

*Large enough
to serve,
Small enough
to care*



Volume 2, Issue 5

May 2014

**Mark Your
Calendar:**

**Teacher
Appreciation
Sunday
May 25th**

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The First Day

What is Easter anyway? We consider Easter to be the "first day." From Easter comes the practice of worshipping Sunday morning. It is the first day of the week. It is also the "first day" of new creation, on it Christ restored the image of God in the human and in so doing also brought renewal to all of creation. Psalm 118 sings out "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." The gladness of Easter cannot be held in one day. It overflows the day into weeks of rejoicing.

The Easter season celebrates this "first day." In the resurrected Christ, there is time after the end, life after death, restoration of what was broken, and the brightening of what had gone dark. One way I think about the first day is as a clean

slate. It is the gift of another chance given through forgiveness. I remember the first day of school with excitement. I would have a "Big Chief" notebook and new pencils. I would have a new outfit for the first day. My mom would take a picture of us 6 kids fresh, clean and ready for a new year of school. Easter is a fresh start. We celebrate the power of God to make all things new, even our broken lives.

In the fifty days of Easter, communities around the world strive to worship God in a way that illustrates that the body of Christ lives now in the heavenly places and also in the world. Where do you see God being worshipped in the world? This month at Grace we will complete another year of Sunday school and thank those adults that led this ministry, gather

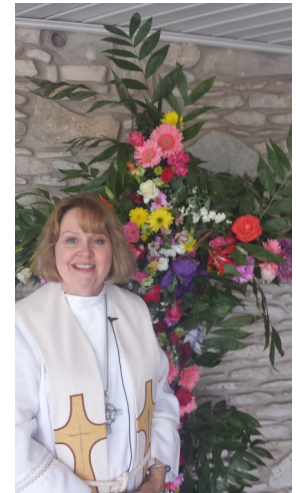


Photo: Bob Eskridge

and pack bags of food for school children that would have gone hungry, take flowers to the elderly, welcome new members, pray, study and care for those in need. Worship is where heaven and earth meet. "O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!" Ps. 118

Happy Easter,
Pastor Cindy Wolf

New Member Classes: Sundays May 18th & May 25th

following Worship (noon to 1:15) in the TEC. A light lunch will be served

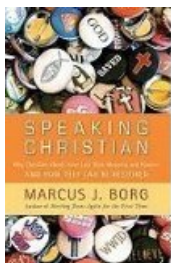
Grace is holding new member classes this month. You're invited to attend these classes to learn more about this congregation and deepen your faith. There will be time to hear more about you and introduce you to others who are interested in becoming members of Grace.

Grace is large enough to serve and small enough to care. This "slogan" really gets to the heart of what people find meaningful at Grace. You will find opportunities to serve and enlarge your heart for others when you join this congregation. Grace will be blessed by you.

Please call the office with any questions, 512-255-6001.



Photos: Robert Simon



Easter Celebrations

In preparation for Holy Week a group of members spent the morning of Saturday, April 12th performing varied spring cleaning activities. Paneling was cleaned and polished, furnishings dusted, and shrubs trimmed. Thanks to everyone who helped make Grace sparkling clean for a fresh start.

On Easter Sunday children enjoyed an Easter Egg Hunt searching for well-hidden eggs in the playground. The children also sang with Grace Choir during the Offertory at the 10:30 service. Between services many attendees enjoyed fellowship and good food during Easter Brunch, served by the youth.



Adult Studies in May Grace House, Blue Room 9:25-10:10 a.m.

May 4, 11, & 25 *Speaking Christian: Why Christian Words Have Lost Their Meaning and Power — And How They Can Be Restored* by internationally renowned Bible scholar, **Marcus J. Borg**

In *Speaking Christian* Borg delivers a language for twenty-first Christians that grounds the faith in its deep and rich original roots and allows it once again to transform our lives. For example, *Savior*: now refers to Jesus as the one who saves us from our sins, but in the Bible it has a rich and wonderful variety of meanings having nothing to do with the afterlife. The book is provided.

May 18 Adam Reemts presents *Compassion*.

Adam, Charlotte, and their girls are passionate about the works of "Compassion." Millions of children across the world are just barely surviving. Many have come to believe their lives are worthless. The Reemts family has sponsored children and Adam will share their stewardship stories.

WORKSHOP OF WONDERS

Share your Time, your Gifts, and your Passions!

VBS Dates: July 7 through July 10

Time: 5:30 p.m. meal followed by VBS from 6-8:15 p.m.

Temperatures are creeping up with summer right on our doorstep which means it will soon be time for Vacation Bible School. Over the next few weeks, I invite you to think about how you might want to get involved in this amazing ministry for the children of Grace and our community.

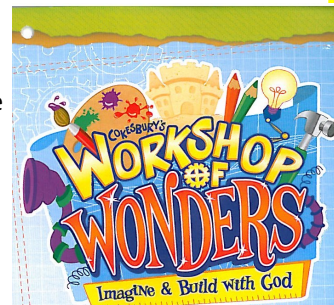
This year's theme is *Workshop of Wonders (WOW): Imagine and Build with God*. WOW, a place where we will use our minds and hands to imagine and create! We will be turning ordinary into extraordinary!

God has blessed each of us with special gifts, making each of us not just ordinary but extraordinary in his eyes. Perhaps you are a good leader, or like to teach, or like to paint, or like to build things, or like to create things, or like to sew, or like to make pottery, or like to garden. I invite you to share your gifts with us at VBS and look forward to talking with you about how we can incorporate your gifts into the extraordinary experience for all of us at WOW VBS. Let's turn Grace VBS from ordinary into extraordinary.

I invite you to look over the list below of just some ideas of ways that you can volunteer your time and share your passion. Again, I welcome your ideas. Watch for more details and sign-up sheets later this month.

We give thanks that God has given each of us talents and the desire to share our gifts with others.

Peace, Vicki



DURING WORKSHOP OF WONDERS VBS AT GRACE I can:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help with child care | <input type="checkbox"/> Be a registrar | <input type="checkbox"/> Be a Meal Manager |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help serve food | <input type="checkbox"/> Take photos | <input type="checkbox"/> Greet parents & participants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Provide food for a meal | <input type="checkbox"/> Help make decorations | <input type="checkbox"/> Be a Family Leader |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help with Crafts | <input type="checkbox"/> Lead Games | <input type="checkbox"/> Lead Crafts Station |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help with Setup | <input type="checkbox"/> Lead Snack Station | <input type="checkbox"/> Lead Service Project |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coordinate Bible Dramas | <input type="checkbox"/> Be Actor/Actress | <input type="checkbox"/> Help with Music |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help with Games | <input type="checkbox"/> Help with Crafts | <input type="checkbox"/> Help with Publicity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Run audio equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> Lead Science Station | <input type="checkbox"/> Provide props/supplies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare craft projects | <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare science projects | <input type="checkbox"/> Monitor church grounds |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help build props | <input type="checkbox"/> Pray for VBS | <input type="checkbox"/> Share my time by... |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Share my gift of... | <input type="checkbox"/> Share my passion of... | |

Stewardship News

Sunday, April 13 concluded the Wednesday night offerings and Sunday designated offerings for the Water for Africa *LifeStraws*. The Extravagant Generosity of Grace's members and friends will provide 210 *LifeStraws* for persons for a year. The final amount collected was \$2,133. Thank you for your gifts. Pastor Cindy will take our check to the Synod Assembly in May.



The committee met on March 31 to make long range plans for the next nine months. There are some exciting things that are going to be happening and as they are publicized our hope is that members of Grace will participate.

- ◆ The first event will be packing bags with food items for the Backpack Coalition on Sunday, May 4. See page 4 for further details.
- ◆ Grace is signed up to participate in the 2nd annual ELCA *God's Work. Our Hands* Sunday on September 7.

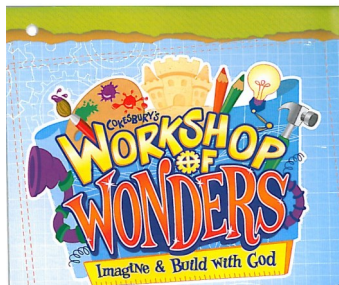
The Stewardship Committee



GRACE DINOS NEWS: Food Drive & Backpack Assembly Event

THANK YOU to everyone who has contributed food items for our Food Drive benefiting the Grace Dinos *Operation Backpack* Ministry (in partnership with Deep Wood Elementary). We will continue to collect food items through Friday, May 2nd.

Be sure to attend Worship on Sunday, May 4th because we have something special planned. Immediately following the Worship Service everyone will have the opportunity to participate in a *Congregational Backpack Assembly Event*. With help from the Backpack Coalition we will set up a food assembly line in the TEC with all of the food items that you donated throughout the month of April, plus more. We (children and adults) will spend about 20 minutes assembling food backpacks that will be delivered to Deep Wood and other RRISD schools that partner with the Backpack Coalition. This will be a great opportunity for all of us to learn more about the Backpack Coalition operation. We also see first-hand how some of our Benevolence dollars are being used to feed hungry children in our community as we continue our focus on *God's Work, Our Hands*.



Start Saving These Items for VBS

Rather than putting these items in your recycling bin, please save these household items for VBS. Collection bins will be setup in the TEC.

- ◆ cardboard paper towel rolls (when you finish a roll of paper towels, save the cardboard tube that the paper towels were rolled on)
- ◆ empty clean plastic food jars with plastic lids (peanut butter, mayonnaise, fruit). Please be sure to wash the plastic jars.

Mark your calendars for VBS 2014, July 7–10 (Monday–Thursday)

The program for this year is *WOW (Workshop of Wonders) - Imagine & Build with God*. We will discover how the ordinary becomes extraordinary with God as we *Imagine with God, Build with God, Grow with God, Work with God, and Walk with God*.

Attention Thrivent Members!

Direct your Choice Dollars now and add \$20...

Direct Choice Dollars® between April 1 and May 31, 2014 and Thrivent Financial will provide an additional one-time grant of \$20 to the first organization to which you direct Choice Dollars. If you direct Choice Dollars to multiple organizations, the additional grant will be sent only to the first organization you directed Choice Dollars to during this campaign.

- The additional \$20 grant will be distributed on or before June 30, 2014, as a one-time payment to the organization.
- Only one additional \$20 grant per participating member will be distributed. If you directed Choice Dollars since April 1, the first organization you selected will receive the additional \$20 grant.



Council Members 2014

David Warner, President

— president@graceline.org

Ed Lippe, Vice President, Evangelism

— webminister@graceline.org

Shirley Shay, Secretary, Stewardship

— stewardship@graceline.org

Hanna Hooper, Treasurer

— treasurer@graceline.org

Carrie Brink, Property

— property@graceline.org

Bill Pfaff, Christian Education

— christianed@graceline.org

(not pictured)

Gretchen Davenport, Nurture & Fellowship

— fellowship@graceline.org

Kirtus Kolar, Worship & Music

— worship@graceline.org

Cindy Wolf, Pastor — pastor@graceline.org



Photo: Dawn Warner

Here are the numbers for March 2014

Income: \$21,025.11

Expenses: \$16,131.50

Net: \$ 4,893.61

— Hanna Hooper, Congregational Treasurer

2013 Financial Report

Copies of Grace Lutheran Church's Financial Report for 2013 are available in the narthex.

— Hanna Hooper
Congregational Treasurer

Council Corner

At the April Meeting the Church Council discussed the following issues:

- Nurture and Fellowship are planning a summer Congregational Picnic. Date will be forthcoming.
- Stewardship is ready to begin planning for the ELCA 2nd *God's Work. Our Hands* on September 7. They are hoping to get many members involved in the planning.
- Christian Education will conduct a survey to determine Grace's needs and will use the results for planning purposes.
- VISTA East (RRISD Special Education Program) requested the use of Grace House again for the 2014-2015 school year. A motion was approved to accept VISTA's request for use of Grace House for the 2014-2015 school term.

— Shirley Shay, Council Secretary

Save the Date

Next Council Meeting

May 15th

7:00 p.m. in the TEC

*Council Meetings
are open to all
congregational members*

**June
Cover Story:**

How can congregations use social media to connect, especially with those who are disabled?



*Easter Message
from the
Presiding Bishop,
ELCA*



The Lutheran — May Issue

Out of the darkness. *The Lutheran's* May issue takes a look at mental illness. Read "Connecting to God's love" and journey with an ELCA member through mental illness to faith. In "What we can do," an ELCA pastor shares ways to create a welcoming atmosphere of acceptance in congregations for people suffering from any illness.

Children ... or not? This issue is a resource for ministry with children, parents and those who hope to become parents. Read "Dirty confirmation kids" to see how confirmands get all the dirt on Martin Luther and the catechism while working outside. In "Deeper understandings," a theologian

asks, "What happens when those in high school read Luther and Bonhoeffer?" Should children be in church? In "What you don't see," a mother admits that bringing kids to worship is messy—but it's also a real blessing. And think about how the church can help when a couple struggles with infertility.

Think about it: Discuss "The Ten Words" with columnist Peter Marty, who says the commandments are less rules to be followed than a way of life to be walked. **Reflect** on "Experiencing the body of Christ." **Ponder** Isaiah 49:1-7 with the ELCA presiding bishop, who says God equipped prophets—and

continues with us—to bring hope to God's people. And **think** about interchurch cooperation by reading "Lutherans, Catholics forget who's who in rare ecumenical community."

We are church: Learn "9 reasons to get involved in the ELCA Malaria Campaign ... **discover** how Lutherans are transforming Chicago neighborhoods, one entrepreneur at a time ... **travel** to Chile, where a Lutheran health program brings together women from Kenya and Uganda ... and **see** how "traveling with Jesus" helped a congregation make their faith visible.

Every member receives
The Lutheran at home.
Extra copies are available!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

My favorite story in Scripture is the account in John's Gospel of Mary Magdalene going to the tomb. It was the first Easter, but Mary didn't know that. She expected death. In her profound grief she couldn't recognize Jesus. It was only when Jesus called her by name that she was able to see the risen Lord.

Jesus saw Mary. Jesus knew Mary. Jesus spoke "Mary." It was being completely seen, utterly known and lovingly called that opened Mary Magdalene to the hope of the resurrection and into a deeper relationship with Christ. Because she was seen she could see.

This is Easter vision. We have been seen, known and called by God through the crucified and risen Savior and, having received the Spirit through baptism, we all can now see. We can see Christ, and we can see Christ in our neighbor. No one is invisible to God, and no one is invisible to us. What wondrous love is this!

So beloved, with newly opened eyes let us be bold to say, "Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Hallelujah!"

Blessed Easter,

Elizabeth A. Eaton

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton

"Grace in Hand"

*Pick up a handful of the
new Grace business cards
in the narthex.*

*Then you're ready to give an
invitation to people as you talk
to them about Grace.*

Front of Card

Back of Card



708 Bluff Drive
Round Rock, TX 78681
(512)255-6001

9:15 am Sunday School
10:30 am Worship Service
With Holy Communion

www.graceline.org

Prayer Concerns & Updates

*Prayer requests for family and friends of Grace will be included for a month.
Updates and requests may be added for the next month.*

Brinks & Rayburn families upon the death of Harold Rayburn (Carrie Brink's father)
Neidorf & Davis families upon the death of Becky Davis' father (in-laws of Fahrenkrugs)
Harmon & Wise families upon the death of Ruth Wise (sister of Karen Choate's friend
Lucile)

We celebrate the birth of Caleb Alan Wilson on April 27th to Amanda and Stefen, big
brother Brayden, and grandparents Nancy and Gary.

Ralph Remmert — recovering from surgery

Dawn Warner — recovering from surgery

Beva Lippe — referred to a transplant specialist for testing

Regina Webb — thankful to be home

Sam Paine (Robert Paine's son) — arm cast was removed and he is recovering well

Travis Campbell (Mary Ellen's father-in-law) — in assisted living for rehab

Marcia Dodd — recovering from an accident

Hunter Kirby (Christine Meadows' friends' son) — diagnosed with lung cancer

Cathy Donovan (Dick Dahlke's niece) — recovering from a stroke

Darlene Richards (Member of Grace) — continuing a strong recovery



God's Missional River — Jump In!

Synod Assembly, May 2-4 at DoubleTree Austin (6505 IH-35 North)

The Synod meets every year to do business and to hear about our larger ministry throughout the ELCA. 500 people attend this three-day Assembly. Thank you to Grace volunteers who will be the smiling face of our conference.

Tammy Jackson will attend the Synod Assembly as the ELCA Representative. As the Global Mission Program Director for international leadership Development she works with ELCA global companions in supporting the development of emerging and current leaders through education and training grants. Tammy is also responsible for the administration of international internships for ELCA M.Div. students. She has served on the church-wide staff of ELCA for nearly 27 years in a variety of roles.



Lunch Bunch — If you're in the area & hungry — Come join us!

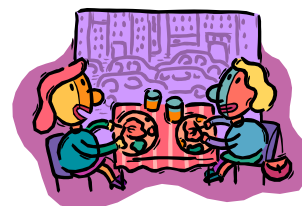
The 11:30 Lunch Bunch is meeting and eating at local restaurants. Watch for monthly locations and join this great social group. This month's meeting will be:

May 19th (3rd Monday)

11:30 a.m. at Cotton Patch Café

(1700 East Palm Valley Blvd. #300, Round Rock, 78664)

See you there!



THANK YOU to Shirley Bowman and Vicki Wall for presenting the Children's Sermons in April.

THANK YOU to everyone who helped with the handrail project, recently installed on the walkway between the TEC and the parking lot.



**GRACE LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

Grace Lutheran Church
708 Bluff Drive
Round Rock, TX 78681

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www.graceline.org



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

Large enough to serve, small enough to care

Mission Statement

Grace Lutheran Church of Round Rock, Texas

**As a called community of Christ,
empowered by the Holy Spirit,
we boldly witness the Gospel to each other,
our neighbors and the world.**

**At Grace we are united as a Family of Believers
who minister to the needs of the community
through worship, prayer, study, fellowship and stewardship.**

Upcoming Major Congregational Activities

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Last Sunday School | Sunday, May 25 |
| Teacher Appreciation | Sunday, May 25 |
| Graduate Recognition Lunch | Sunday, June 1 |
| Adult Night Out | Saturday, June 21 |
| Vacation Bible School | July 7—10 |
| | Monday — Thursday, 5:30—8:30 p.m. |

Pastor's Summer Vacation and Continuing Education Plans

Pastor will take a vacation to visit her family in Colorado from June 9-22.

She will then attend the "Luther Academy of the Rockies". It is a Wartburg Theological Seminary Life-Long Learning education program for pastors and their families. It will be held June 23 - July 3 in Allenspark, Colorado.

This year's faculty:

DR. TROY TROFTGRUBEN – The Spirit at Work in Church and Mission: Revisiting the Book of Acts Together- We will revisit portions of Acts to see distinctive directions of the Spirit's work among the earliest Christian communities.

DR. CHERYL PETERSON – The Holy Spirit as the Giver of Life in the Church and World Today. She will explore the theological identity of the church in light of the changing mission field in N. America. She wants to explore where the Spirit seems to be at work in and outside of the church bringing new life and transformation.

DR. KATHLEEN (KADI) BILLMAN – Holy Spirit, Holy Spaces, Holy Friendships. Her presentations will consider how contemporary faith communities may have powerful opportunities to experience the transforming work of the Holy Spirit.

Pastor will be on a vacation in Door County and southern Wisconsin from August 4-22. What better time to head north? She is also planning a fall vacation.

Meal delivery volunteers are needed to serve more people in this community. See bulletin board for details and who to contact.

Thank you

Meals on Wheels and More provides all of its life-sustaining services at no cost to those we serve. Programs include:

- Meals on Wheels—home-delivered meals
- Second Meals—at-risk for malnutrition
- Country Wheels—frozen meals for rural areas
- Congregate Meals—at senior centers
- Meals for Kids—snacks in mentoring programs
- H.O.P.E.—free groceries to most at-risk clients
- Veterans Services—Specialized assistance for vets & surviving spouses



Meals on Wheels and More