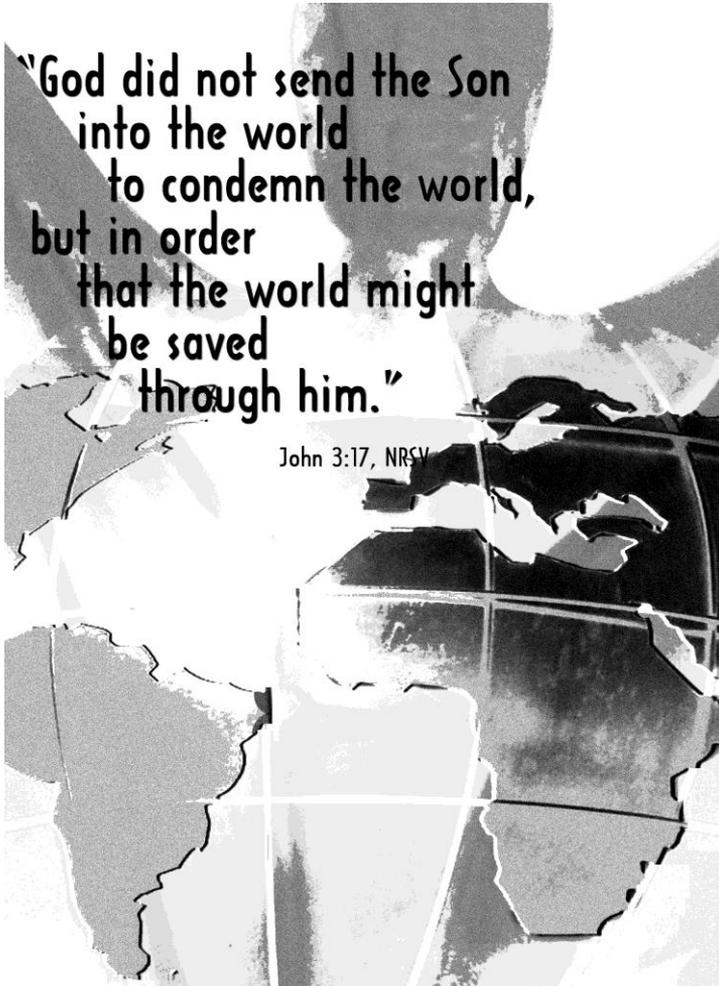


Grace Lutheran Church

3010 52nd St. Des Moines, Iowa 50310



Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 18, 2012

8:15 & 10:45 a.m.

The Mission of Grace Lutheran Church is to bring the good news of God's saving grace, through Jesus Christ's life, death and resurrection to all to be free to be the people of God.

Welcome to Worship at Grace Lutheran Church

Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania

Prelude **“Prelude and Fugue in A Minor”** **J. S. Bach**
Please prepare for worship through quiet reflection and meditation

Please stand as you are able

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the well of eternal life, the light of the world, the breath giving life to dry bones.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn **“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”** **#335**

Greeting

P: The immeasurable grace of Christ Jesus, the rich mercy of God, and the unity of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

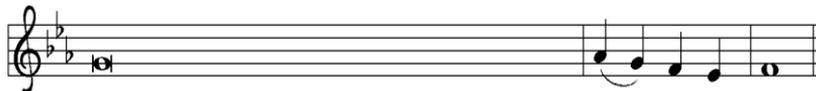
Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



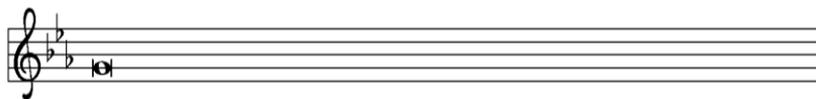
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



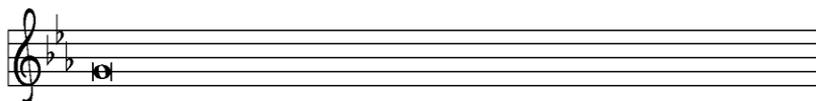
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

C: **O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Please be seated

First Reading: Numbers 21:4–9

Though God provides food and water for the Israelites in the wilderness, they whine and grumble. They forget about the salvation they experienced in the exodus. God punishes them for their sin, but when they repent God also provides a means of healing: a bronze serpent lifted up on a pole.

First Reading:

⁴From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of

Primera Lectura:

La serpiente de bronce

⁴ Los israelitas salieron del monte Hor por la ruta del *Mar Rojo, bordeando el territorio de Edom. En el camino se impacientaron⁵ y comenzaron a hablar contra Dios y contra Moisés:

Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

—¿Para qué nos trajeron ustedes de Egipto a morir en este desierto? ¡Aquí no hay pan ni agua! ¡Ya estamos hartos de esta pésima comida!

⁶ Por eso el SEÑOR mandó contra ellos serpientes venenosas, para que los mordieran, y muchos israelitas murieron. ⁷ El pueblo se acercó entonces a Moisés, y le dijo:

—Hemos pecado al hablar contra el SEÑOR y contra ti. Ruégale al SEÑOR que nos quite esas serpientes. Moisés intercedió por el pueblo, ⁸ y el SEÑOR le dijo:

—Hazte una serpiente, y ponla en un asta. Todos los que sean mordidos y la miren, vivirán.

⁹ Moisés hizo una serpiente de bronce y la puso en un asta. Los que eran mordidos, miraban a la serpiente de bronce y vivían.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 107:1–3, 17–22



You de - li - ver your peo - ple from their dis - tress.

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good, for God's mercy en - dures forever.

²Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,

³gathering them in from the lands; from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

¹⁷Some were fools and took rebellious paths; through their sins they were afflicted.

¹⁸They loathed all man-¹ner of food and drew near¹ to death's door.

¹⁹**Then in their trouble they cried¹ to the LORD and you delivered them from¹ their distress. R**

²⁰You sent forth your¹ word and healed them and rescued them¹ from the grave.

²¹**Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your¹ steadfast love and your wonderful works¹ for all people.**

²²Let them offer sacrifices¹ of thanksgiving and tell of your deeds with¹ shouts of joy. R

Children's Sermon

Please be seated

Second Reading: Ephesians 2:1–10

While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God's grace at work in our lives.

Second Reading:

You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved — ⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

Segundo Lectura:

La vida en Cristo

¹ En otro tiempo ustedes estaban muertos en sus transgresiones y pecados,² en los cuales andaban conforme a los poderes de este mundo. Se conducían según el que gobierna las tinieblas, según el espíritu que ahora ejerce su poder en los que viven en la desobediencia.³ En ese tiempo también todos nosotros vivíamos como ellos, impulsados por nuestros deseos pecaminosos, siguiendo nuestra propia voluntad y nuestros propósitos.^[a] Como los demás, éramos por naturaleza objeto de la ira de Dios.⁴ Pero Dios, que es rico en misericordia, por su gran amor por nosotros,⁵ nos dio vida con Cristo, aun cuando estábamos muertos en

⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God — ⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

pecados. ¡Por gracia ustedes han sido salvados!⁶ Y en unión con Cristo Jesús, Dios nos resucitó y nos hizo sentar con él en las regiones celestiales,⁷ para mostrar en los tiempos venideros la incomparable riqueza de su gracia, que por su bondad derramó sobre nosotros en Cristo Jesús.⁸ Porque por gracia ustedes han sido salvados mediante la fe; esto no procede de ustedes, sino que es el regalo de Dios,⁹ no por obras, para que nadie se *jacte.¹⁰ Porque somos hechura de Dios, creados en Cristo Jesús para buenas obras, las cuales Dios dispuso de antemano a fin de que las pongamos en práctica.

L: The word of the Lord.
 C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able
Gospel Acclamation

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the Third Chapter
 C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel: John 3:14–21

To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader, Nicodemus,

Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today's first reading. Just as those who looked upon the bronze serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross.

Gospel:

¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

el Evangelio

Jesús y el amor del Padre

¹⁴ »Como levantó Moisés la serpiente en el desierto, así también tiene que ser levantado el Hijo del hombre, ¹⁵ para que todo el que crea en él tenga vida eterna. ^[a] ¹⁶ »Porque tanto amó Dios al mundo, que dio a su Hijo *unigénito, para que todo el que cree en él no se pierda, sino que tenga vida eterna. ¹⁷ Dios no envió a su Hijo al mundo para condenar al mundo, sino para salvarlo por medio de él. ¹⁸ El que cree en él no es condenado, pero el que no cree ya está condenado por no haber creído en el nombre del Hijo unigénito de Dios. ¹⁹ Ésta es la causa de la condenación: que la luz vino al mundo, pero la *humanidad prefirió las tinieblas a la luz, porque sus hechos eran perversos. ²⁰ Pues todo el que hace lo malo aborrece la luz, y no se acerca a ella por temor a que sus obras queden al descubierto. ²¹ En cambio, el que practica la verdad se acerca a la luz, para que se vea claramente que ha hecho sus obras en obediencia a Dios. ^[b]

Sermon

Please stand as you are able

Hymn of the Day “Lift High the Cross”

#660

Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

L: Lord, in your mercy

C: hear our prayer

P: Now is the acceptable time to offer our prayers to you, God of grace and truth. Receive them in your mercy, and grant us all that we need, in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

All: God of love, pour out your unifying Spirit upon us. We give you thanks for the blessing of this community of faith. Continue to awaken your gifts in us so we can faithfully build up the body of Christ. Strengthen us to answer the call to the work of your ministry here at Grace. In Jesus' holy name, Amen.

Passing of the Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all,

C: And also with you!

Please be seated

Announcements

Temple Talk

Companion Committee

LWR Quilt and Kit Blessing

P: Lord, we've come seeking your blessing for these things we lay before you, the work of our hands and our hearts;

C: Bless now our eyes that we may see you.

P: We pray for the ministry of Lutheran World Relief and our partnership together to be your hands and feet in a hurting world;

C: Bless our labor, that our hearts would be joyful in this work you have given us.

P: When we've gathered Kits for babies' care, grant us to see you small as once you were, swaddled and washed in the manger;

C: Let us see you in the babies wrapped in these blankets.

P: When we've gathered Kits for school and study, grant us to see you with the teachers, as once you tarried in the temple;

C: Let us see you in the hands of the children writing in these notebooks.

P: When we've gathered Kits for sewing and working, grant us to see you at labor, as once your hands worked your father's tools;

C: Let us see you in the fingers of those who will take up this fabric and thread.

P: When we've gathered Kits for cleansing and healing, grant us to see you dusty from the road and heavy with care;

C: Let us see you in the smiles brightened by these toothbrushes.

P: And when we've made Quilts for protection from cold and a shield from heat, grant us to see you as once you had no place to lay your head;

C: Let us see you in the arms reaching out to receive these Quilts.

P: Grant us this view of the world with heaven's sight,

C: That we may more fully embrace our calling as your servants.

P: Give us courage to glimpse our world turned upside down,

C: then bless us with your unworldly peace.

P: In the Name of Jesus Christ, our Servant Lord,

C: Amen.

The Offering

Offertory "Meditation on "Wondrous Love" by David Paxton

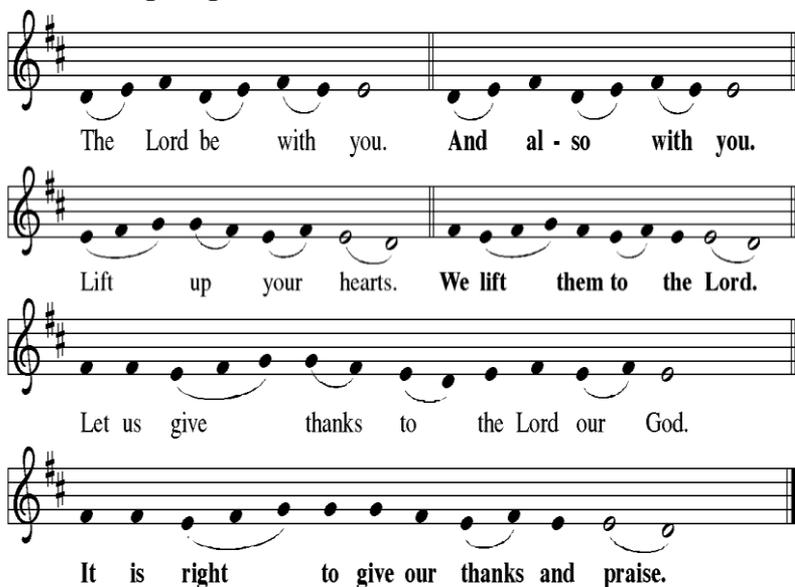
Please stand as you are able

Offering prayer

P: God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

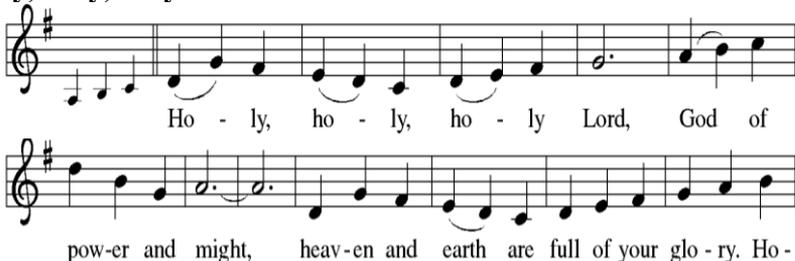
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of

pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Thanksgiving at the Table

P: Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
 way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Distribution Hymns: #666, #502, #475

Please stand as you are able

Prayer after Communion

P: Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Blessing

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace, in the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Hymn "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" #815

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude "VI from Kleine Praludien und Intermezzi"

by Hermann Schroeder

Good Morning and Welcome to Grace!

Please sign the Attendance Registrations sheets which are found in each pew. Visitors, please also sign the guest book at the Welcome Center, and please join us for coffee and education hour activities between services.

Large print bulletins are available from the ushers.

A nursery is available if your children become restless during the service. Heather Nelson or another daycare staff member will be the attendant each Sunday morning. If you don't see anyone in the nursery, check in the daycare office. The service is also broadcast in the Gathering Hall.

If you are not able to come forward to take communion, please notify an usher before the service. Then try to sit by the aisle and the pastors will commune you in your pew.

Communion – We welcome all people to the Lord's table to receive Holy Communion. Children not instructed are invited to come forward for a blessing.

When by intinction: Receive the host (wafer), then dip the host into the chalice (cup) to receive wine (red) or grape juice (clear); depart by the side aisle. Gluten free wafers and a separate glass chalice are available by request on the pulpit side (left when facing altar).

When by pouring chalice: Receive a cup. Receive and eat the bread. Proceed to the wine or grape juice. If you would prefer to have grape juice, take a rose colored glass from the inner ring of the tray; grape juice will be in the outer most chalice on both sides. Communion bread is gluten free.

In our prayers: Ellen Batten, Norma Black, Norman Buihner, Frances Engquist, Vivian Feilmann, Tom Russell, Malena Seymour (Gail Peterson's mother), Stuart Turner, Sarah Williamson, Zelma Wilson, and the others we name before you...

Quarters placed in the offering plate this Sunday, and every third Sunday, are for the Food Pantry.

A Stephen Minister is available in the upper room between services for people who need a listening ear, encouragement and prayer support.

Education Opportunities

Sunday School classes and **Adult Forum** meet at 9:30 after coffee time.

Adult Forum

Mar 18 – Reception welcoming Jennifer Wohlenhaus Bloomberg, the new Director of Music Ministries – Grace Hall I

Meet Our New Director of Music Ministries

Jennifer Wohlenhaus Bloomberg is the principal oboist of the Des Moines Symphony. She performs frequently with many ensembles in the Des Moines/Central Iowa area such as the Polaris Wind Quintet, the Vocal Arts Ensemble and the Des Moines Choral Society.

In addition to performing, Ms. Wohlenhaus Bloomberg teaches oboe, bassoon and music theory/aural skills at Drake University and oboe and bassoon at Grinnell College. She maintains a small private studio of double reed students from the Des Moines and central Iowa area. For the past 11 years, she served as organist for the Ankeny United Church of Christ. Her keyboard study includes organ with Dr. Carl Staplin and piano with Chiu-Ling Lin and George Katz.

Jennifer will play her first service at Grace on March 18. She and her family live close to Grace in the Beaverdale neighborhood. We look forward to welcoming her in person.

Adult Forum Mar 25 – Open – Grace Hall I

Making the Most of Marriage, final class – Esperanza Café

Adult Bible Study meets Tuesday mornings, from 8:45–10:15a.m. in Grace Hall. Pastor Mike leads this study. *If there is anyone who needs a ride on Tuesday mornings, please call the church office for the names of volunteers drivers.*

During Lenten Worship services, Pastor Mike will be doing a series on “Ministry in Mark, More than a Motto”.

Wednesday, March 21

Mark 8:1-9 “Keeps Going and Going and Going”

Wednesday, March 28

Mark 8:22-26 “A Little Dab’ll Do Ya”



Happy Birthday to the following people this week!

Emma Ashton, Joann Jensen, Robert Sauerman, Thomas Selander, Cleone Oberg, Haley Turner, Diane Westercamp, Karen Taylor, Angela Allen, Janet Kjellberg, Susan Miller, Louie Anderson, Rick Harmon, Beau Brindley, Mary Jo McCleary

Happy Anniversary this week to:

Jeffrey and Anne Farrell, Edward and Jane Ridnour, Randy and Karen Taylor



6:20 – 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays before worship. Please place your favorites and suggestions in the box in the gathering Hall for the week ahead. The organist thanks you!



Our Spring Lutheran World Relief Drive is here!

For three weeks, March 4-18, we are focusing on gathering donations and making kits for our brothers and sisters in need around the world. Special envelopes for your donation are available in the pews and at the display in the Gathering Hall. You may place donations in the offering plate or turn in to the church office. Please make checks out to

Grace LWR. On March 18, we will have an Ingathering during both services and invite your help to box up kits and quilts after the 10:45 service.



This Easter, celebrate the joyous good news of Christ's resurrection by purchasing an Easter lily to decorate the altar. Lilies are \$9.50 each. The deadline for ordering is Monday, March 19.

Indicate on the order form if you would like the plant delivered to a homebound member. Otherwise, you may pick up your lily after the 10:45 a.m. service on Easter. Ordering forms are in the bulletin and in the office.

A sign up sheet for delivering lilies to homebound members is located at Volunteer Central. Thank you for your ministry.



Orders are due next Sunday, March 25! Pick up your orders in the Gathering Hall, and extras for friends and neighbors. Don't miss out on the new additions to the order form. Pick up will be Saturday May 5.

Plan to Attend

Easter Sunday Pancake Breakfast

Grace Lutheran Church

Grace Hall

7:00 to 10:00 AM



Free Will donation

Sponsored by The Men in Mission

A portion of the proceeds will go to Lutheran Lakeside Camp

This Week at Grace

SUNDAY, March 18, *LWR Ingathering*

- 8:15 a.m. – Holy Communion
- 9:15 a.m. – Coffee & Fellowship
- 9:30 a.m. – Education Hour, Brass
- 10:45 a.m. – Holy Communion

MONDAY, March 19

- 10:00 a.m. – Staff Meeting
- 4:00 p.m. – TOPS
- 4-5:30 p.m. – VBS Meeting
- 6:00 – 10:00 p.m. – AA in Grace Hall
- 6:00 p.m. – Stephen Supervision

TUESDAY, March 20

- 8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer
- 8:45 a.m. – Bible Study in GH
- 6:00 p.m. – Lydia Circle
- 6:00 p.m. – Tops
- 7:00 p.m. – Property Committee

WEDNESDAY, March 21

- 9:00 a.m. – Willing Workers
- 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. – Soup Supper
- 5:30 p.m. – Book Discussion
- 5:30 p.m. – Chancel Choir
- 5:40 - 6:10 p.m. – Youth Bells
- 6:20 – 6:30 p.m. – Hymn Sing
- 6:30 p.m. – Holden Evening Prayer Worship
- 7:15 p.m. – Grace Brass
- 7:15 p.m. – Endowment Committee
- 7:15 – 8:00 p.m. – Grace Bells

THURSDAY, March 22

- 9:00 a.m. – Quilters
- 9:30 a.m. – Martha Circle

FRIDAY, March 23

SATURDAY, March 24

SUNDAY, March 25, *Welcoming of New Members*

- 8:15 a.m. – Holy Communion
- 9:15 a.m. – Coffee & Fellowship
- 9:30 a.m. – Adult Forum, Education Hour, Brass
- 10:45 a.m. – Holy Communion, *Welcoming of New Members*
- 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. – Whatta Dish Chalice Making

Welcome to Grace!

Ministers – The People of God

Pastor - Michael Schmidt

Director of Laity Ministries - Stephanie Johnson

Director of Music Ministries - Jennifer Wohlenhaus Bloomberg

Grace Kids Care Director - Heather Nelson

Office Administrator - Jackie Holmes

Building/Grounds - Luis Reaza

Receptionist - Diana Johnson

Office Assistant - Michelle Voelker

Ushers

8:15 – Marv Simonsen, Jim Rundle, Jessica Rissman, Jon Rissman

10:15 – Lonnie Jessen, Diane Jessen, Norm Trentmann, Jay Wangerin

Liturgist 8:15 – Paul Kallenbach 10:45 – Joyce Lewis

Lector 8:15 – Julie Honsey 10:45 – Ro Zimany

Children's Sermon: Stephanie Johnson

Communion servers 8:15 – Karen Taylor, John P. Roehrick, Kate Schaller, Jan Gross

Acolytes - 8:15 – Adam Dostalík, Haley Dostalík 10:45 – Isaac McCleary

Altar Guild – Jane Ridnour, Connie Heuton, Sue Anderson

Counters – 8:15 Chuck Denton and Alex Davik,

10:45 Mark Stumme and Carter Woodruff

Coffee Servers – Karen Taylor

Grace Lutheran Church

3010 52nd St. Des Moines, Iowa 50310

Pastor Michael Schmidt

515-276-6873

worship@gracedm.org

www.gracedm.org