



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

# Grace Notes – March 11, 2018

Grace Lutheran Church / [www.gracelutherancu.org](http://www.gracelutherancu.org)

## Fourth Sunday in Lent

### Easter Lilies and Hydrangeas

Purchase Easter Lilies and Hydrangeas to help beautify the chancel at Grace Lutheran for Easter Sunday. You may sign up for Easter chancel flowers between services and 15 minutes after the second service on March 11 and March 18. Purchase an Easter Lily for \$10 or a Hydrangea for \$20 with a dedication of your choice (in honor of, in memory of, or in celebration of). After the final Easter service, you may take your plant home with you or you may leave it at Grace for another Sunday for use in the chancel. Thank you.

### "God's Work. Our Hands."

Four nights a week, volunteers take the Salvation Army's canteen truck around downtown Champaign-Urbana with the sole purpose of offering food, drinks, clothing, blankets, prayers, and information about agencies that can help to the homeless in our community.



You can help, too! On the second Sunday of each month, Grace Lutheran is providing 30 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to be distributed to the homeless in our community. We need small groups of people (3 – 6) to volunteer to assemble and drop off these sandwiches.

Our Sunday School youth made these sandwiches in January and February. The Social Ministry committee will make them in March between worship services. Please pick a month and sign-up your committee, small group, or family to spend 15 – 30 minutes to make a difference in our community. The sign-up poster is in the narthex. All materials and directions, except 3 loaves of sandwich bread, will be provided.

### Pastor's Discretionary Fund

Many thanks to those who contributed to this fund after the last appeal. Because of your generosity we are able to respond to around 4-5 requests for help each week, vetted by area social workers. The fund is running low again. Please consider a donation so that we may continue to help people in our community who are in need.

### The Letters of Paul

The Adult Sunday School Class will survey the letters of Paul on the Sundays in Lent. Each session will begin promptly at 9:15 a.m. with an introductory video that lays out the main themes of the letter. We'll read a few selected passages and then discuss how the issues of the earliest church are still relevant to us today.

Schedule:

March 11 – Philippians

March 18 – Philemon

March 25 – 2 Corinthians

### Food Pantry Update

As a suggestion for those who would like to donate food to the pantry, please consider cold cereals. We are having difficulty acquiring that product right now. Monetary donations are also valued as this allows us to purchase food at a discount from the Eastern Illinois Foodbank.

We appreciate the continued donations of plastic grocery bags.

Thanks be to God for our volunteers and for the generosity of the GLC family!



Your Pantry Board –  
Kathy Bowersox, Karen Krusa, Carol Shupp, and Royce Wilken

## Mega Work-A-Thon Update

Grace delivered 37 boxes during the Empty Tomb Mega Work-A-Thon on Saturday, March 3. Grace also raised \$1270 to help support with the operational costs. A big thanks to the following who participated in the Mega Work-A-Thon as well as those who donated anonymously:

Food and/or Operational Support: Liz Abraham, Susan Monte, Scott Karlstrom, Ja'Net & Steven Miller, Brunner Family, Shirley and Art Traugott, Juanita & Ken Loschen, Cindy & Vlad Grigorescu, Betty Wendland, Jo & Jim Fleming, Eva Frayne, Amy & Brian Nicely, Eileen & Dale Herrstrom, Loven Family, Kathy & Randy Endsley, Bev & George Kieffer, Kathy & Van Bowersox, Grace & Bill Schoedel, Archer Family, Carol & Dave Larson, Marty Family, Vipinraj Family, Claire & Kevin Vail, Charles Walworth & Kaitland Postly, Russ Dankert, Kasten Family, Tina & Jeff Fehrenbacher, Bagger Family, Blanke-Martinis Family, Repp Family, Skaar Family, Pankau Family, Lehmann Family, and Stephen Love.

Delivered Boxes: Charles Walworth & Kaitland Postly, Russ Dankert, Kasten Family, Tina & Jeff Fehrenbacher, Bagger Family, Repp Family, Pankau Family, and Stephen Love.

Special thanks to Dave Bagger for being the coordinator for Grace's participation in the Mega Work-A-Thon.

## Sparkhouse Book Fair

Throughout the month of March, we are hosting a Sparkhouse Book Fair, which includes Bibles, devotionals, and books for children ages 0-12. This is perfect for anyone who is looking for books to fuel faith at home at a discounted price. Order forms as well as a few display books to flip through will be available in the Narthex.

## Worship Support Workshop

Have you wanted to volunteer for worship support, but wanted to learn more first? Are you an old pro that wants to make sure you're up to date on all the changes that have happened in worship? All are welcome to attend a worship support workshop March 25 at 11:45 a.m. (after 10:30 service). This includes all aspects of worship support (greeters, ushers, readers etc.).

## Welcome to a Refugee Family

One of the four houses owned by Grace has been rented to a refugee family from Afghanistan. They have 3 small children and a baby. The social ministry committee has agreed to subsidize the rent at half price for the first 3 months, and the hope is to be able to provide an additional three months of subsidy through individual donations from members of the congregation. We need an additional \$1,500 to provide the half-price subsidy for the three months. If you would like to help, please put a check, made out to Grace Lutheran Church, in the offering plate, and in the memo line indicate "refugee housing subsidy". Thanks so much! If you have questions please contact Grace Schoedel.

## Meal Train for the Refugee Family

Three Spinners is an organization that provides assistance to refugees and immigrants. Currently, Three Spinners is helping to arrange meals for the family from Afghanistan that is renting from Grace. With the new baby and young children, the assistance with meals is especially helpful. The meals should be Halal.

In addition to the newborn, the family has three girls, 2, 4 and 6 years old. The girls could use some clothing, so consider helping out that way if you have items to pass along. (The girls are very petite, so smaller sizes will work well.)

Please contact Alexandra Van Doren (Alex@threespinners.org) if you want to help or have questions.

## Eleventh Annual

### E.C.I.R.M.A.C. Fundraiser Banquet 2018

Another way to help refugees in the community is to attend the Annual Fundraising Banquet to benefit the work of the East Central Illinois Refugee Mutual Assistance Center on Saturday evening, April 14, 2018 at 6:00 p.m., at the Round Barn Banquet Center. The cost is \$75 per person. We hope to be able to have one or two tables of 8 people from Grace Lutheran. Watch for sign-ups in early March. If you have questions contact Grace Schoedel. For more details, check out the March Newsletter.

## Grace upon Grace - Spring Retreat

Spend the weekend of April 20-22 at LOMC with other area youth! This is open to all students in 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grades. The weekend will include bible study, worship, teambuilding, hiking, games, prayer labyrinth, zip line, and campfire. Cost will be \$70/student. Sign up and payment will be due by March 25 (Palm Sunday).

## Two More Midweek Lenten Services Remain

The last two Midweek Lenten Taize evening prayer services are scheduled for March 14 and 21 at 7:00 p.m. The theme for this Lent is Baptismal Living. Each week, we will explore one element of the life we are called to by baptism. Each service is preceded by a Soup Supper in the Narthex which starts at 6:00 p.m. Sign up for the Soup Suppers on the sheet in the Narthex.

## Lenten Devotionals

This year, Grace is providing *Finding Peace in Lent – Reflections on the Saint Francis Peace Prayer* by James E. Adams as our Lenten Devotional. Look for them in the Narthex.

## Calling for Nominations

The Annual Congregation Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 20, 2018, at 9:15 a.m. At the meeting, the President, Vice-President, 5 Council members at large, and 6 members for the Nominating Committee will be elected. If you are interested in being a candidate for any of these offices, please contact any member of the Nominating Committee: Dale Herrstrom (chair), Juanita Loschen, Cindy Grigorescu, JoEllen DeVilbiss, Russ Dankert, and Dave Bagger. Council President and Vice President have two meetings a month plus committee responsibilities. Council members have one meeting a month plus committee responsibilities.

## Passion Walk

The Passion Walk, an annual tradition hosted by the 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday school class, will be held on Sunday, March 25, during the Sunday School Hour.

## Easter Sunday Breakfast

On Easter Day, April 1, services with Holy Communion will be held at their normal times of 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. During coffee hour between services, we will hold the Easter Breakfast, a longstanding tradition at Grace. There are many opportunities to volunteer to help with the breakfast. Look for the sign-up sheets (and foil pans) in the Narthex.

## Holy Week Services

Grace will be holding evening services for Maundy Thursday on March 29 at 7:00 p.m., Good Friday on March 30 at 7:00 p.m., and the Easter Vigil on March 31 at 7:00 p.m.

## Confirmation during Lent

As a reminder to Grace Youth in the Confirmation Program, during Lent you are to participate in at least one Lenten Midweek service and in two of the following services: Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil.

There is also an essay to write. If you need another copy of the assignment, please see Caitlyn.

