

Grace Lutheran Church

*"As a Christian, I do not believe in death,
but in resurrection."*

Archbishop Oscar Romero

Resurrection

We are a little over two weeks away from celebrating this simple truth. We will gather together as the Body of Christ and boldly proclaim, "Christ is Risen! Alleluia!" Christians from all parts of the world cram into church buildings to hear these words, to hear this story, to hear this truth: Resurrection.

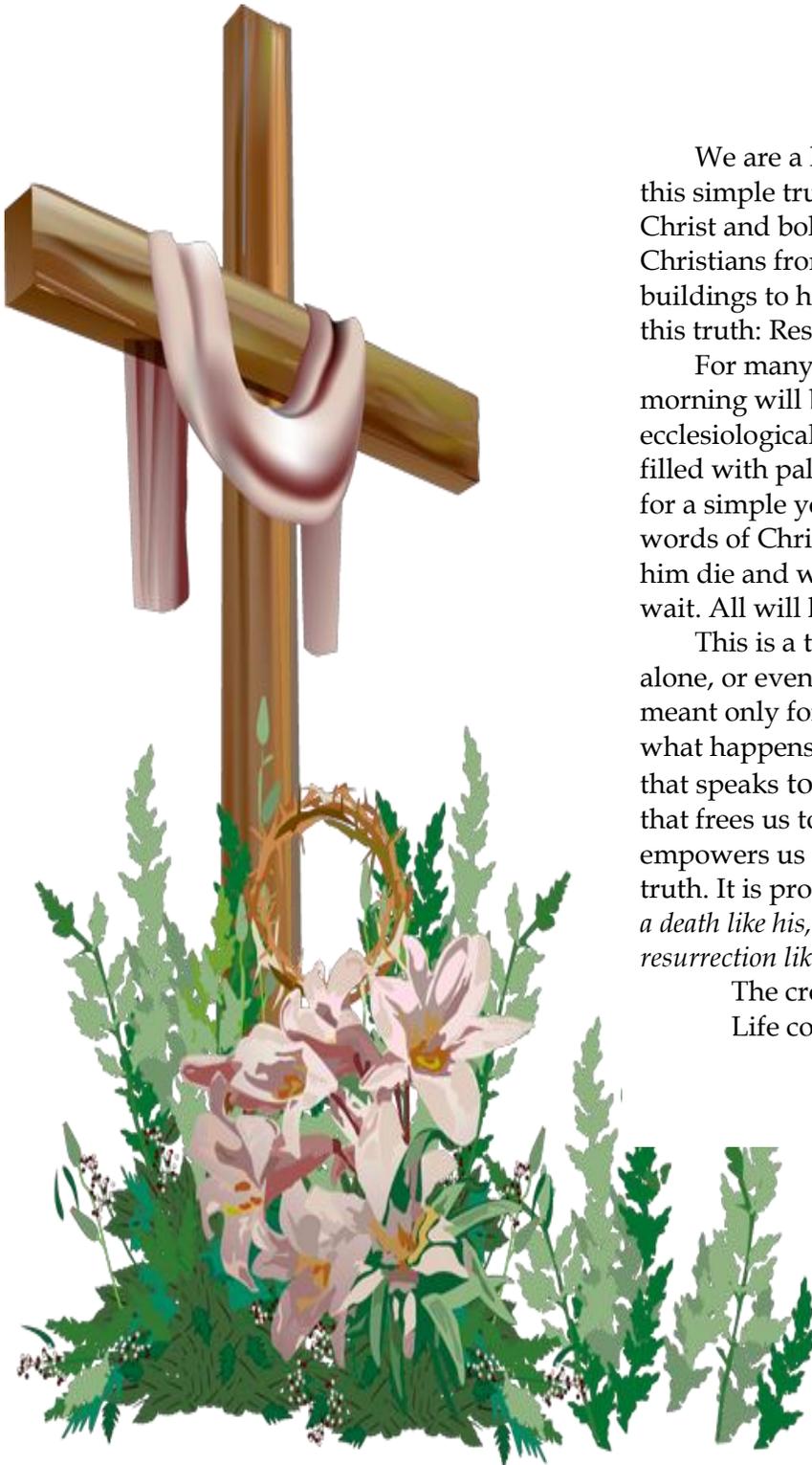
For many of us, the days leading up to Easter morning will be filled with the ups and downs of an ecclesiological rollercoaster. We will gather to a parade filled with palm branches, we will gather around the table for a simple yet profound meal, we will hear the seven last words of Christ, we will nail Christ to the cross, watch him die and walk away. Some will hold vigil. Some will wait. All will hear this truth: Resurrection.

This is a truth that is not meant for Easter Sunday alone, or even the Season of Easter. It is not a truth that is meant only for Christ. It is not a truth that only speaks to what happens after our own physical death. It is a truth that speaks to you, here and now. Today. It is a truth that frees us to be a Child of the Water. It is a truth that empowers us to dream. It is a truth that brings life. It is truth. It is promised: *"For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his."* Romans 6:5

The cross is coming, but not alone.

Life comes with: Resurrection.

Pastor Mike





Wednesday Lenten Services

Holy Communion services March 13 & 20 at 6:30 p.m.

Soup supper served 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Holy Week Worship Schedule

Maundy Thursday

Holy Communion Service at 11:00 a.m.

Luncheon served by Grace Women's Martha Circle following service.

Holy Communion Service with First Communion at 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday

Services at 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Saturday Open Prayer Vigil in the Upper Room

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday

Holy Communion Services at 6:30 a.m., 8:15 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Men in Mission Easter Breakfast served 7:00 to 10:00 a.m.

Children's Easter Activities 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Regular Sunday Worship

Holy Communion Services at 8:15 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Education Hour & Adult Forum at 9:30 a.m.

Education Hour Schedule

Sunday, March 17 – No Sunday school classes this day

Palm Sunday, March 24 – Sunday school classes will be held.

Easter Sunday, March 31 – No Sunday school classes this day -

Children's Easter Activities will be held during the 9:30 hour.



Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

We are in the midst of our spring collection of donations for Lutheran World Relief to make kits and quilts to send to people in need around the world. Please pray for Lutheran world Relief and for the people who are helped each year.

If you would like to help make kits, please come to Adult Forum on March 24. We will have our ingathering on April 14th. Donations can be turned in to the offering plate or the church office anytime through April 14.

Envelopes for donations are located in the church pews and at the LWR display in the gathering Hall. Visit our display for more information. If you have an interest in this work, we would love to have you join our committee.

Contact Cathy Barks at 278-1461.
Thank you for your support.

**Plan to Attend
Easter Sunday Pancake Breakfast
Grace Lutheran Church
Grace Hall**



Free Will Offering

**Sponsored by
The Men in Mission**

**A portion of the proceeds will
go to
Lutheran Lakeside Camp**



Children's Easter Activities

Preschool and elementary age children are invited to join us on **Easter Sunday, 9:30-10:30 a.m.**, for fun activities. We will have crafts, games, word puzzles and coloring activities.

Middle school and high school youth are welcome to help out and should contact Beth Flannery, Deanna Weber or Stephanie Johnson to sign up.



**Grace Kids' Care Spring Program
Tuesday, March 26 at 7:00 p.m.
in Grace Hall**

**The children of Grace Kids' Care will
put on a short program to celebrate
Spring!**

**Hope to see you there.
Happy Spring from the staff and
children of Grace Kids' Care!**



@wondercliparts.com



NCAA Bracket Fundraiser

March Madness is approaching! Selection happens THIS SUNDAY, on St. Patrick's Day, March 17. So, do you feel lucky? Local and regional charities hope so! We will hold the church pool again this year. There will be a \$5 entry fee and the winner will choose which charity will receive the pool monies. Last year, Matt Farrell won and was able to give the \$250 pool to the Animal Rescue League. Let's see if we can raise even more money for a charity this year!

To enter, simply fill out a bracket and turn it in to the church office between Sunday, March 17 and 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 21 with the \$5 entry fee. You should also note your chosen charity when you turn in the bracket. Brackets will be available in the church office or you can print your own. You could also scan your bracket and send it to revschmidt@live.com Please either include cash, or make the check payable to Grace Lutheran Church with NCAA in the memo field.

Scoring: We will use the same scoring system as last year, which led to a very interesting Final Four as several people climbed in points late in the tournament. The scoring is as follows: each correct pick in the first round will be worth one point. Each correct pick in the second round will be worth two points, with the points doubling in value each round: third round four points, fourth round eight points, fifth round 16, and 32 points for correctly picking the champion.



Team Grace Rides Again!

This year RAGBRAI comes right through Des Moines and Team Grace would like to be part of it. Young or old, experienced or not, this will be a great opportunity for some fellowship and exercise. Ride all week or just a few days; let's put together a BIG team. Even if you don't ride a bike, drivers are an important piece of the team. Registration deadline is **April 1** so don't delay. If you are interested contact Jon Rissman at 205-8930.



Active Grace...What does that look like?

The truth is it will be a lot of different things. Starting in April, we will focus on becoming a place of Active Grace. The focus will be on the health of the community of faith, and the individuals and families within it. We are actively planning events for each month ranging from fitness to spiritual health, cooking and nutrition to financial well-being. Stay tuned for more information as we get active together! If you have ideas for events or classes please let us know. You can contact Pastor Mike at 515-276-6873 or revschmidt@live.com.



Maundy Thursday Luncheon

Join us following the 11 a.m. Maundy Thursday Holy Communion service for a luncheon served by the Grace Women of Martha Circle in Grace Hall I. Watch for signup sheet in the Gathering Hall following services. Free will offering!

WELCA Spring Gathering

Clusters #10/11, Women of the ELCA, invites all women to our Spring 2013 Gathering at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1410 W. Boston Ave. in Indianola on April 6, 2013. The program, "Being God's Hands," will be presented by Pastor Carrie La Plante. Join us for inspiration and fellowship. Registration is at 9 a.m. Our Love Gift offering will be presented to Helping Hands ministry in Indianola. There's also our regular offering for the Synod. For more information call Jane White, 515-256-6437.

Come, Study the Parables of Jesus

Where? Chapel

When? Sunday Morning Education Hour, March 17 and 24

Who? All are welcome

The class is taught by Rev. William Kallestad

What? The study is written by Rev. Harry Wendt, founder of Crossways International.

The study covers parables such as, the lost coin, the lost sheep, and the prodigal son. In the study Wendt used a method of understanding the culture of that time. Then he applies the teaching of the parable to our situation and our time.

Luther Park Auxiliary Spring Luncheon and Bake Sale



**Saturday, April 13
11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

Luther Park Apartments
Community Center, 1555 Hull Ave.
Free will offering

Chicken and ham salad sandwiches
Salads – bars – breads – cookies – coffee

Join us at Luther Park!

*Supplemental funds provided by:
Two Rivers Thrivent Chapter*

Summer is coming! Imagine beautiful hanging pots, lush containers of wave petunias, coleus and dusty miller, and watching hummingbirds dart between the impatiens.

**You can make it happen!
Order now during the Youth Plant Sale.
Order forms are due Easter Sunday, March 31.**

Worried about another hot summer? The beautiful Mandevilla Hanging Baskets will flourish with large beautiful leaves and wide pink flowers and will not wilt immediately if you miss a day or two of watering. They also do very well in containers – simply provide a few sticks or a trellis and watch them climb.

