

grace notes

The newsletter of Grace Lutheran Church



Getting to the Heart of Lent

Lent...it's something we always do at church. It is forty days of preparing for our celebration of Easter. It's a time of spiritual growth and challenge...a time of the year when we talk about Jesus' suffering and death. Finally, Lent gets to the heart of our faith by reminding us of our God who gives everything, including his own Son, in order to rescue and redeem his world.

There are four basic elements to our celebration of Lent at Grace. Each one is designed to help us experience the wonder of the lengths that God will go to in order to pursue us with his love.

Weekend Worship Services

This year our Lent theme is COVENANT: The Pursuit of God.

Each of our weekend worship services will focus on an Old Testament story about God reaching out to make a promise of healing, restoration, love and forgiveness to his people. We will hear a story of some familiar Biblical people: Noah, Abraham, Moses, and Jeremiah – normal everyday people who God pursues with his promise of love, forgiveness, and hope. These stories will serve as the prism to focus our hearts upon the suffering, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Mar. 3/4	THE EVERLASTING COVENANT	The Story of Abraham
Mar. 10/11	GOD'S COVENANT THROUGH MOSES	The Gift of the Ten Commandments
Mar. 17/18	LIFT HIGH THE CROSS	The Bronze Snake in the Wilderness
Mar. 24/25	EVERLASTING LOVE	Jeremiahs Speaks of a New Covenant

Wednesday Evenings

Lent Suppers

Each Wednesday evening dinner will be served before our worship services to help relieve the stress of the day. The meal is a wonderful way to connect with other members of our church family. Dinner will begin at 5:30 p.m. and be available until 6:30 p.m. During dinner, there will be lots of great conversation and opportunities to make new friends.

Holden Village Vespers Service

We will again gather for worship using the much-loved Holden Village Vespers liturgy. This year, a special cross has been designed to enhance our worship and focus our **prayers. During the service, we will use DVD's by Rob Bell to help us on our journey.**

Feb. 29	LUGGAGE	Letting go of the hurts in our lives.
Mar. 7	RHYTHM	Getting in tune with God
Mar. 14	KICKBALL	Can we trust God for what we really need?
Mar. 21	LUMP	How do we get rid of our junk and shame?
Mar. 28	BULLHORN	How do we love the unlovable?

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Pastor Mark's Remarks:

Staff Contacts (763) 421-6520

Senior Pastor, Mark Hellmann
Ext. 110, markh@graceandover.org

Director of Outreach & Women's Ministries, Jeannie Hellmann
Ext. 116, jeannieh@graceandover.org
Interim Associate Pastor, Karri Anderson
Ext. 105, karria@graceandover.org

Visitation Pastor, Gene Heglund

Visitation Pastor, Carol Moler
carolm@graceandover.org

Pastor of Spiritual Formation & Youth Ministries, Steve Thomason
Ext. 100, stevet@graceandover.org

Coordinator of Youth Ministries,
Tom Baker, Ext. 123,
tomb@graceandover.org

Director of Infant/Toddler, Kids Club,
Interim Director of SONday School
Monica Allen, Ext. 122,
monicaa@graceandover.org

Director of Vacation Bible School
Kim DeVries, Ext. 112,
kimd@graceandover.org

Worship Coordinator & Organist,
Carroll Potter, Ext. 109,
carrollp@graceandover.org

Church Administrator, Ralph Holbrook
Ext. 102, ralphh@graceandover.org

Secretary, Kris Miller
Ext. 101, krism@graceandover.org

Bookkeeper, Bonnie Trembath
Ext. 111, bonniet@graceandover.org

Pastoral/Admin. Assistant, Tyree McDowell, Ext. 120,
tyreem@graceandover.org

Network Administrator, Steve Fischer
stevef@graceandover.org

Custodian's, John Dailey
Mark Kempenich & Lila Woodruff
Ext. 117

Grace Music Academy,
Denise Redman, Ext 108,
deniser@graceandover.org

Golden Rule Child Care Center
Tami Mielke
421-1996, tamim@graceandover.org

www.graceandover.org



Please join me in welcoming Pastor Karrie Anderson as the newest member of the staff here at Grace.

Following her appointment by the Bishop of the Minneapolis Area Synod, she will be handling the role of Interim, Associate Pastor. Pastor Karri will be with us until we complete the Call process to replace Pastor Chris and will absorb many of his previous responsibilities.

We are thankful to have such a warm and caring pastor join our church! Please help me in welcoming Pastor Karri to Grace. Learn more about Pastor Karri, her past experiences and her family in her article on page 3.

In Him,
Pastor Mark Hellmann

Stewardship & Men's Ministries:



Pastor Karri Anderson,
Interim Associate Pastor

One of the most difficult things a congregation can face is the departure of one of its pastors.

Regardless of the length of time they have served or the reasons behind their goodbyes, a change of pastors means the congregation must deal with the issues that accompany endings. These times of transition can be filled with grief, anxiety, confusion and a sense of being aimlessly adrift. But endings also bring with them new beginnings **and a chance to experience God's love and grace** in new and unexpected ways.

It is with great joy that I join you here at Grace to share your ministry during this journey of transition. Though there will be the need to **grieve the absence of Pastor Chris's presence** in your daily lives, and there may be some level of anxiety for some of you, the visioning and planning that the leadership of Grace has been faithfully working on for the last few years will be invaluable as we navigate these waters of transition together.

Some of the specifics may change over time but my main areas of responsibility, beyond the usual **pastoral duties, will be stewardship, men's ministries, and pastoral care.** I have a strong background working with small groups, pastoral care and counseling. My internship year at Luther Seminary was spent as a chaplain for North Memorial Medical Center. I also spent the first three years after my 1994 seminary graduation working as an LSS chaplain at North Ridge Care center in New Hope. In 1997 I was called to Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Maple Grove where I served as their Pastor of Congregational Care and Outreach for 9 years. In 1996 I received training as an intentional interim pastor and have served in 4 other interim settings. Though I really love the work of interim ministry, it is hard to have to say goodbye to the people you have served alongside and come to love during an interim.

It is great to be serving a congregation in my own community! I grew up in Coon Rapids and live

just a block from my childhood home with my husband Ron and our spoiled Bichon named Hank. Both Ron and I graduated from Coon Rapids High School, as did our children. My oldest son Ryan lives in St. Paul Park and works in the stucco/construction industry. He will be marrying Suzanne Stangeland this November in Hawaii! Our daughter Kara works with her dad in our family owned business in Blaine called The Dance Studio, which is home to the award winning Northern Force Dance Company. She is married to Kyle Bode, a St. Paul firefighter and paramedic who is currently deployed to Oman. They are parents to the cutest and most intelligent grandchildren in the history of the world; Kale 21 months and Kenley 6 months. They live in Blaine. My youngest son, Digger, was married this past June to the beautiful Lindsay Draayer and coaches football at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul. Lindsay does occupational therapy and rehab at Gillette **Children's Healthcare in Burnsville and they own a home in south Minneapolis.**

Before having a family and entering the ministry I received my nursing degree from Anoka Ramsey Community College and worked as an orthopedic RN at Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis. I love reading, photography, knitting, sewing, laughing and slapping on a tool belt to fix or build anything! I think my strongest gift as a Christian leader is my joy in being a child of God and my desire to share that joy and the good news of Christ with the world. I look forward **to this time with you and I can't wait to discover** what God has planned for the future of Grace!

Together In Christ,
Pastor Karri





A Note from the Church Administrator

Thank you for your vote of confidence as we submitted the 2012 Annual Budget for approval! As we mentioned in the January Annual Budget hearing, after prayerful discernment the budget was our attempt to put on paper the financial costs related to the hopes and dreams of the Staff and Leadership here at Grace.

The approved 2012 Budget holds great promise as well as an increased commitment from Staff, Leadership, and Congregation. Here is a recap of some of the Capital and Missional Goals that were shared:

- We would like to build contributions to the Capital fund to a minimum of \$10,066 per month allowing us to: continue to pay our mortgage on time, begin a Capital Campaign in the Spring of 2013, and maintain our Capital Fund balance.
- Continue to emphasize spiritual growth and serving beyond our walls through strengthening and growing our current ministries.
- Fill 2 open positions so our present staff will not have to wear so many different hats. 1) Director of Children, Youth & Family and 2) Communications Specialist.
- Increase our Benevolence by 0.5% as we strive to reach 10% in four years.
- Host another Spiritual Renewal event this fall.
- Continue improvements to the computer environment.
- Pay back the remaining \$6,000 to the Capital Fund.

As a Staff, we will continue to be fiscally responsible by adjusting our spending according to the gifts we receive. We are beginning to prepare for our Stewardship Sermon Series in April in order to bolster the spiritual growth that was initiated through the **"Keep It Simple" Campaign in 2011.**

Please take the time to prayerfully discern your part in helping us attain our 2012 Goals. We look forward to serving with you in order to reach the goals God has laid before us!

In Him,
Ralph

Your old sneakers
are worth more
than you think!



PLEASE bring your old sneakers to Grace! Your used tennis shoes will be reused as affordable footwear for people in need around the world, plus it saves the landfills from being polluted with those rubber soles that do not decompose. And in addition, your donated sneakers will help raise funds to fight hunger.

Rum River Elementary School is taking the GreenSneakers EcoChallenge for Education in recognition of Earth Day this year. The goal is to gather 3,000 pairs of used sneakers to raise funds for a school program to fight world hunger. GreenSneakers will pay 50 cents per pound and then shoes are distributed as affordable footwear in some of the neediest countries. Shoes are also given to agencies handling disaster and humanitarian relief efforts.

The money raised will fund the event, Rum River Against Hunger, to be held Friday, April 27, 2012. The organization, Impact Lives, will come to Rum River and set up stations so students can pack meals that will feed hungry children around the world. This is the fourth year Rum River has participated in this event and the students have truly become aware of world hunger through this program.

So clean out your closets! (That is one of your **new year's resolutions, right?**) **Then bring** your old tennis shoes to Grace and place them in the designated container in lobby. Yes, please tie the shoe strings together. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Stacy Lysne, pslysne@comcast.net. Thank you!

Upcoming Events:



Join us during this
season of Lent for Lenten
Suppers & Vespers
Service!

We serve family dinners every Wednesday night during the Season of Lent (February 29th—March 28th) from 5:30-6:30pm and welcome you to our Vespers service following dinner, at 7:00pm. This is a special time for families to connect and worship together as we learn more about the great sacrifice that was paid for us, as children of God. If you would like to attend one or all of the Lenten Suppers, please sign up on the blue sheet in the bulletin, or call the church office to RSVP at 763-421-6520. We hope you will join us.

Holy Week Services at Grace!



Maundy Thursday—Thurs. April 5th—7:00pm

Good Friday—Friday, April 6th—7:00pm

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

Easter Sunday—Sunday, April 8th:

- 6:30am—Sunrise Service
- 8:00am—Traditional Service
- 9:30am—Blended Service
- 11:00am—Contemporary Service



Are you ready to take the next step
in your spiritual journey?

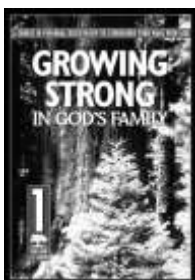
Join us on Sunday nights, from March 4th—April 29th for
SundayEvenings@Grace from 5:00pm-7:30pm

Sunday Evenings @ Grace is a great opportunity to connect with other adults who want to grow deeper in their relationship with God and know how to live that out in everyday life. We gather around good food, dynamic conversation, and focused attention to the Bible. This is an 8-week commitment that is well worth the investment.

Small group discussion is a huge part of our learning experience. You can either sign up as a small group, or sign up as an individual **and we'll connect you with a small group.**

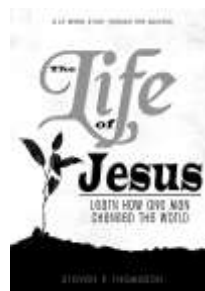
Dinner is served from 5:00-6:00pm (\$4.00 *suggested donation for dinner*), and studies run from 6:00-7:30pm. Childcare is available. Sign up on the blue sheet in worship to register yourself or a group.

This spring we will be offering 2 courses:



Growing Strong in God's Family is a course designed to give you the basic building block for experiencing a dynamic relationship with God. No previous Bible knowledge or experience is required. Your questions are welcome!

Teacher: Jeannie Hellmann



We claim to follow Jesus. How much time have we really spent looking at his life—what he did, what he said, and why that matters? This course will guide you through all four Gospels in the New Testament and tie them into one fascinating story.

Teacher: Pastor Steve Thomason

Outreach Ministry Highlights:

Family Promise DID YOU KNOW?

DID YOU KNOW?

Current estimates are that 750 families with 349 children are experiencing homelessness in Anoka County . . . and Family Promise is the ONLY shelter for families in our local community.

Family Promise is a simple, highly effective community outreach to families in life circumstances which finds them temporarily without a home. The Family Promise guests spend their days at the Day Center located at 10341 Ibis Street in Coon Rapids, using community resources to connect to jobs, permanent housing, counseling services, etc. Then safe and secure overnight shelter, as well as nutritious meals, are provided through local churches and faithful volunteers each evening.

DID YOU KNOW?

Grace Lutheran will host Family Promise guests the week of March 25 through April 1!

DID YOU KNOW?

YOU can help with this Family Promise ministry by cooking a meal for 16 people one evening. Or you may prefer to set the table and serve the food. Or you may like to donate food supplies, sleep overnight at Grace, or be an Evening Host to eat and chat with our guests. Or you might like to drive the van and transports our guests to and from the day center, or maybe help set up the beds on Sunday before our guests arrive.

DID YOU KNOW?

The opportunities are endless . . . the volunteers are countless . . . and the rewards are PRICELESS as we continue to serve God and His people through Family Promise of Anoka County. Please contact Jeannie Hellmann at jeannieh@graceandover.org to volunteer - or call 421-6520, ext. 116.

You may read more about this ministry at www.familypromiseofanokacounty.org



Volunteer at Feed My Starving Children!



It's simple – it's fun – it's just 2 hours of your time – it's rewarding – it's something the whole family can do (3rd graders and older) – AND it really makes a difference in the life of a starving child.

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 these serving dates & times:

Sat. March 3	2 – 4pm
Fri. March 30	6 – 7:30pm or 8 - 9:30pm
Sat. March 31	2 – 4; 4:30 – 6:30; or 7 – 9pm
Sat. April 14	2 – 4pm

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
- Click “Join an existing group or family”
- Under group name, type in “Grace Lutheran”
- For the March 30/31 dates, type in “Lutheran churches” as we are joining area Lutheran churches to serve on this weekend
- 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 reserve 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 jeannieh@graceandover.org

MARCH 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 David Peet - Luther Dell 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 CONNECT Class	27 7:00 PM Women's Small Group	28	29 9:00 AM Quilters 9:30 AM WOW 10:00 AM Leadership Team Meeting 5:30 PM Lenten Supper 6:30 Rockin Kids Club 6:30 Catechism 6:45 PM Adult Choir 7:00 PM Lenten Service	1 6:30 PM Yoga Devotions 7:00 PM Worship Team Practice	2 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study	3 New Members Weekend 7:30 AM Men's Ministries 9:00 AM Baptism Class 2:00 PM Feed My Starving Children 5:00 PM Worship & SONday School
4 New Members Weekend 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 6:30 PM Pastoral Care Meeting 7:00 PM Women's Small Group	6	7 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 5:30 PM Lenten Supper 6:30 Rockin Kids Club 6:30 Catechism 6:45 PM Adult Choir 7:00 PM Lenten Service	8 6:30 PM Yoga Devotions 7:00 PM Small Group Leaders Meeting 7:00 PM Worship Team Practice	9 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study	10 10:00 AM Celiac Support Group 5:00 PM Worship & SONday School
11 Daylight Savings Time Begins 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	12 7:00 PM Women's Small Group	13 6:30 PM Vision Board	14 9:00 AM Quilters 10:00 AM Leadership Team Meeting 5:30 PM Lenten Supper 6:30 Rockin Kids Club 6:45 PM Adult Choir 7:00 PM Lenten Service	15 6:30 PM Yoga Devotions 7:00 PM Worship Team Practice	16 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study	17 5:00 PM Worship & SONday School
18 Baptism 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	19 7:00 PM Women's Small Group	20	21 9:00 AM Quilters 9:30 AM WOW 10:00 AM Leadership Team Meeting 5:30 PM Lenten Supper 6:30 PM Rockin' Kids Bible Club 6:30 Catechism 6:45 PM Adult Choir 7:00 PM Lenten Service	22 6:30 PM Yoga Devotions 7:00 PM Worship Team Practice	23 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study 6:00 PM 30 Hour (HS) Famine	24 9:00 AM 30 Hour Famine 1:00 PM 30 Hour Famine 5:00 PM Worship & SONday School 6:00 PM 30 Hour Famine Dinner
25 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 4:30 PM Family Promise 5:00 PM Family Promise 5:00 PM Sunday Evenings @ Grace 5:30 PM Family Promise	26 4:30 PM Family Promise 5:00 PM Family Promise 5:30 PM Family Promise 7:00 PM Women's Small Group	27 4:30 PM Family Promise 5:00 PM Family Promise 5:30 PM Family Promise	28 9:00 AM Quilters 9:30 AM WOW 10:00 AM Leadership Team Meeting 4:30 PM Family Promise 5:00 PM Family Promise 5:30 PM Family Promise 5:30 PM Lenten Supper 6:30 PM Catechism 6:30 PM Rockin' Kids Bible Club 6:45 PM Adult Choir 7:00 PM Lenten Service	29 4:30 PM Family Promise 5:00 PM Family Promise 5:30 PM Family Promise 6:30 PM Yoga Devotions 7:00 PM Worship Team Practice	30 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study 4:30 PM Family Promise 5:00 PM Family Promise 5:30 PM Family Promise 8:00 PM Feed My Starving Children	31 10:00 AM Klinger Baby Shower 2:00 PM Feed My Starving Children 4:30 PM Family Promise 4:30 PM Feed My Starving Children 5:00 PM Family Promise 5:00 PM Worship & SONday School 5:30 PM Family Promise 7:00 PM Feed My Starving Children



Youth Happenings:



Hunger: It isn't a statistic—it's someone's daughter, sister or brother...

Fact: A child dies from hunger related causes every 8 to 12 seconds. During March, our high school youth will be collecting pledges for their participation in the World Vision 30 Hour Famine which will be held on March 23rd and 24th.

Fact: Globally, 925 million people are hungry. During the famine our youth will go without food for 30 hours and participate in activities that will help them understand the effects of poverty and how we can partner with what God is doing to help the children that are living in these conditions.

Fact: The poor spend most of their money trying not to starve.

Every \$30 that we raise, will feed and care for a child for a month. In addition to raising funds for World Vision, we will be serving people in need in our community as well. You can support our youth and help us to save children's lives by pledging our youth. Our youth will be available after the services beginning Sunday, March 4th, or you can pledge our group online at 30hourfamine.org where you can find additional information about the work that World Vision is doing to help children. We can do our part to stop hunger!

OVERCOME
HUNGER

30 HOUR FAMINE



Calling all 4th through 12th graders!! It's time to sign up for summer camp!

We will be going to Luther Dell July 8th through July 13th!

Luther Dell... It's more than just a drive down a five mile dirt road; so much more than a lake and a campfire and a carpet ball table. It's a place to be a kid and be with friends. It's a place to open your eyes and look for Jesus all around you. It's a place to be washed over with wonder when you take a break from sprinting around the game fields and slow down long enough to catch a glimpse of God within your heart.

Luther Dell is located 7 miles west of Remer, MN on South Big Boy Lake with 25 acres of beautiful woods. The cost is \$370.00 plus \$20 for round-trip school bus transportation. A \$125.00 deposit is due by April 29th. We will be fundraising to help pay for part of the costs including the Grace Garage Sale (June 21-23). There are also scholarships available from the **camp, so please don't let the cost deter you!** For more information or questions, please contact Tom Baker at tomb@graceandover.org.



June 23–30, 2012



June 17- 24, 2012

We have 2 groups of youth that will be representing our church as the hands and feet of Jesus this summer! Our *YouthWorks* team will include 4 high school and 4 middle school youth as they work to serve the communities of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. We also have 6 of our high school youth that will be serving in New Orleans, LA. as part of the National Gathering of ELCA Youth. Did we mention that both groups are comprised of ALL girls (except for Tom). WOW!

These 2 teams will be working to raise funds over the next few months to cover the costs of their trips. Please consider how you can participate in these events. We are thankful for your support of our youth.

- March 24 – April 22: Green Valley Spring Plant Sale
- **March 30: Delivery of Chip Company orders...** Thank You!
- April 14: Car Wash at Grace

The Vision Board:



In My Own Little World

Have you heard the song by Matthew West, In My Own Little World?

It starts out with:

*In my own little world it hardly ever rains
I've never gone hungry, always felt safe
I got some money in my pocket, shoes on my feet
In my own little world, population me.*

Does this begin to describe your world? A sheltered existence here in the cities surrounding Grace, running from point A to point B with blinders on. Have you given any thought to shifting your focus from inward to outward? Giving of your time, talents and treasure by helping the homeless, feeding the hungry, giving financially in support of others.

The chorus of the song asks the following questions:

***What if there's a bigger picture?
What if I'm missing out?
I could be living right now,
outside my own little world.***

If you want to expand your little world just check out what Grace has to offer to get you started.

- Outreach Ministries
- Caring Ministries
- Worship Ministries
- Music Ministries
- Infant/Toddler Ministries
- **Children's Ministries**
- Youth Ministries
- Sunday Evenings @ Grace classes
- Small Groups
- Adult Mission Trip to Haiti

We offer something for wherever you are on your Spiritual Journey. So invite someone to join you in your own little world and make it population two.

Together you can effect someone else's life and all of the sudden your little world has a population explosion.

*Father, break my heart for what breaks Yours
Give me open hands and open doors
Put Your light in my eyes and let me see
That my own little world is not about me.*

In Christ,

Mike Schaaf
Vision Board Member



March is Minnesota
Food Share Month.

Did you know that we have a food shelf here at Grace? We call it

"May All Be Fed Food Pantry"

We are an emergency food shelf and we serve on average, approximately 12 families a month. We have wonderful volunteers who pre-bag, donated groceries, and each family we serve receives 3 grocery bags filled with food.

Last year our congregation was so very generous! We stocked our shelves here at Grace and we took hundreds of pounds of food to the ACBC food shelf in Anoka! Thank you so much!

The month of March, we will again be handing out grocery bags for you to take home and fill with non-perishable food items so that we can re-stock our shelves and help ACBC in Anoka re-stock theirs.

One in seventeen Minnesotans relies on local food-shelves to help feed their families. One in ten Minnesota residents report that someone in their family has gone to bed hungry in the past month.

Hunger in Minnesota has doubled in the last five years. 10 percent of residents in Minnesota do not know where their next meal is coming from. 40 percent of those seeking emergency hunger relief are children under the age of 18.

Please help us feed the hungry here in Anoka County. Watch for the grocery bags to be handed out in March. Please fill them up with non-perishable food items and drop them off at church. Some of the items that are most needed are: canned veggies, kidney beans, soups, tuna, canned chicken, peanut butter and jelly, complete pancake mix & syrup and cereal. Thanks in advance for your generous donations! *Chris Pace*

Children Ministry:



Join us on Saturday, April 7
10:00-12:00pm

We will have fun games, crafts, stories, a movie and an exciting hunt! Please Sign up on the Blue Sheets found each week in the bulletin or call the church office. If you would like to help with this event, please contact Monica Allen or see the blue sheets to see how you can help.

SONday School

Family Worship Weekend will be March 3rd and 4th. All children will begin in worship and be dismissed to their **classes after the Children's Time. Palm Sunday Weekend, March 31 and April 1** will be our next Family Worship Weekend. Children will be dismissed to their classes after **a special Children's Time where we will have Palms and sing.**



Birthday Offerings - Our offerings that we collect each month go to Feed My Starving Children. We have collected \$38.22 since September or 166 meals. Please help your child remember to bring their offering. Remember a **quarter is more than enough for one meal. Let's add those quarters up and see how many meals we can provide by May!** The first Sunday of the month is Age 3-Kindergarten, and the second Sunday is Grades 1-5. Children may bring their coins to Large Group and we will celebrate their birthdays.



Rockin' Kids Bible Club and **Lenten Worship**

During Lent, children attending the Wednesday Evening Worship Services may attend Rockin' Kids Club. We meet from 6:30-8 p.m. Our evening schedule begins with a choir time where we learn music that we will share with the congregation at the Lenten Service, **on Sunday mornings, and at our Rockin' Kids Bible Club Musical Revue on May 2.** We will then attend a portion of the worship service and will be dismissed **back to Rockin' Kids Bible Club for our Bible Story and activity time.** Children may join us at either 6:30 or when the children are dismissed from service. If there are parents who would like to help, please contact Monica Allen at monicaa@graceandover.org.

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.



Lenten Offerings: During Lent, the SONday School is **helping fill God's Global Barnyard** through ELCA World Hunger. Barn banks will be going home with each family in March with the money collected going to ELCA World Hunger. Our SONday School offering collection each weekend will go to purchasing goats. Each goat is \$50. Each week we will learn about goats and how purchasing one goat can dramatically change the life and community of the family receiving it.



Children's Summer Musical Adventure Camp

Kids and Youth in Grades 2-9 are invited to be a part of the Musical Adventure Camp, 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.** Camp will run from Monday, July 30-Sunday, August 5. Our week-long camp includes learning this musical drama, creating sets, props, snacks, and a field trip to a local theater production. Our week will include rehearsals, Monday-Friday 9-12:30, with one day that will be extended to include our field trip. We will have a dress rehearsal on Saturday morning and perform for the congregation at the 5 p.m. Saturday Worship and the 8:30 and 10 am Sunday Worship Services. Children need to be able to attend all of the rehearsals and Worship Services. Audition times and brochures will be coming home in April.

Graceful Servants:



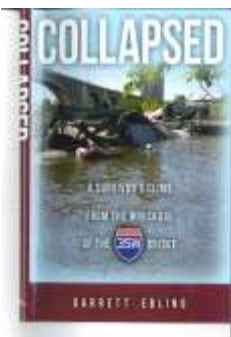
If you are a Graceful Servant who serves during our worship services each week, your Monthly Servant Schedule for March, has been sent to the e-mail address we have on file, here at Grace.

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.

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

3 John 1:5

Congratulations to
Garrett Ebling!



On the release and publication of his new book Collapsed. His personal story of survival and come back after the Interstate 35W bridge collapse in August of 2007.



Thank You Grace:

Dear Grace Lutheran Church,

On behalf of Stepping Stone Emergency Housing, I want to thank you for your generous donation. The number of homeless people and their needs continue to grow, and your personal commitment to support these needs is so deeply appreciated. Your donations of buns and meat will help the clients transition in their won home. We look forward to a long and mutually happy and agreeable relationship.

Sincerely Yours,
Heather Ries
Exececutive Director

Dear Grace Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your generosity with your “Noisy Offering”. Our family is deeply grateful for all of your kindness, thoughts, love and prayers for Jack. We appreciate your support during this difficult time.

Thank you,
Leslie & Mike Jablonski



Dear Carroll and Friends of Grace Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the Northwestern College Orchestra I would like to thank you for your gracious hospitality on the 28th of January. Our students had a splendid time joining you all in worshipping our great God! We are grateful for the warm support & Christ – centered attitudes of your congregation.

Yours in Christ,
Julie Johnson

GRACE LUTHERAN MUSIC MINISTRIES



March 31/April 1
All Worship Services

***A Musical Journey of the
Passion of our Lord***



SPECIAL LENT MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES

We are inviting you to consider joining one of our special music opportunities during the Lent and Easter seasons. Please consider:

PALM SUNDAY CHORAL SERVICES

MARCH 31 AND APRIL 1

Similar to our Advent Choral Service, we will be combining all the music groups to present an inspiring collection of hymns, anthems, worship praise songs, and dramatic readings on the last week of Jesus' life.

PRACTICES:

Saturday mornings – Mar. 10, 17, 24, & 31
9:00 – 11:00 a.m.



LIVING LAST SUPPER – MAUNDY THURSDAY

APRIL 4

Calling actors and singers to join us in a dramatic presentation of Jesus last supper with his disciples. The service will include drama, special solos and ensembles.

Practices still to be arranged.



EASTER FESTIVAL SERVICES

The Adult Choir and Worship Team welcome those who wish to help make our Easter services a musical inspiration! There are lots of opportunities!!!

EASTER VIGIL SERVICE

SATURDAY – APRIL 7

Join the Contemporary Worship Team and Band for this service of dramatic readings and familiar Easter music. Call Jenn Hubal for more information and practice times.

EASTER SERVICES

SUNDAY – APRIL 8

Both and Adult Choir and Worship Team would love to have you join them! Call Pastor Mark for more information and practice times!

Cover story continued from page 1

Getting to the Heart of Lent

Personal Journey

Journal and Daily Bible Reading

As a way to help you take a deeper walk, we are providing you with a Daily Lent Journal to use with Bible readings that will correspond with each of our weekend worship services. When you come to church, you can pick up your Daily Journal cover and insert weekly journal pages that will be provided in the bulletins or online at our website. We hope the Daily Journal will help you process and **reflect upon the wonderful stories of God's Covenant of Pursuit!**

Lent Projects

One of the most exciting steps of growth in our 2012 Covenant: The Pursuit of God Lenten Journey, is our opportunity to put our faith into action through several Outreach Projects which deal with hunger and thirst in our world.

In March, we will focus on special HUNGER projects through:

- Special offerings for the ELCA Hunger Fund through our Noisy Offerings & Coin boxes
- Donating food for Minnesota FoodShare
- Supporting our youth in the 30 Hour Famine – March 23-24
- Pack meals at Feed My Starving Children on the weekend of March 30 & 31 with other area ELCA churches

In April, we will focus on a special WATER project:

- Special 4 week Noisy Offerings for a water project for a school in Uganda.

As we continue on our Lenten Journey, may we strive to be renewed, restored and revitalized in the great love God has for us in our crucified Lord.

In Him,
Pastor Mark Hellmann



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

Good Friday—Friday, April 6th—7:00pm Worship

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

Easter Sunday—Sunday, April 8th:

- * 6:30am—Sunrise Service
- * 8:00am—Traditional Service
- * 9:30am—Blended Service
- * 11:00am—Contemporary Service

