



Tower
Echoes
2025

From the Pastor,

Jesus Christ Is Risen! Alleluia! He is Risen Indeed!

Wait, don't say that yet. We have a long time yet to live without Alleluias and focus on life. We are still in Lent walking to the cross and death. We are still repenting and being penitent. We shouldn't rush to alleluias yet. Life has not arose from death yet.

We need to face death with Christ. We need to remember there is a price to Jesus and God in order to give us Life. The death of Jesus as us, human, can give us hope that death may not be the end of life as we know it. But Jesus dying does remind us all things die. Death is death unless it is not.

Holy Saturday is a day of sorrow and hopelessness. For the disciple it is a day to wait for nothing. A Sabbath day where work was forbidden. But who wants to work when one is full of such great sorrow and hopelessness. Mary and the other woman/women could not wait until Sunday. When they could at least do something besides just wait in hopelessness. For them doing something was better than doing nothing. The male disciples did nothing except grieve and be confused as what to do next.

We can sit in a locked room and do nothing when we feel hopeless or we can leave the safety of the room and seek Jesus. The women gave up safety and found the Risen Lord. April 20 we come to church to proclaim: Christ is Risen! Alleluia! Sometimes one must live in the hopelessness in order to find the Hope in Christ.

Pastor Jim

P.S. Take a look at the calendar over his desk in Pastor's office at Grace to understand why he can't wait until March is over. He keeps feeling as if he is being watched and judged.



Cultivate Love Through Creation

The April theme invites us to view creation. Through the eyes of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter as God not only reconciles us to Godself, but also nature and all of creation. Spring allows us to appreciate the sun, rain, new growth and opportunities to be love and to love.

Midweek Lenten Services

April 2 at Grace Lutheran Church—7:00 p.m.

April 3 at Grace Gathering—begins @ 11:30 a.m.
“We respond with our talents”

April 9 at Hope Lutheran Church—7:00 p.m.

April 10 at Grace Gathering—begins @ 11:30 a.m.
“What is holding us back from responding?”

HOLY WEEK

April 13 Palm Sunday

April 17 Holy (Maundy) Thursday at Hope Lutheran—7:00 p.m.

April 18 Good Friday at Grace Lutheran—7:00 p.m.

April 20 Resurrection of Our Lord

Grace Lutheran - 8:30 a.m. Hope Lutheran - 10:00 a.m.

Lenten/Easter Offering

The offering for Lent has been designated to be sent to Oaks Indian Mission. The Easter Offering will go towards VBS.

Candles for Mosaic

Mosaic in Beatrice is requesting candles, new or used, stick, pillar or glass-contained for an employment opportunity for their residents. The residents will melt the candles down and then add saw dust. Finally, the mixture is poured into small cups to cool and be sold as fire starters. The fire starters can be used in both fireplaces and fire pits. The price is \$5.00 for 20 cups.

CONFIRMATION

Rite of Confirmation is April 27th at the 8:30 a.m. Worship Service. Samantha Effken and Kenna Thomas will make their Affirmation of Baptism and become a confirmed member of Grace Lutheran Church.

BASKETS OF PROMISE

The Women of Grace are again sponsoring the “Baskets of Promise” project for Lutheran World Relief. This has been a successful project and we thank everyone who participated in the past and again this year.

For 5 weeks, beginning April 13th, we will be collecting items that will be used to assemble the Personal Care Kits. We will end the collection on Mother’s Day as we honor these mothers by helping them ensure health for themselves and their families by being able to use these kits that we provide for them.

Bars of Soap (4-5 oz.) Any brand in the original wrapping.

Bath Towels (lightweight, maximum size 52” x 27”, dark colors are recommended).

Toothbrushes (adult size, in original packaging)

Nail Clippers (Metal, attached file optional).

Mother’s Day will be the last Sunday of the gathering, but items can be brought at anytime.

■ **Church Seasons:** The time in Lent continues in April. Holy Week begins April 13 with Palm Sunday and continues through Holy Saturday. The time of Easter Church Season begins April 20 with the Resurrection of Our Lord. The time in Easter Season continues into June.

■ **Church Festival Days:** April 9 - Dietrich Bonhoeffer Theologian, died 1945

Holy Week - April 13—19

April 13—Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday

April 17—Maundy Thursday/Holy Thursday

April 18—Good Friday

April 20—**The Resurrection of Our Lord**

April 25—Mark, Evangelist

■ **Jewish Festival Days:** April 12—Passover Begins

■ **U.S. Holidays:** April 1—April Fools Day

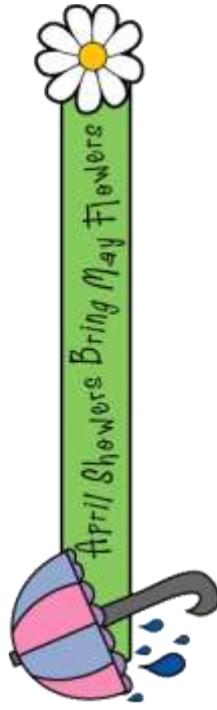
April 15—Tax Day

April 20—Easter

April 22—Earth Day

April 23—Administrative Professionals Day

April 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
6	7 <i>8:30 am Worship w/ Communion 9:30 am Sunday School</i>	8 <i>8th Confirmation 6:00 p.m. Lenten Worship @ Grace Lutheran 7:00 p.m.</i>	9 <i>Kids for Christ 4:00 pm Lenten Worship @ Hope Lutheran 7:00 p.m.</i>	10 <i>Thursday Lenten Gathering @ Grace Lutheran 11:30 a.m.</i>	11 <i>Thursday Lenten Gathering @ Grace Lutheran 11:30 a.m.</i>	12
13	14 <i>PALM SUNDAY 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School</i>	15 <i>Bible Study 2:00 pm Piecemakers Blanket Making</i>	16 <i>8th Confirmation 6:00 p.m. Hope Lutheran— 7:00 p.m.</i>	17 <i>Maundy Thursday Worship @ Hope Lutheran— 7:00 p.m.</i>	18 <i>Good Friday Worship @ Grace Lutheran - 7:00 p.m.</i>	19
20	21 <i>EASTER SUNDAY 8:30 am Worship w/ Communion No Sunday School 10:00 am Worship @ Hope Lutheran</i>	22 <i>Church Council 7:00 p.m.</i>	23 <i>Kids for Christ 4:00 pm 8th Confirmation 6:00 p.m.</i>	24 <i>TOWER ECHOES DEADLINE</i>	25	26
27	28 <i>8:30 am Worship w/Rite of Confirmation 9:30 am Sunday School</i>	29 <i>8th Confirmation 6:00 p.m.</i>	30			



April Birthdays

- 5th – Ryan Panko
- 7th – **Gayleen Eden**
90 years young!
- 8th – Janet Dieckgrafe
- 9th - Lisa Cropp
- 13th – Robin Eggleston
- 15th – Mitchell Brinkman
- 17th – Tom Brinkman
- 19th – Robyn Faris
- 21st – Michael Carman
- 24th – Lori Panko
- 28th – Owen Weber
- 29th - Amber Baehr



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 14th - Joe & Ellen Brinkman
- 29th - Dave & Diane Smith



The following students we are sponsoring all attend the Nronga Secondary School and the Headmaster is Elirehema Massawe. Nronga Secondary School is owned and operated by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, Northern Diocese, and is located on the northwest side of Mt. Kilimanjaro, in a rural area of Moshi. Students who study at Nronga board there from January – early December, with holiday breaks at Easter and during the month of June. Nronga educates students in Forms 1-4 (similar to our 8-10th grade), as well as Advanced Levels 5-6 (similar to our 11-12 grade).

We have 2 students that we are sponsoring again and 2 new students.

Winfrida Mongi is 18 years old, Form 4. Both parents are deceased, her guardian is Monica Mongi, Grandmother & farmer. She is interested in Sports/Games and her Career Goal is to be a Teacher.

Evance Sam is 19 years old, Form 4. Both parents are deceased. She is interested in singing and composing music. Her Career Goal is to be a Pastor.

Our New Students are:

Hassan Mmbaga, she is 12 years old, Form 1. Her father is deceased. Her mother is Phina Joseph and she is a Small Business Woman. She has 4 siblings. She loves singing and reading novels. Hassan is from our sister congregation, Karansi Parish. Her Career Goal is to be a lawyer.

Juliana Thomas is 14 years old, Form 1. Her parents are deceased, and her guardian is Asteria Raphael, Neighbour, Farmer. She has 4 siblings. She enjoys singing church music and being in the choir. Her Career Goal is to be a Pastor.

Grace Lutheran Church Council

March 18, 2025

The regular meeting of the Grace Lutheran Church Council was called to order by President Cheryl Grundman at 7:00 pm. Members present Cheryl Grundman, Robin Eggleston, Mike Carman & Jody Wellensiek – Sarah Purcell excused. Pastor Helgren led with an opening prayer.

Minutes of the February 2025 meetings were reviewed. Mike Carman motioned to accept the minutes, Robin Eggleston second. Minutes approved.

The Treasurer's report was reviewed. Robin motioned to accept the treasure's report. Jody Wellensiek second, motion carried.

Pastor's report:

Visitation conducted with congregation shut-ins.

Linden View worship will be conducted monthly beginning in April.

Jodell Bridgmon funeral was conducted on 3/10/25.

Funeral service will be at Grace for Luetta Bruns on 3/21/25.

Faith Forward Cohort

Thursday, Lenten luncheon 9 participants past week

World Day of Pray was 3/7/25 at Osage.

School is to be cancelled tomorrow, confirmation will be meeting on Saturday at 9:30 am.

Mission Fest suggestions presented.

Pastor's 40th Anniversary of Ordination will be in September and 70th birthday in October.

We may be able to combine celebrations.

Correspondence reviewed:

None

Committee Reports –

Property - (Robin chair)

Light bulbs replaced; organist light repaired.

Parish Ed & young people – (Mike Chair)

Kids for Christ and Sunday School in progress.

VBS needs to be organized for the coming summer. Volunteers needed. Cheryl will call the first organizational meeting for the group.

Worship, Evangelism & Fellowship (Sarah Chair) –

Samantha Wallenburg will sing at Easter worship service.

Lucas Cropp will play trumpet for Easter worship service.

Senior Breakfast invitations have been given to our two seniors and their families. The breakfast is May 4th at 7:30 am. Everyone is invited to attend the breakfast, but they need to let Sarah Purcell know by **Sunday April 27th**. Those willing to contribute breakfast casseroles and other breakfast food items. Please let Sarah know.

The Rogation – seed, soil, and water blessing Service will be Sunday, May 11th.

Stewardship & Memorial – (Jody Chair)

Lenten worship offerings to Oaks Indian Center – two Lenten services were cancelled due to weather – members are encouraged to donate at the next opportunities. Easter Sunday offering to support Vacation Bible School program.

Old Business

Worship Duty schedule reviewed – Thanks to Karen Cerney and Gene and Diane Ekhoff for taking services. Jody and Kate Dietz will be on duty for the funeral.

Maundy Thursday services will be at Hope. Good Friday at Grace – will put up black curtains on windows following worship on 4/13 – Palm Sunday.

Easter service will include an opportunity for communion at the rail.

New Business

The council will put up the curtains for the Good Friday Service following Palm Sunday Worship.

The Easter Offering is designed to Vacation Bible School.

The rafters in the sanctuary will be cleaned.

Next meeting – Monday, April 21st at 7 pm.

Meeting adjourned with Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Jody Wellensiek





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