



The Grace Vine

A Publication of Grace Lutheran Church

Chester, VA April 2011



We are on the brink of celebrating the most important event in human history, the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Nothing that has happened on this globe has positively affected the life of humanity more than this single moment when Jesus Christ strode from the tomb, alive, victorious, never to die again.

But first we must move through the dark days of Holy Week: the betrayal, the arrest, the desertion of the disciples, the false trials before the Sanhedrin, Pilate and Herod Antipas, the ridicule, the thorns, the rod, the scourge, and the cross.

True to His historic dealings with mankind, God even inserts a moment of grace into that dismal week, the giving of the great gift of Holy Communion.

In the Eastern Orthodox Church, the day after Easter has traditionally been a day for the telling of jokes. The intent is to symbolize the great joke God played on Satan in turning Satan's apparent victory at the cross into utter and final defeat at the tomb.

The Resurrection, like so much in God's plan of salvation, defies human description and comprehension. It is God entering directly into the fabric of our existence and doing that which only He could do, setting aside the laws of physics and biology which He laid down, showing Himself to be Lord of the universe and yet faithful to the Law He had given, not breaking it but

satisfying its demands at a cost to Himself too enormous and horrifying to contemplate.

All to rescue us from the consequences of our own willfulness and rebellion. All to give us a hope and a future we could not earn nor devise ourselves. All to give us the hope and promise of forgiveness and eternal life with Him through faith in Jesus as a free gift.

Whatever you are experiencing in life at this moment, may you find your greatest joy and strength and comfort in knowing that your eternal life is secure. No matter what the year past has brought you, and especially if you are mourning the death of loved ones who left this life in faith, may you find joy in the midst of your sadness and struggle in knowing that they are secure and alive in the presence of God, who sacrificed so much to make it so, and that by faith you will see them once again.

And may we all find in the Resurrection the promise that gives meaning to life right now, the promise of new life each day through the Holy Spirit, strength to live each day in hope and courage, and the promise of life forever with our Resurrected Lord.

In Him,
Pastor



National Library
WEEK April
10 - 15



Teachers profess that reading builds vocabulary and fluency. Theologians assert that reading lifts the human spirit. So what should we read? For the unsure, classics are a good place to start. You can explore websites or ask a librarian for reading suggestions. You may even discover a book that you enjoyed as a child and could share with your family. The Grace library and the public libraries are a wealth of information; take advantage of all they offer.

"Perhaps no place in our community is so totally democratic as the town library. The only entrance is interest."

Lady Bird Johnson

Pat LaLonde
Family Life



On Sunday, March 13th, Tyler Wayne Gustavson, son of Christine Lynn Gustavson, and grandson of Jackie Sterner, became a child of God through the waters of Holy Baptism. His sponsor is Jessica Gustavson. May the faith imparted to Tyler at his baptism grow and flourish.

Most of the playground equipment is up and being used. Dave Long will be adding a merry-go-round. Plans are being made for a picnic table cover beside the playground. We would like to hear any suggestions or in-put from the congregation on the playground area as well as any outreach ideas or suggestions.

Joe & Jean Hudgins
Outreach

The Time Is NOW



One of the first things we are taught in kindergarten is to learn how to share with others. It sounds so simple, yet many children find this hard to do. Many mature Christians also find that sharing our love for Jesus Christ and His message of salvation is not as easy to do as it sounds. When and how are the two big questions we must answer before we can begin.

Do you know what is the most asked question (in all languages) in our world? The question is, "what time is it?" Hosea came up with the perfect answer to this question. He said tell the person who asks that, "It is time to seek the Lord!" This answer could be the perfect ice-breaker to begin talking with someone about your faith in Jesus Christ and what He means to you. The four gospels are a testimony of Jesus witness to others. It's time now for us to carry on His witness to others who are caught up in our sin-sick, high-tech world. The good news to share is that Christ came to conquer sin, death and the devil. By placing our trust in Jesus, we are following the guidance of the apostle Peter who said in 1 Peter 2:24, "He himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live for righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed." The Lord declared to us in Isaiah 43:12, "You are My witnesses." The message could not be any clearer. Share it now! Think about it.

Bill King,
Outreach





Monthly Gracevine Report
February 28, 2011

General Fund Total Giving	\$72,931
General Fund Total Spending	\$70,221
Surplus	\$2,710
Missionart Support	\$4,812
Seminary Support	\$1,963



Thank
You

Just a quick note to thank everyone for the beautiful sparkly cards and cute bear for Aiden! We were touched by the gesture and enjoyed the pic, too. Thank you for the prayers. Terri, Ben Aiden, & Ashlee Turner.

The Liam Ficher family also give thanks to the Youth for their cards.

The calls, cards, emails and prayers during my recent illness were greatly appreciated by both Jimmy and me. Thanks for being so caring and loving, Gerrie Jones

Here we are in Lent now and anticipating the glorious sights and sounds that will greet us Easter morning. It is through the weeks of Lenten introspection and meditation that the joys of Easter are made real. I hope you are participating in regular Sunday services, Bible classes, and Wednesday evening services and spending personal time with Bible and devotional materials specifically prepared for the Lenten season. We as Christians can grow greatly in faith through this season of the church year.



I had promised periodically to share some of what I learned over the past summer when I spent a week in Winchester, VA, studying at Shenandoah Conservatory under the guidance of Lutheran pastor, professor, musician and author Paul Westermeyer. I have pulled some thoughts from that experience that seem to relate especially to this season of the church year.

The church musician is called to order his or her musical gifts to the central things of the liturgy; to let those musical gifts serve the Church as the Church gathers, speaks, baptizes, feeds, forgives, and heals in the world. This then, is the purpose for our hymnody, church choirs, bell choirs, small ensembles, and soloists in our services. They are not there to entertain or perform. They are there to enhance worship and help proclaim the Word through music. Much time and careful thought goes into the planning of music for the choirs and our choice of hymns appropriate for the Scripture readings each worship service. Recently, on an Ash Wednesday, a group of lay and ordained pastors from an Episcopal church in San Francisco brought the distribution of ashes and some hymns from the church into the streets of the city where people had reported that they were unable to be in church for Ash Wednesday services. What happened stunned and humbled

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ whose shed blood forgives us our sins, and allows for reconciliation with the Father. Through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, we have eternal life now!

Time is marching on as usual, and that light at the end of the tunnel is getting brighter and brighter with vicarage upcoming! I will be starting the spring term on Monday, March 7th, and will be just a few summer courses away from vicarage after that.

As for Jennifer and Baby Julia, both mother and baby are doing well. Jennifer is thirty-five weeks pregnant as of the writing of this letter, and the pregnancy continues to progress well. Jennifer will have a minor surgery on March 31st to remove the stitch (cerclage) that is keeping pre-labor from occurring. After that happens, Jennifer will have a 1 and 3 chance of going into active labor then, or within the next two weeks. Her due date is April 11th. And we decided due to the very young age of the baby that we will not be coming home for Easter, but at the end of May after the spring term is completed to have her Baptized at Grace, God willing!

I am constantly reminded that we are to praise God for His provision in our lives. Whether or not we realize it or not, everything we have comes from God and it is His provision that sustains us. Even more importantly, it is only because of His grace that we have been redeemed and restored to a new life. And it is only because of His grace that our salvation is kept safe until the second coming of Jesus Christ on the Last Day.

So, as we enter the season of Lent, it is good to look back at our lives, to see God's provision – to see His work, and examine our lives. Has our response to His grace always been satisfactory, or do we need to seek His forgiveness, and ask for Him to strengthen our Christian walks of faith? We live in a peculiar state right now. We are both fully justified (aka a "saint") and yet fully corrupted (aka a "sinner"), and so we continue to fight the good fight against our fallen, corrupted nature, enduring until death, or Jesus' return. So that on that final Day Jesus can restore us perfectly, having shed that sinful nature, so we can live perfect, sinless lives to Christ for eternity!

εν Χριστῷ (In Christ),



Justin Pahl
Second Year Seminarian, CSL

11 FOUNDERS WAY
UNIT C
ST LOUIS, MO 63105

the ministers involved as in their robes and carrying the processional cross and ashes into the streets, they were asked by over four hundred people to be marked with the ashened sign of the holy cross with tears streaming down their cheeks. "We never expected the church to be here on the streets among us," said numerous people who asked for ashes.

We expect people to come to us in the church so that they may be spiritually fed by our words, sacraments, music and the gathering together of God's people in worship, but the point of this particular discussion was to ask the question, "What if?" What if our musical practices more frequently included choir, instruments, and soloists going outward singing and playing portable instruments into homeless shelters, meal sites, hospitals, psychiatric wards, nursing homes, prisons - in all those places where Christ tells us we will encounter him (Matthew 25:31-46), in and among all those conditions of distress where he himself was found "singing" as it were, of God's mercy and hope restored? Our music can draw us to embrace, with trusting faith, the cross of human suffering where God is to be encountered. For it is there, in loss and distress and anxiety, that we too are found. And it is in being found and marked as Christ's own forever that we are able to sing in our lives, in the liturgy, and in public, our faith. Is this an area where our music at Grace needs to move? Do we need to take our musical gifts and talents and share them more outside the walls of our church? Something to think about during this holy season of Lent and Easter.

Blessings to all,
Sue Gamber
Director of Music Ministries
320-1822



Congregational Meeting

It is that time of year at Grace Lutheran Church.

Our Bylaws require us to have three Congregational Meetings each year for dissemination of information, to answer any questions that might be of concern to our members, and then voting to approve important church issues.

On March 27, we scheduled our first meeting of this year for the purpose of approving Council Directors and Deacons prior to their formal installation.

On Sunday, May 1, after 10:45am service, the second meeting in our series of three, will be to hear the directors' reports by council. Bob Dunn, Chairperson of the Planning Committee, will have an informative presentation and update on the discussions of his committee.

Please mark your calendars so you can be present to attend this informational meeting in the life of your church: **Sunday, May 1, Congregational Meeting at Grace.**



Grace Lutheran Church
Chester, Virginia

Lisa Neal
Youth Director

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH NEWS



I need to borrow photos of your children please! Please provide photos to me ASAP, but no later than April 24th. Please put the photos in an envelope with your child's name on it and then place them in my church mailbox or on my desk. The photos will be used for a display board of the Confirmands. We don't have very many Confirmands this year, so please provide me with 5-7 photos of your child. I would especially like to have a baby picture and current picture. If you have baptism or First Communion pics, those would be great as well. Any cute photos are always good! I will return these photos to you. Thanks! Lisa

Youth Sunday will be here before we know it and I would like to recognize our graduating seniors in the bulletin. Please provide me with a Senior picture of your child, as well as a written bio of your child to include where they will be graduated from; class ranking (ex: top 10 %); activities, sports, etc. that they participated in during high school or college; and their post graduation plans. Please provide this information to me in my church mailbox or on my desk by May 1st to be sure that they are included. If you have questions, feel free to call me at home 748-0338 or email me at gracey-outhrock07@aol.com. Thanks! Lisa
Please remember that there is no regularly



RAFTING TRIP

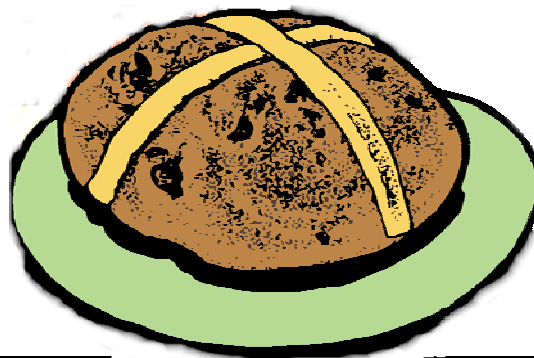
Please watch the bulletin, email, and youth bulletin board for information on this year's rafting retreat. Due to the high price of gas, the retreat will probably be a little closer to home. Details will be coming soon....



HSH & MSM take *Lenten Break*

scheduled High School Happening or Middle School Madness during Lent. Please be sure to come to the Wednesday night soup suppers and Lenten services for fellowship and worship! There will be some events planned during this season, so keep an eye on the bulletin and for emails with details. Plans are in the works for a pizza and movie afternoon at church and for our annual Swader's event.





HOT CROSS BUNS

Make this traditional Easter recipe to remember how Christ gave his life for you.

What you need:

- 1 can (12 oz.) evaporated milk
- 1 stick (½ cup) butter, melted
- ½ cup sugar
- Pinch of salt
- 1½ Tablespoons yeast
- 1 egg, beaten
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon nutmeg
- 5 cups flour
- Icing
- An adult to help

What you do:

1. In large bowl, combine the first eight ingredients.
2. Stir in flour, one cup at a time, to form soft dough. Knead on a floured surface until smooth and elastic (about five minutes).
3. Place in a greased bowl, turning once to grease top. Cover and let rise until doubled (about one hour).
4. Knead out air bubbles. Form six two-inch balls.
5. Place two inches apart on a greased cookie sheet. Cover and let rise until doubled (about 30 minutes).
6. Bake at 375 degrees until golden (13 to 15 minutes). Cool on wire racks.
7. Add icing in a cross shape. Enjoy!

Once again the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper was a success! Many thanks to everyone who helped set up, cooked, served, cleaned up, or supported the youth in any way---especially by coming to the supper and enjoying the meal! J We couldn't do it without everyone who supported us! All profits will go toward youth accounts for the youth to use to attend work camp or youth retreats.



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

WHAT: Workcamp 2011 in Petersburg, VA

WHEN: July 3-8

Could you help feed a hard working crew of 6-7 people one day during that week? You would need to deliver

the lunch to the worksite in Petersburg by noon, but if that's a problem, just let me know. Lunches can be anything you'd like: sandwiches, chips, cookies and fruit; pizza and dessert; fried chicken; fast food; whatever. Variety is nice!

If you are willing to feed a work crew, please contact Lisa Neal at gracey-outhrock07@aol.com or 748-0338. I will be more than happy to provide more details and answer any questions you may have. Thank you in advance for your support of this ministry!

April 2011 Schedule of Servers

April 3, 2011		April 10, 2011		April 17, 2011- Palm Sunday		April 24, 2011 - Easter	
<i>Deacon</i>		<i>Deacon</i>		<i>Deacon</i>		<i>Deacon</i>	
Chris Gattis Dave Roberts		Chris Gattis Dave Roberts		Chris Gattis Dave Roberts		Chris Gattis Dave Roberts	
<i>Assisting Minister</i>		<i>Assisting Minister</i>		<i>Assisting Minister</i>		<i>Assisting Minister</i>	
Joy Phillips 0815 Jennifer Wayne 1045	John Philipkosky 0815 Don Smith 1045	Jake Jacobs 0815 Ruth Bowling 1045	Greg Hite 0815 Dick Reese 1045				
<i>Toller</i>		<i>Toller</i>		<i>Toller</i>		<i>Toller</i>	
Noah Engel 0815 Jill Laprad 1045	Joy Phillips 0815 Reese Manning 1045	Richard Engel 0815 Sandra Marr 1045	Josh Nowland 0815 Marge McCallister 1045				
<i>Server</i>		<i>Server</i>		<i>Server</i>		<i>Server</i>	
Pete Adler 0815	Bob Merrill 1045	Terry Bach 0815 Kevin Buchter 1045	Jeanett Gattis 0815 Ron Fischer 1045				
<i>Cantor</i>		<i>Cantor</i>		<i>Cantor</i>		<i>Cantor</i>	
Stephanie Sloan 1045	Pete Adler 1045	Pastor Finck 1045	Don Smith 1045				
<i>Acolyte/Crucifer</i>		<i>Acolyte/Crucifer</i>		<i>Acolyte/Crucifer</i>		<i>Acolyte/Crucifer</i>	
Abigail Phillips 0815 Rachel Phillips Austin Rowell 1045 Rachel Wilson	Lindsay Nowland 0815 Josh Nowland Emily Buchter 1045 Reese Manning	Sarah Oertel 0815 Laura Oertel Ben Rogers 1045 Cori Fischer	Noah Engel 0815 Laura Eley Meghan Schinzer 1045 Theresa Volkman				
<i>Lectors</i>		<i>Lectors</i>		<i>Lectors</i>		<i>Lectors</i>	
Peggy Gordon 0815 Larry Grimes Stephen Neal 1045 Lisa Neal	Ed Ward 0815 Lisa Scott Marti Dorn 1045 Dick Reese	Janet Arnold 0815 Sue Gamber Forest Sloan 1045 Stephanie Sloan	Ruth Bowling 0815 Jackie Sterner Don Smith 1045 Maggie Smith				
<i>Ushers</i>		<i>Ushers</i>		<i>Ushers</i>		<i>Ushers</i>	
Ruth Bowling 0815 Peggy Gordon Peter Schoultis Joe Mannetta Rodney Wilson 1045 Mike Foster David Brown Greg Gross	Robin Nasi 0815 Gaylord Thompson Pete Adler Larry Grimes Kevin Buchter 1045 Sarah Buchter Forrest Sloan Jennifer Wayne	Thom Hagen 0815 Bill King Jake Jacobs Debbie Jacobs Conny Erbes 1045 Bob Phelps Helen Bellflower Brad McMinn	Fred Townsend 0815 Ed Ward Pete Burke Dave Long Rick Baker 1045 Robert Beck Scott Osmundson Ron Mabry				
<i>Nursery</i>		<i>Nursery</i>		<i>Nursery</i>		<i>Nursery</i>	
Jill LaPrad 0815 Cris Fischer 1045	Susan Nicol 0815 Jean Hudgins 1045	Jackie Sterner 0815 Peggy Metz 1045	Lisa Scott 0815 Kathleen Wilson 1045				
<i>Hosts</i>		<i>Hosts</i>		<i>Hosts</i>		<i>Hosts</i>	
Janet Arnold 0815 Christina Dhir Barbara Pohlrig 1045 Laurie Schinzer	Chuck & Paula Barnes 0815 Maggie Smith 1045 Vivian Spage	Bill & Evelyn Collie 0815 Forrest Sloan 1045 Jennifer Wayne	Bonnie Finck 0815 Heidi Gross Ed & Nancy Wanzong 1045				
<i>Counters</i>		<i>Counters</i>		<i>Counters</i>		<i>Counters</i>	
Felia Ayala Forest Sloan	Sandra Marr Lisa Scott	Bob Dunn Conny Erbes	Peg Adler Nancy Roberts				

Old Dominion Zone

Spring Rally



This interactive DVD led workshop includes tips for women on how to witness their faith, vignettes of possible witness situations and “heart stories” with real women sharing their own experiences in talking about their faith.

Saturday, April 9

Redeemer Lutheran Church

- 9:00 - Registration
- 9:30 - Rally Begins
- Light Breakfast
- Lunch Served
- Cost is \$5
- Bring non-perishable food for Redeemer's Food Pantry

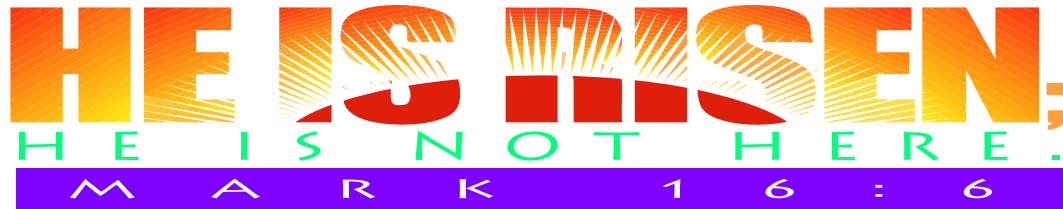


Redeemer Lutheran Church is located at 9400 Redbridge Rd, Richmond, VA 23236

For More Information, Contact:

April 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----



						1 Mens Breakfast 7am	2
3 Worship 8:15am* Worship 10:45am HSYG 9:30am	4 Happy Clappers 10am	5 Deacons 7pm	6 Bible Study 10am Soup Supper 6pm Lenten service 7pm	7 Joyful Noise 6pm Confirmation 7pm Choir 7pm	8	9	
10 Worship 8:15am Worship 10:45am* MSYG 9:30am	11 Chester Village Women 9:30am Happy Clappers 10am	12 Council 7pm Scouts 6pm	13 Bible Study 10am Soup Supper 6pm Lenten service 7pm Scouts	14 Joyful Noise 6pm Confirmation 7pm Choir 7pm	15 Mens Breakfast 7am Wedding rehearsal	16 Church WKday 8:30 Wedding & reception 4pm	
17 Worship 8:15am* Worship 10:45am* 1st Communion Palm Sunday	18	19 Angles 10am "Bad Girls" 7am	20 Bible study 10am Happy Clappers 11am	21 Maundy Thursday Communion 7pm	22 Tenebrae Service 7pm	23	
EASTER 24 Sunrise service & breakfast Worship 8:15am* Worship 10:45am*	25 G.E.M.S 12:30pm	26 Planning Mtg 7pm	27 Bible Study 10am	28 Confirmation class 7pm	29	30	