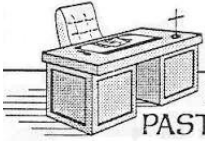


Grace & Trinity Newsbites

MARCH & APRIL 2023



FROM THE
PASTOR'S DESK

As March begins we are in the season of Lent. I invite you (and myself) to be open and creative in thinking about the Lenten disciplines of prayer, fasting and almsgiving... For instance, fasting from

certain foods or habits might be good – but maybe the fast is necessary because it provides space to feast. So maybe it's a fast from judgment that allows us to feast on new experiences or compassion; or fasting from what used to be so that one can feast on the present. Prayer can take many forms. See the box with ideas for prayer. Giving alms might be money to a specific cause, or it could be giving away the new thing and making do with the old.

These practices are some of the 5 essential practices that Adam Hamilton explores in *The Walk*, which are the fulfillment of the promises made in Baptism. In Baptism we are marked with the sign of the cross forever; and are promised to the communal living of our faith.

Lent is our annual 'spring cleaning' event; time to de-clutter, refresh and renew; so that we might see more clearly who we are and where we are heading. With a bit less clutter, inside and out, we make room for gratitude, generosity, joy and peace. May we all be open to the Spirit who leads and guides us in ventures undreamed of, to places we might rather not go, who empowers and encourages us to be faithful disciples of Jesus the Christ, everywhere we go, in everything we do.

The pocket crosses given this Lent are a sign and symbol for us of God's great love and costly grace, freely given for all. The cross is a challenge, promise and reminder that following Jesus is not a path of self-glorification, but of picking up our sinful self and walking in His light, so that God might be glorified. Don't wait to follow until some later 'right time'. Be a disciple right now. This is, after all, the day of salvation.

May our observance of Lent lead to a joyful Easter time.

Happy News for Teala's Family, she is expecting a new niece or nephew any day now. Please be aware for the next 2 weeks that Teala plans to take a day off when the baby arrives and the office will be closed.

Traveling mercies,
Pr. Priscilla

PRAYER

Here's an idea for a Lenten prayer practice that I hope might become a prayer habit. Take home a bulletin and read the Sunday lessons as a daily devotion. For those with a Grace bulletin: Pray through the list of names on the prayer list every day. Use the prayers of intercession for daily prayer. Other ideas: Each time you come into the church building, pray for all who will enter the building that day. As you sit in the sanctuary, pray for all who will sit in the pews that day. As you enter your home, pray for all who live there, and all guests and workers who might pass through that day. As you leave your home, pray for all in need of prayer and that you might be a sign of Christ's presence to all you will meet while away from home. Pray as you enter/leave your car, your work place, school, a store, the theater, etc.; pray for the first responders and those in need of care/correction whenever you hear a siren – ambulance, fire, or police. What other ways could you incorporate time/space for prayer in your day?

Lent and Holy Week Schedule

Wednesdays, March 1 through March 29.

Supper, Lent Study & Prayer around the Cross – 5:30 to 6:40

Fridays, February 24 – March 31.

Ecumenical Men's Lenten breakfasts @Grace 6:30 – 7ish.

Breakfast and a brief devotion; a free will offering is accepted for the Ministerial Association Scholarship fund.

Holy Week: Maundy Thursday, April 6 - 7 PM @Trinity.

Good Friday, April 7 - 7 PM @Grace.

Easter, April 12 – Coffee and rolls after each service, served outside (weather permitting)

6:30 Sunrise Service @Trinity – Outside on the east side of the church.

9 AM Easter service @Grace.

We are co-sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt with Franciscan Healthcare again this year – Sunday, April 2; time TBA.



Confirmation Kids spent a few hours helping at Table Grace and having a bit of fun in Omaha.



We collected 78 cans of soup- about 58 lbs.



Preparing the Ash Wednesday Ashes!



Don & his son & daughter in law came to visit us & thank us for the quilt we gave him for his 95th birthday. Lovely visit!

It's time to get our breakfast for school staff on the calendar. We need a team of 4-5 people to meet within the next week to set a date, make a plan and gather resources to make it happen. Let Pastor know if you'd like to be part of the team.

Here are some ideas and challenges that follow along with our Lent Wednesday focus, *The Walk* by Adam Hamilton.

Week one is prayer and worship. Here's an idea & challenge – make a commitment to pray the Lord's Prayer every day at noon. Then consider your current prayer practices. If you don't regularly pray at night or in the morning, consider adding that discipline to your daily routine.

Week two is study. Read the Bible every day! If you don't already have this practice, start with 10 minutes a day. The Gospel of Mark is a good place to start. If you live in a household with children, think about reading aloud. Already part of your daily routine? Add a Bible study. Ultimate challenge? Read through the whole Bible.

Week 3 is service. Reflect on the service you currently do – church, community, world. Ask for God's direction as to what to keep, what to give up, what to add/begin.

Week 4 is giving or generosity. Always the question - how are generously giving of our time, talent and treasure? What is ours to keep and where shall the rest be given?

Week 5 is sharing. Evangelism. Proclaiming the gospel through our lives and words. Here's a challenge – invite someone to come to Easter service with you.

There's still time to register at Camp Joy Holling and Camp Fontanelle!

In Our Prayers this Month:

**To see an updated list
please contact the office.**

Trinity News

March Birthdays & Anniversaries

April Birthdays & Anniversaries

**To see an updated list
please contact the office.**

Trinity – December Financial Report – General Fund	
To see the latest report please contact the office.	.
Trinity – January Financial Report – General Fund	
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Trinity’s January Minutes are posted on the bulletin board outside the office. If you would like a copy of the minutes, please contact the office.



Grace News

March Birthdays & Anniversaries

April Birthdays & Anniversaries

**To see an updated list
please contact the office.**

Grace’s January Minutes are posted on the bulletin board outside the office. If you would like a copy of the minutes, please contact the office.

Grace Lutheran Church - Financial Reports

General Fund – December 2022

**To see the latest report
please contact the office.**

General Fund – January 2023

WELCA Gathering in April

“You’re here to be a light, bringing out the God-colors in the world.”

—Matthew 5:14

“Let Your Light Shine” is the theme of our 2023 Spring Gatherings which start next month. The Spring Gatherings give you the opportunity to refuel, refresh, and relax yourself. Northeast, April 15, will be held at Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Wayne, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. We have an inspirational day planned with a presentation from a gal who grew up in Singapore as a child of missionaries. For the Bible Study, we are honored to have Bishop Scott Johnson speak, and wonderful entertainment in the afternoon. Our tangible offering is for the Wayne Food Pantry & Wayne School Backpack Program. Of course, we will have delicious food. More information will follow to each unit.

Grace Lutheran Church
Invitation for Easter Flowers

(If Easter Lilies are unavailable,
other flowers will be substituted.)

We will again have a garden of lovely
Easter Flowers for our Easter worship services.

You may order and pay for your lilies direct from the church office
if done so by noon on **Friday, March 31st**.

\$18.50 per Lily for #_____of plants.

Easter Lily given in honor/memory of (circle one)

From:_____

Or:

If you bring in your own plant, fill out the following by
Monday, April 3rd in order to get your donation listed in the Easter
Bulletin. Please do not bring your lily in until April 7th.

Thank you – however- I would like to bring my own Easter Lily,
Given in honor/memory of (circle one)

From:_____
