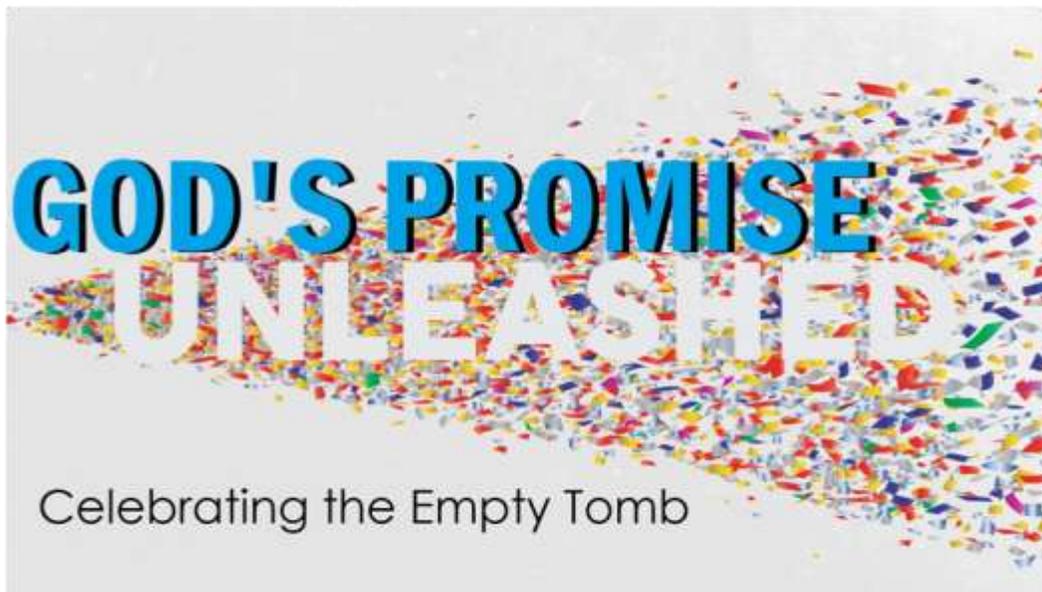


grace notes

April 2017

Grace's "No Turning Back" Lent Journey" Ends on Easter, April 16 *Easter Celebrates The Unleashing of New Life!*

Our 2017 *No Turning Back* Lenten journey comes to a dramatic climax during Holy Week as we walk Jesus' last steps to the cross. They are precious days as we gather to celebrate Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem amidst the palms and loud "hosannas." We sit with the disciples in the Upper Room and then hear the crowds shouting for his crucifixion. We stand at the foot of the cross and see his blood freely flowing for the life of this world. These treasured moments help prepare us for the wonder and meaning of Easter. We invite you to walk our *No Turning Back* Journey all the way to the Empty Tomb.



HOLY WEEK CELEBRATION

Palm Sunday ~April 8/9 begins Holy Week, as we celebrate Jesus' triumphant ride into Jerusalem. Palm branches will be distributed prior to worship, which will add to the festive celebration of Jesus' triumphal entrance into Jerusalem. We will present a dramatic reading of Jesus' passion.

Maundy Thursday ~April 13 We will celebrate Jesus' command to love one another as he washed the feet of the disciples and then summed it all

up in the Last Supper. This year we will offer two service times: a 1 p.m. traditional liturgy with foot-washing and Holy Communion, and a 7:00pm family event, which will have a "hands-on" children's liturgy that will truly be memorable!

Good Friday ~April 14 We will gather at 7:00pm for the "**Hope in the Shadows**" Choral Service. Retracing Christ's final days and journey to the cross, the service will focus on our Jesus' sacrifice and the hope in the shadows to which we cling.

EASTER CELEBRATION ~April 15/16

Grace will offer many opportunities to celebrate the Unleashing of New Life at the Empty Tomb on Easter weekend. Our celebrations begin at the *Easter Vigil Service* on Saturday, April 15 at 5:00pm. This service has a special "flavor" of celebrating both Good Friday and Easter morning with readings from the Old Testament, stories of rescue and salvation, as a backdrop to our celebration of new life in Jesus' resurrection. The service will have lots of music and a sense of excitement!

Easter morning we will celebrate Jesus' resurrection at 6:30am, 8:00am, 9:30am and 11:15am.

Pastor Mark's Remarks

Did you hear the story of a woman who proudly hung on her mantelpiece, a needlework plaque that said "Prayer Changes Things." A few days later, the plaque was missing from its place. The woman asked her husband if he had seen it. "I took it down, I didn't like it," her husband replied. "But why?" the woman asked. "Don't you believe that prayer changes things?" "Yes, I honestly do," her husband answered. "But it just so happens that I don't like change, so I threw it away."

Change is never easy, is it? And yet, one of the constant things in life is, indeed, change. But just **because change happens, doesn't mean that we have to like it, right!** However, as I reflect upon the changes which have occurred in my life, I see that many of them have brought new opportunities to grow, learn, stretch, and develop, not only my trust in myself, but in God as well.

I am holding on to this as I think about the changes which are occurring these days at Grace, as we say **"Good bye" to some beloved pastors, and begin the process of discerning the future. It's hard to say good bye to those who have been with us through the good times, as well as the challenging ones.**

I have been thankful these last 19 years that Pastor Gene has served as our Visitation Pastor. He has been my wise sage and chief source of pastoral wisdom! He never failed to offer good advice when I needed it most! He also encouraged me when I was down in the dumps. He stood beside me at some of the most **painful moments of funerals when we said "good bye"** to someone we both loved. He made me laugh with his jokes, and the good news for all of us is this: he packed up all his joke books and gave them to me!

I have also been blessed these last 7 years Pastor Steve has served as our Associate Pastor of Spiritual Formation. He has been a faithful friend and wonderful colleague. With his office so near to mine, I found in him someone willing to bounce theological ideas around with, or give a great insight for a sermon. I constantly marvel at his ability to take complex biblical ideas and passages and reduce them



to learnable concepts everyone can understand. I have enjoyed his creative approaches in sermons, as well as the artistic nuances he brings to many things. He has made a big difference at Grace, and I know we will all miss him.

I trust we are sending both Pastors Gene and Steve forth with a bit of Grace in them, which they in turn, will share with others no matter how far from our **doors they go! As we often say around here: "we are a ministry of Grace in the heart of Andover and beyond."** Well, saying **"goodbye" to beloved staff** is one of the ways we do this! This certainly will be our prayer for them!

Change is indeed hard, yet it brings new possibilities. I am thankful our Vision Board is working faithfully with me to plan our next steps. I know there may be moments when it will be challenging. There may be new staff with different ways of doing things. There could be a new unfamiliar pastor visiting you in the hospital or presiding at a funeral. Yes, with change comes more change! And, dare we trust that when God is leading us, it all can be for the good? If so, then **let's start trusting!**

In Him,

Pastor Mark

Vision Board Message

Changes at Grace.

As you are aware, we are in the midst of two pastoral changes here at Grace. First, Pastor Gene has decided to retire and move to Missouri to be closer to his daughter. Second, Pastor Steve has accepted a call at Easter Lutheran Church in Eagan, MN. These are two men who have not only devoted their lives to serving Christ, they also have done great things here at Grace. We are, and will be forever grateful for the impacts they have made in our personal lives and in our church.

In the short term we will have hired a Visitation Pastor to help us fill the gap that these two departures have created. This Visitation Pastor, Delwayne Hahn, will work a little more than half time and will have a regular preaching schedule of at least once a month. We feel that this will help us to fill the duties that Pastor Gene and Pastor Steve had. We are please to have Pastor Delwayne Hahn as our new part-time Visitation Pastor. (see page 4 for the full article regarding Pastor Delwayne).

We are also looking to make a few other changes in the near future. One of them is to find a part time communications person to take on our website and social media duties. Another is to find a sound technician and a few band members to help support our musical volunteers. So if you know of anyone who has a communications or sound technician background let us know. Please pass along the names of any potential band members as well.

We feel that by making these short term changes, we will be in a good position to begin the discernment process of who and what God is calling us to be. This discernment process will be done in conjunction with the Synod office, and will ultimately lead into a Call Process. So keep the Vision Board, our incredible staff, and our entire church in your prayers. This is a time of change and of great possibilities, and great excitement to see what God has in store for us!

In His name,

Greg Ackerson

Vision Board President

A Note from Pastor Steve

Thank You, Grace

In January, 2010, Pastor Mark invited me to contract with Grace to be a consultant to help the congregation implement the Focus 20/20 Vision. I had been out of the ministry for three years and still feeling a little wounded and gun-shy. He asked me to preach and to teach an adult class. You, the people of Grace, welcomed me and my family with open arms. Through the gentle encouragement of Pastor Mark, and the gracious hospitality of this congregation, my cold heart was warmed, and I found my calling to ministry once again.

You were patient with me as I tried to figure out what it means to be a Pastor in the ELCA. You allowed me to take on the role of Youth Pastor, along with adult ministries, and entrusted your precious youth to my **and Tom Baker's care. We raised our teenage children together.** The relationships my family has built with yours will always be treasured memories. You allowed me the space to pursue a Ph.D. at Luther Seminary, and supported me both emotionally and financially for those five intense years of family, ministry, and school. I could have never done it without you.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Now, the cloud has moved, and God is calling me to a new place. I enter this call with mixed emotions. Part of me is sad to say goodbye to good friends. Part of me is excited as Lona and I move into the empty nest **phase of our family's life and begin a new chapter together.**

We are moving to the south metro, so it's not like we will never see each other again. However, life is busy and it may be long periods of time between our encounters. I wish to leave you with my life verse. **This was the Apostle Paul's prayer for his friends at the church in Philippi, and it is my prayer for you,**

And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God. (Philippians 1:9-11)

Welcome Pastor Hahn



Grace has hired a new part-time Visitation Pastor, Pastor Delwayne Hahn. Pastor Delwayne is a well-seasoned pastor who has a great amount of experience and a love for the church. He will join us in **worship on April 22/23. Let's give Pastor Delwayne a warm, grace-filled welcome!**

Responsibilities:

Pastor Delwayne will be responsible for pastoral care and oversee the team of volunteers who visit our shut-ins. In addition, he will help lead the Graceful Seniors and share preaching responsibilities with Pastor Mark.

Bio (In Pastor Delwayne own words):

I was ordained in July of 1968, and called to **Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Cornell, WI.** My late wife Marilyn taught math at nearby Holcombe High School. Our first child, Heidi, was born while we were in Cornell.

I served that congregation for four and a half years before accepting a call in early 1973 to become **assistant pastor at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Lincoln, NE.** There our second daughter Kristiena was born in November of 1973. During those years I also earned a M.S. degree in Ed. Psych.—counseling and Human Development and Family Life and did a year of Clinical Pastoral Education at Bryan Memorial Hospital.

February 1979 saw the beginning of my third and final settled call as associate pastor for Peace Lutheran Church in New London, MN. This was a merger of a former ALC and a former LCA congregation. During our time there, Marilyn and I adopted three children from Colombia, South America—Orlando, Jairo and Mindy.

In 1985, I began the second chapter of my ministry, accepting a call as District Director for Commitment to Mission, a financial appeal of the ALC to help fund new mission starts in the anticipated merged church we now call the ELCA. I continued in stewardship ministry with the ELCA for the first 11 years of its existence, finishing as Director for Stewardship and Outreach in the Western IA Synod headquartered in Storm Lake.

The third chapter of my ministry began in 1999, with the first of 14 interim pastorates in IA, SD and MN. We returned to MN in 2003 when I became interim **senior pastor of St. John's Lutheran in Mound** and built a home near Dalbo, MN. My final interim was **completed in September of 2015 at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Marshall, MN,** and I officially retired. Since then I have served as a supply pastor and a stewardship consultant to a few congregations and delivering my first person characterizations of biblical figures, as well as Martin Luther.

Marilyn died of post-operative complications in March of 2012, just three months shy of 48 years of marriage.

The activities of 11 grandchildren and one great grandchild also keep me busy these days. Last summer I spent 30 days in Europe, some of it with my daughter Kristiena, who teaches German in New London. I met her and her two teenagers in Split, Croatia following their week in Greece, and mine in Ljubljana, Slovenia. We spent time in Croatia, Hungary, Germany and Austria. My trip finished with a brief visit to cousins in the UK.

I will return to Wittenberg, Germany this coming August to conduct two weeks of English language services in two churches made famous by Luther—the Town Church, where he preached some 2,000 sermons and the Castle Church to whose door he nailed his 95 Theses in 1517, triggering the protestant Reformation whose 500th anniversary is this year.

Womens & Outreach Ministries

Mens Ministries

The Great Escape

Please join us at the Great Escape Women's Fellowship Event, 6:30 to 9 pm Friday, April 28!

Guest speaker, Glenndy Ose, will bring an inspiring message entitled "**she laughs.**" And the evening will be filled with tasty appetizers, creative door prizes, yummy dessert and lively LAUGHTER!

So ladies . . .

- ◆ Embrace a Great Escape from your crazy schedule, humdrum routine or dirty dishes
- ◆ Enjoy a Great Escape to food, fun & fellowship - a special night out just for YOU
- ◆ Experience the Great Escape with your friend or neighbor - or come & meet new friends here!

Please purchase advanced tickets (\$10 each) at the Welcome Center or Church Office. For more information, please contact Jeannie Hellmann, **Director of Women's ministries.**

Hope to see YOU at The Great Escape on Friday, April 28!



Just 1 More Step Race

May 6th, 2017

A 10K run, 5K run/walk and a kids fun run. Great for the whole family. The event is filled with live entertainment and located on the beautiful wooded course of Bunker Hills Regional Park. 100% of the proceeds raised will go towards outreach in Haiti. For sponsorship opportunities, volunteer opportunities or to register for the race, go to just1morestep.org



Men of Grace...Do you need some time away from it all?

Are you feeling a little drained and need be refueled and refilled? This might be the time to take a little time out of your busy life. Take time to regroup with friends, refocus on the things that really matter, and refresh your spirit in the love of God through Jesus.

This weekend will include good food, good fun, good friends, and good interaction around God's Word.

Luther Point Bible Camp offers many outdoor and indoor activities...it's a beautiful camp near Grantsburg, Wisconsin. Maybe you just need to take a long walk in the beautiful surrounding woods or maybe you just need to take a nap on a Saturday afternoon! Whatever you might need to find a bit of refreshment and renewal, consider coming on **Grace's Time Out! Men's Retreat.**

Time: Arrive at camp between 6-8 pm Friday;
Depart at Noon Sunday (we'll arrange car-pooling)
 Place: Luther Point Bible Camp in Grantsburg, Wisconsin
 Cost: \$85 per person

Registration fee includes:

- * Lodging for two nights (yes, you'll sleep on a bed)
- * Bed linens and towels
- * Three meals on Saturday and Sunday Brunch

Sign up on the blue Opportunities Sheets in the Worship Bulletins or going online to: <http://www.grace-andover.org/events/mens-retreat/>.

Children's Ministries

First Communion Class

Saturday April 1st 9:00am - Noon.
 Pastor Mark and Kim DeVries 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 1st at the 5:00 service, or April 2nd at the 9 or 10:30 service. Bring a Bible, a parent, and a smile! Call the church office to sign up or register on Grace Link.



Easter Eggstravaganza

Sunday, April 9th at 11:30-1:30pm
 Come for an afternoon of food and fun! Following the 10:30am worship service on Palm Sunday, families with children birth-5th grade are invited to the Fellowship Hall for a yummy lunch, fun games & activities, and of course an Easter Egg Hunt! Register on *Gracelink* or *graceandover.org*

Baptism Workshop

Saturday, May 6, at 9 am
 Baptism is an important step in the life of a family. During the workshop, we learn how God is at work in baptism. Baptism is welcoming your child into the family of faith. We will also share insights to help you as you raise your child to know and love God by creating habits, traditions, and making God apart of everyday life.

Upcoming Baptism Sundays are April 23, May 14, June 11, and July 16. Families can schedule baptisms at either the 9am or 10:30am Worship Services in April and May or at the 8:30 or 10 am services in June and July. Baptisms can also be scheduled for most Saturday 5 pm Worship Services as well. The next baptism class will be July 8, at 9am. You may register on line through *Gracelink* or contact Monica Allen at monicaa@graceandover.org or the church office to sign up for the workshop.

There will not be SONday School on Easter Sunday

Last day of SONday School
 &
 5th Grade Graduation
 May 21 at 9am & 10:30am
 Worship.



SONday School in April!

Preschool – Grade One: our unit is Jesus is #1. During April, we get to tell them the true story of how much God loves them and how He gave them His only Son. Jesus is ALIVE AND He wants to be our friend FOREVER! And THAT makes Jesus the best! J-E-S-U-S! We love Jesus. He's the best!

Grade 2-5: our unit is Goal Humility! We think it's important, especially at Easter, for us to help our kids and families discover more about humility– putting others first by giving up what you think you deserve.



April 2
 Children will begin in Worship with their families and then be dismissed to SONday School after the Children's Sermon.

Palm Sunday ~April 9

Children will begin in their classrooms where they will line up for the Palm Procession. After we finish the procession, we will sing in the Worship Service for both the 9:00 and 10:30am Services.

Birthday Offerings

We have 4 Flocks - \$80.46
 During each large group session we will recognize the month's birthdays. Children are encouraged to bring a coin for each year to put in the Birthday Bank. Kids will be recognized, receive a sticker, a birthday pencil, and get their name put on the "Birthday Door" (Kim and Monica's office door). This offering will go towards buying flocks of chicks donated to Heifer International. Watch our chicks add up! Summer Birthdays will be recognized in April and May ~Want to learn more about chicks – check out this video. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YcAzPC57 PE>.

Children's Ministries

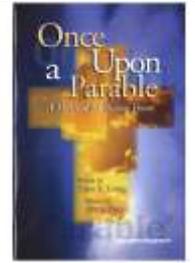
Rockin' Kids Bible Club

We are having BIG adventures with the Apostle Paul. He's been in jail, survived a storm at sea, and all the while, he continues to help people know that God loves them and Jesus died for their sins. Check out our True Tale Tom Tales each week to see what True Tale Tom, Calamity Sue, and Whistlin' Wesley have to say about our cowboy virtues.

Our year will end with our Cowboy Jamboree on April 26 at 7 pm. During the Jamboree, our buckaroos will share music that we have learned all week, and there will be a special appearance by True Tale Tom and Calamity Sue! We will have refreshments following our program. Please come and support our buckaroos!

RKBC Schedule

- Wed., Mar 22 – RKBC sings at 7pm Lenten Service
- Wed., Apr. 12 – NO RKBC
- Sun., Apr. 23 – RKBC sings in Worship
- Wed., Apr. 26 – Meet at 6:30 to practice for the Cowboy Jamboree



Musical Adventure Camp

Join us July 24 – July 30 for a 7-Day Adventure as we prepare the musical, Once Upon a Parable. Together, we explore and present our favorite Bible parables ending with Jesus's death and resurrection. This musical is designed to be presented by an ensemble cast, so there are opportunities for EVERYONE!

Musical Adventure Camp is for kids and youth, who will enter 3rd – 9th Grade, fall of 2017. We will meet M-F: 9-12:30 pm, Saturday, July 29, 9-11 am, and perform at the Saturday night 5pm worship and Sunday at 8:30 and 10 am.

Registration begins April 2nd on *Gracelink*. Please check our website for more information, <http://www.graceandover.org/get-connected/childrens-ministries/musical-adventure-camp/>



VBS 2017
 June 12th - 16th, 9:30am -Noon
 For ages 3 years - 5th Grade (completed)
 \$25.00 per child

We'll be learning about how God made each of us in HIS image and unique at the same time! Kids will also discover how the Creator of all things created us to know and love Him, and that we are uniquely wired for one reason -- we were wonderfully made in the image of God!

Register on *GraceLink*. If you need assistance, please call the church office.



Calling all 5th-8th grade students!!!! Worried you might be bored this summer? Worry no more! Summer stretch is a dynamic summer program for students who have completed 5th-8th grade! Summer stretch runs every Thursday (June 29th – August 10th) from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm. Participants will be dropped off and picked up from Grace Lutheran.

The mornings are spent doing a fun service project (Feed My Starving Children, Global Health Ministries, helping the environment etc.) and the afternoons are spent doing a fun recreational activity (Grand Slam, Bunker Beach Water Park, Zero Gravity and more!) August 10th we will spend the entire day at Valleyfair! This year's theme is *Let God's Light Shine!* Students will learn how people in our world today are shining God's light on others. At the end of the day we will end with a Bible Study. Students not only will spend time serving our world but will also learn about key social justice issues facing our city, state, and world, such as clean water, teen homelessness, global health issues, global and local hunger, and the environment.

The early bird special fee for summer stretch is \$175 and includes 6 weeks of service/recreation PLUS an additional day at Valleyfair on Thursday, Aug. 10th. Transportation to events, admission to all service and recreational activities, guest speakers, admission to Valleyfair, snacks, and a tee shirt are included in the fee. Register with your \$75 deposit by May 1st and secure the early bird special price of \$175. For more information on pricing, check out www.graceandover.org

And of course we will have High School Leaders this summer! If you are interested in being a High School Leader (current 9th-12th graders) and participate in Summer Stretch at a reduced rate contact Kristi at KristiL@graceandover.org. High School Leaders help to lead games, hang out with participants, lead small groups and spend time getting to know our awesome middle schoolers! We also NEED adult leaders to make this a reality. Contact Kristi if you are interested in hanging out

with some cool kids for a day or two this summer! For more information, registration, details on pricing, and FAQ, please go to our youth page www.graceandoveryouth.com or please contact Kristi Larson at KristiL@graceandover.org or call/text her at 651.230.6057.

Catechism & Own Your Faith Dates to remember

- No Catechism on April 12th.
- Catechism resumes April 19th.
- Own Your Faith Spring Retreat April 29th.
- Last Wednesday of Catechism is May 3rd.
- Confirmation rehearsal and dinner is May 20th.
- Confirmation Sunday is May 21st.

Doughnuts for High School Students!
All 9th –12th grade students are invited to swing by **Kristi and Tom's office each Sunday for a doughnut** and a chance to say hi! Our office will be open and ready for visitors from 9:50-10:30am!

Luther Point Bible Camp
Only 1 ½ hours from Andover and has lots of options for everyone. The week of July 16-21st camps offered:

- ½ Week 3rd & 4th Grade Camp
- 5th & 6th Grade Camp
- Jr. High Camp (7th – 9th graders)

NOW is the time to start making your summer plans. As usual, we will offer campers the opportunity to reduce their camp costs by fundraising. More information on fundraising options is to come. To find out more about Camp go to: graceandover.org

What is Going On at Grace

Music Opportunities



20's/30's Group

Come join other 20's/30's somethings from Grace for a fun afternoon of bowling at Andover Lanes on April 30, 12:00 - 2:00pm. For more info. contact Jessica Kankelfitz at 763-226-8667

St. Paul Farmers Market

The Farmer's Market will be back at Grace again this spring/summer. They will open in the Grace parking lot beginning Tuesday, May 2 and continue through the month of October. Hours are 2:00pm-6:00pm every Tuesday during the growing season, May through October. Come out and support our local farmers by purchasing their very fresh vegetables and products.

Red Cross Blood Drive

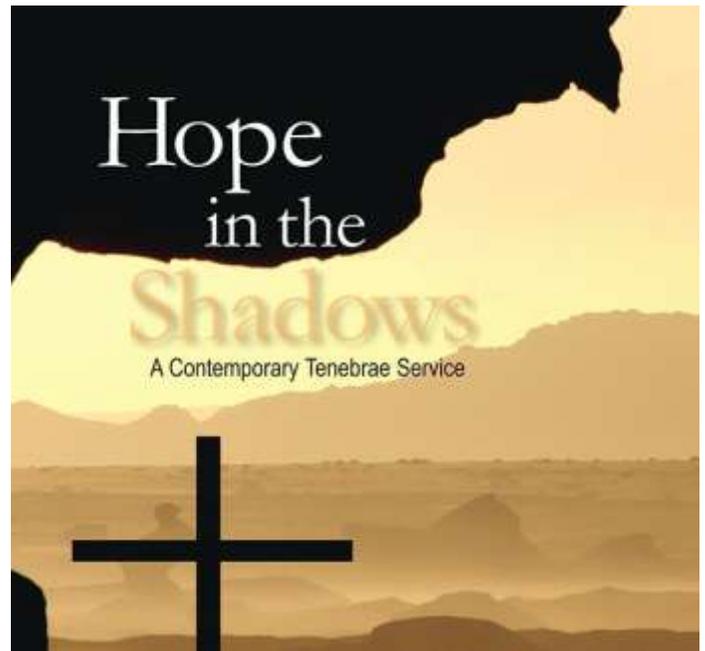
is coming to Grace on Tuesday, May.23rd, Noon to 5pm. The Red Cross is in desperate need for blood. Mark your calendars to give blood and save a life. To make an appointment to give blood go to www.redcross.org or call 1-800-RED-CROSS



Annual Grace Garage Sale

Mark your calendars for June 8-10 for our Annual Youth Garage Sale. All proceeds will help Grace youth in going to Bible Camp and Mission Trips this summer.

You can drop off your gently used items beginning **May 8 in Portable 2. *NO electronics/TV's/computers/monitors/exercise equipment.** Large items will need to be approved by Tom Baker prior to drop off. tomb@graceandover.org
763-421-6520



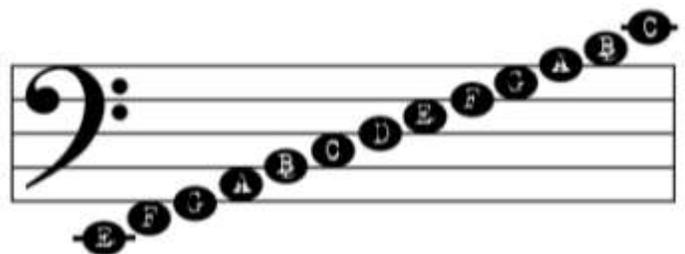
Good Friday Cantata

Join the Grace Choir and special seasonal singers as we present "Hope in the Shadows", a Tenebrae cantata for Good Friday.

This coming Holy Week, Friday, April 14 at 7:00pm in the Worship Center. You don't want to miss this special time of music, reflection, and remembering the last hours of our Savior.

Talented Musicians Needed

Grace is seeking talented bass and acoustic guitar players who would love to share their gift of music in the worship band. The worship band plays 5:00 pm on Saturdays and 10:30am on Sundays. Please contact Jonathan Orwig for more detailed information. jonathano@graceandover.org or 763-421-6520, ext. 113



Grace Lutheran Church Staff

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

Pastor of Spiritual Formation.....Steve Thomason
Ext. 105stevet@graceandover.org

Dir. of Outreach & Women Ministries
.....Jeannie Hellmann
Ext. 109jeannieh@graceandover.org

Dir. of Youth Ministry.....Kristi Larson
Ext. 100kristi@graceandover.org

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

Co-**Directors of Children’s Ministries**...Monica Allen
Ext. 116...monicaa@graceandover.org
.....Kim DeVries
Ext. 112kimd@graceandover.org

Dir. of Worship & Music.....Jonathan Orwig
Ext. 113 ...jonathano@graceandover.org

Church Administrator.....Kate Morphey
Ext. 102katem@graceandover.org

Dir. of Grace Choir.....Doreen Hutchings
doreenh@graceandover.org

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

Bookkeeper.....Beth Clarstrom
Ext. 111bethc@graceandover.org

Parish Nurse.....Lily Tunby/ Lori Ackerson
Ext. 100.parishnurse@graceandover.org

Head Custodian.....Mark Kempenich
Ext. 117mark@graceandover.org

Custodian.....Cheri Schaaf

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

Vision Board Members

Greg Ackerson (Pres.)	Deb Stang
Doug Hanson (V.P.)	Scott Christensen
Jessie Crooks (Sec.)	Deb Shepard
Neil Hawkinson	Pastor Mark Hellmann

If you would like to contact any of the Vision Board members, please visit graceandover.org and click on Leaders.

Thank You

- * Dear Grace Friends- Thank you all so much for your thoughts and prayers during, and as I recovered from my hip surgery. They were very much appreciated and a blessing to me.
~Sincerely, *Shirley Christenson*
- * A very special thank you to our many wonderful volunteers. Thank you for giving of your time in so many, many ways to help make Grace a **welcoming place for all to worship. We couldn't do what we do without your kindness, caring and dedication.** You are truly a blessing to us and we want you to know how very much you are appreciated.

Dedicated hearts and hands like yours are not so easy to find. It takes a special person to be so generous and kind. To care so much for your fellow man (and your church) is a quality all too rare. Yet you give of your time and talents, for all of us to share. So thank you for being a volunteer, we're privileged to work with you. We want you to know how appreciated you are, Not just today, but the whole year through. ~ *The Grace Staff & Vision Board*



Giving at a Glance

Week 12	2012	2013	2014	2015		2016	2017
Operational	\$166,673.75	\$160,617.10	\$156,880.12	\$155,285.17		\$153,622.01	\$176,998.96
Capital	\$21,770.00	\$19,718.50	\$20,876.00	\$17,503.50		\$24,983.66	\$17,856.50
Other (Holiday)	\$7,289.68	\$6,337.79	\$3,624.27	\$3,999.02		\$9,546.48	\$ 6,372.49
Free 2B Grace	\$0.00	\$ 25,348.00	\$50,321.00	\$34,166.50		\$29,003.16	\$ 28,628.00
Total:	\$195,733.43	\$212,021.39	\$231,701.39	\$210,954.19		\$217,155.31	\$229,855.95
Week 11	2012	2013	2014	2015		2016	2017
Operational	\$149,846.09	\$147,700.67	\$144,654.42	\$146,749.51		\$134,065.85	\$165,384.96
Capital	\$19,673.00	\$18,433.50	\$19,977.00	\$16,092.00		\$23,291.66	\$16,841.50
Other (Holiday)	\$6,432.68	\$4,693.79	\$2,974.27	\$3,468.52		\$8,083.48	\$ 3,818.09
Free 2B Grace	\$0.00	\$ 23,150.00	\$46,979.00	\$32,728.50		\$25,372.66	\$ 26,852.00
Total:	\$175,951.77	\$193,977.96	\$214,584.69	\$199,038.53		\$190,813.65	\$212,896.55



Happy Anniversary to GraceLink

It has been almost one year since we transitioned to our new cloud-based Data Base system. The new system has made communication easier in many ways. Parishioners can log on to *GraceLink* and access information about Ministry Teams they are involved in as well as register for events and give offerings online. They can also download the Church Life app for easy access to addresses to mail cards or reach out to others by phone or email. The staff has been learning the new system and we have experienced some challenges along the way, but overall excited for all the ways it helps our ministries. One of the great things we have learned is how to register for events.

The easiest way is for you to register yourself for *GraceLink* first. Then once the adult has a log in, they can register the children for activities. If the adult makes a log in for the child first, it may cause problems later. Also, each family member can have their own LOG IN to *GraceLink* because you may be involved with different ministry groups.

Please call the church office if you have any questions. We are here to help. Hopefully you have been able to keep in touch with the people of Grace via *GraceLink* or the Churchlife app.



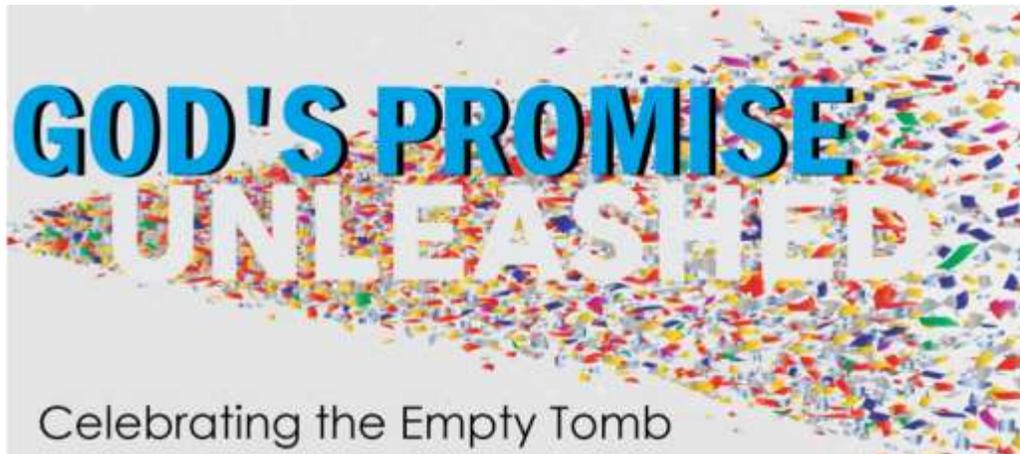
Grace Lutheran Church

13655 Round Lake Blvd NW. Andover, MN 55304
(763) 421-6520

A Ministry of Grace in the heart of Andover and beyond!
www.graceandover.org

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Anoka, MN 55303
PERMIT No. 118

Or Current Resident



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES AT GRACE

<i>Maundy Thursday, April 13</i>	1:00 pm	Traditional Service
	7:00 pm	Family Service
<i>Good Friday, April 14</i>	7:00 pm	Hope in the Shadows Choral Service
<i>Easter Saturday, April 15</i>	5:00 pm	Easter Vigil – From Death to Life
<i>Easter Sunday, April 16</i>	6:30 am	Sunrise Worship
	8:00 am	Traditional LBW Worship
	9:30 am	Traditional Worship
	11:15 am	Contemporary Praise Worship