your time, and/or muffins, coffee cake, or juice, please sign up on the Blue Opportunity Sheets in the worship bulletins.



You are faithful in what you are doing for the brothers and sisters, even though they are strangers to you."

3 John 1:5

Thank You Grace:

Dear Grace Congregation:

Thank you all for your love and support and grace as I left my position at Grace. And thank you for the money you gave to me. It is in my I-Pad fund. God has blessed me in my new job, but I miss all of you. The last two Wednesday nights I went to ELCA churches that had mid-week Lenten Services. Neither of which even come close to what's done at Grace!

Thank you again & God's Blessings!

Chris DeGraff

Worship Servants @ Grace

If you are a Graceful Servant who serves during our worship services each week, your Monthly Servant Schedule for April, has been sent to the e-mail address we have on file, here at Grace.



This document will be sent at the end of each month for the upcoming month, and will be arranged by service times. If you are unable to open the attachment, via email, hard copies are available for you to pick up at the Welcome Center in the narthex.

Please contact Tyree McDowell at tyreem@graceandover.org with any changes or updates.

Thank you for truly being the hands and feet of Jesus at Grace, and serving our congregation each week. You are a blessing to us all.



The "Mowing Team" at Grace

If you enjoy working in the yard, our Mowing Team NEEDS YOU!

We work on a rotating schedule throughout the spring and summer months and use riding mowers and other yard tools that are provided by the church. Grab a friend, enjoy the beautiful outdoors, and sign up on the blue sheets in the worship bulletins, to help mow the lawns at Grace!

Grace Lutheran Church

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*A Ministry of Grace
in the Heart of Andover!*
www.graceandover.org

Holy Week Services at Grace!

Mark your calendars and join us on this amazing journey...

Maundy Thursday—Thursday, April 5th—7:00pm Worship - **“The Living Last Supper”**

Good Friday—Friday, April 6th—7:00pm Worship - **“Stations of the Cross”**

Easter Vigil—Saturday, April 7th—5:00pm Worship

Easter Sunday—Sunday, April 8th

6:30am—Sunrise Service

8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am Worship

Nursery provided during the 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00am services.

ASL Interpretation provided at the 11:00am worship service.



Holy Week