



GraceNet

Knoxville, TN

April 2015

Quo Vadis?

I never took Latin, but I was always familiar with this phrase – probably because of Hollywood. The phrase means “*Where are you going?*” The legend has it that the Apostle Peter was fleeing Rome fearing he would be crucified there for his faith and allegiance to Jesus. Outside the city he meets the Risen Jesus. Peter asks Jesus this Latin phrase: *Quo vadis?* Jesus responds: “*I am going to Rome to be crucified again.*” From this interaction, Peter is convicted and regains his courage. He heads back to Rome where his bold ministry results in his arrest and being crucified upside down. It was his request to be upside down, believing that he was unworthy to be crucified in the same manner Jesus was.

I want to use these Latin words in a slightly different way. Where are we going – we Christians who live in the ever more decadent West? Our culture is pushing Christians to conform to a morality and ethics that are far removed from a Biblical and Christian morality. Political correctness and tremendous peer pressure has severed the bonds between people and God’s Word. Add to the fact, that many Christians have very little Bible knowledge.

But there is something more out there that would explain why Christians are collapsing under the pressure exerted by our culture. It is simply this: they lack courage. They fear that they will be “crucified” if they

never speak up or voice their loyalty to Jesus. Absurdly, the great fear is to be mocked. It can’t even come close to being compared to literal crucifixion. We fear being called a “hater.” We fear being spurned by neighbors, co-workers, and relatives. We fear being considered stupid.

If there was a “courage meter” what would it reveal about you? With the way things have changed in the last 30 years, I predict that in 30 years, the characteristic of courage will be indispensable if one is to be or remain a Christian. The opposition of all things Christian is growing year by year. If the fear of mockery can silence us now, what will more forceful measures mean?

In my reading of the Bible, God likes to test people, to see if they really love Him. Well, the time of testing is upon us. Will we run out of the city, will we hide, or will we deny ever knowing Jesus?

In many and various ways, I believe Jesus will encounter us and ask: “*Where are you going?*” Think about it now and start deciding: will I stand with Jesus? Will I be ashamed of Him or will I be acknowledging Him? Along that one road we call “life,” we will either go along with Jesus or away from Him. Please make Peter’s choice!

~ Pastor Rich



*Hallelujah!
He is Risen!!!*

Egg-stra Facts

- Although Easter eggs were once part of pagan spring festivals, they've become Christian symbols of new life. A cracked-open shell also represents Jesus' empty tomb on Easter morning.
- The early Christians of Mesopotamia began staining eggs red in honor of Jesus' blood shed on the cross. Red eggs remain part of Greek Orthodox celebrations today.
- For Lent, some families used to give up eggs and dairy, so they prepared a pancake feast on Shrove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday. They solved the egg surplus by hard-boiling them in various broths, which led to colored eggs.
- In medieval times, churches held "egg-throwing" festivals. The priest threw a hard-boiled egg toward the choir boys, who tossed it back and forth. When the clock struck 12, whoever was holding the egg got to keep it.
- In some European countries, children go from house to house to collect Easter eggs.
- Each year, the PAAS Dye Co. sells more than 10 million egg-coloring kits, which consumers use to decorate 180 million eggs.
- The tallest chocolate Easter egg ever produced weighed 16,000 pounds — more than an elephant!



Our Grace Family

Meet Sandra Arnold

Sandra Arnold came to us from Springfield, Tennessee. Family has a special meaning to her as she mentions her mother: Mary Roberta Reid Arnold, her deceased father Bobby Lee Arnold and the family of her brother Joel and wife Kathy. Her sister Sherry Lynn lives with her Mom in Cross Plains, TN. Sandra suspected something about to happen due to increased security as she worked at Scott Air Force Base when the first Gulf War began. That initial suspicion was raised when a three star General stood next to her in his flight uniform. After all, you normally saw most of the officers at that level in their suit uniforms. Later that night as they were working, it became a reality that bombing in Iraq had begun! That eclipsed almost everything else in her personal history. So tranquility is installed by the purring of Maverick, Mongo and Mandy, her wonderful feline friends! Put them on Sandra's lap, offer her some barbecue with extra sauce or suggest bowling, a good movie, or just a quiet read of a compelling novel, and you will find her totally relaxed. And she would surely need this if she had realized her yen to work in law enforcement! In closing, Sandra share her quiet desire for future travel. Let us know your future destination, Sandra. Hope it is a dream come true!



GraceNet is published monthly by
Grace Lutheran Church – LCMS

9076 Middlebrook Pike, Knoxville, TN 37923
Phone: (865) 691-2823 Fax: (865) 691-4895
E-mail: glc@visitgrace.org
Reverend Richard M. Elseroad, Senior Pastor
Reverend Justin A. Bell, Associate Pastor
Reverend Mark Bushuiakovish, Associate Pastor

Website: <http://www.visitgrace.org>

Articles for GraceNet are due by the **1st of each month** for the following month's edition.

GraceNet Staff

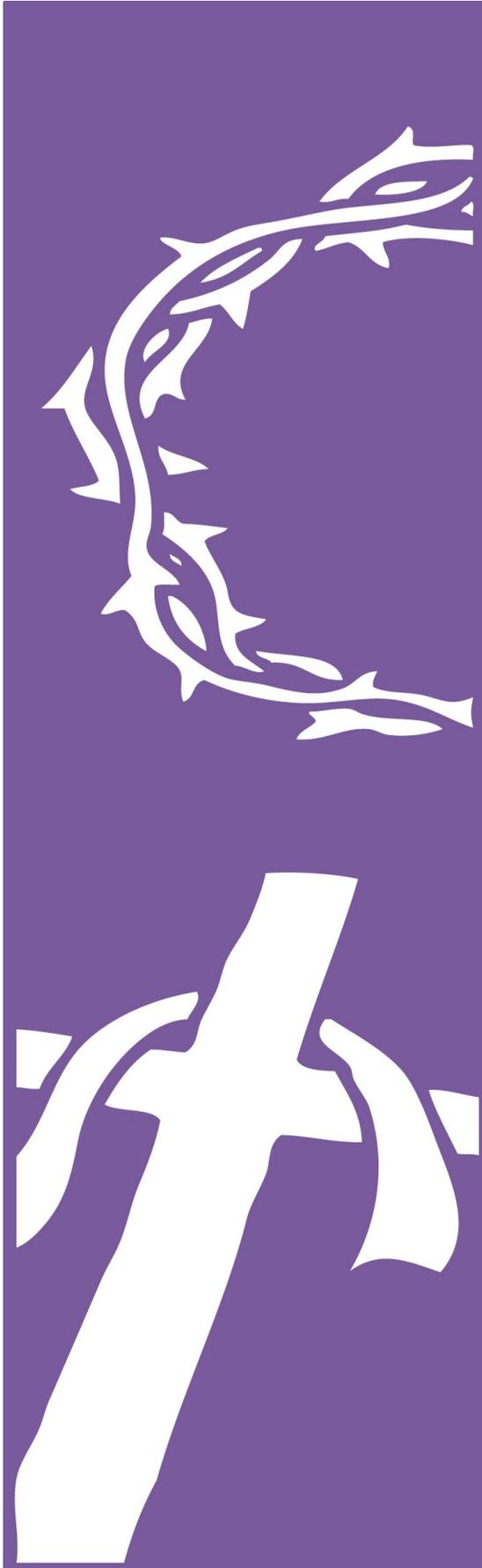
Debbie Booher, Editor
Linda Jaekel
Nancy May
Joan Scraggs

Email to Editor:
dbooher@knology.net



If you have a special event you would like to have publicized in GraceNet, please submit the information to

Debbie Booher by the 1st of each month for publication in the following month's newsletter.



Holy Week Schedule

March 29 - Palm Sunday

8:00a - Traditional Service

9:30a - Blended Service

11:00a - Contemporary Service

April 2 - Maundy Thursday Service

7:00p

April 3 - Good Friday Service

7:00p

April 4 - Easter Festival

10:00a - 1:00p

April 5 - Easter Sunday

7:00a - Sunrise Service

8:00a - Traditional Service

9:00a - Easter Brunch

9:30a - Blended Service

11:00a - Contemporary Service

Variety in Titles New to the Library

Additions to the library this month cover a diverse number of topics as well as many that are familiar to our readers.

New Non-Fiction

The Man in the Middle: An Inside Account of Faith and Politics in the George W. Bush Era by **Timothy S. Goeglein** with a Foreword by Karl Rove (261.7 Goe): Goeglein spent nearly eight years in the White House as point man for President Bush, American conservatives and the faith-based world. The author gives an insider's account of decisions made throughout Bush's two-term administration firmly believing that Bush's decisions were made for the greater good of America and its people.

41: A Portrait of My Father by **George W. Bush** (921 Bus): Shortly after exiting the White House, George W. Bush was encouraged to write a biography about his father, George Herbert Walker Bush, fondly referred to as 41. The Bush men share a legacy with the Adams presidents as being the only father and son to serve in this capacity. This biography is a stirring tribute to a father, a leader, and a true American patriot. George W. reflects on how his father influenced his personal and political life giving him the quiet, steady emotional support that only a father could give. (Note: This library edition is Large Print).

New Fiction

House of Living Stones by **Katie Schuermann** (Fic Sch) Schuermann is a LCMS pastor's wife who has been called, "a Lutheran Jan Karon" writing this tale of life, love, meddling, music, rebellion, and reconciliation in small-town America where life is comfortable and predictable until Pastor Fletcher hires Emily Duke as the new choir director of Zion Lutheran Church. Read about how one individual can change everything for this little church.

An Accidental Life by **Pamela Binnings Ewen** (Fic Ewe) This is a fast-paced legal drama that uncovers the exploits of the abortion industry. Set in a New Orleans courtroom in 1982, Ewen bases her fiction on fact: the testimony of nurse Jill Stancek who confirmed that nurses in her hospital would allow infants born alive during an abortion to just die. Her testimony led to the enactment of the Born Alive Infant Protection Act of 2001.

Shadowed by Grace: A Story of Monuments Men by **Cara C. Putnam** (Fic Put) Putnam presents a well-researched story of an American journalist who travels to Italy's front lines during WWII taking photographs. She hopes to locate her long-lost father, an artist, believed to be in the area. In her search, she becomes involved with the Monu-

ments Men whose mission was to save great works of art from being destroyed by the Third Reich.

Snow on the Tulips by **Liz Tolsma** (Fic Tol) Tolsma also presents a well-researched picture of WWII, this time in the Netherlands while under Nazi rule. The war is nearing its end, but the Nazi occupation continues. Cornelia must choose between harboring a wounded Dutch resistance member or her own safety



New Amish Titles

The Amish Clockmaker by **Mindy Starns Clark** (Fic Cla)

Amish Wonders Series: A Miracle of Hope (Book 1) and ***A Woodland Miracle*** (Book 2) by **Ruth Reid** (Fic Rei)

19th Century Fiction

Follow the Heart by **Kay Dacus** (Fic Dac)

The Secret of Pembroke Park by **Julie Klassen** (Fic Kla)

New On DVD

The Investigator (DVD Fic Inv): When a police sergeant's life goes tragically wrong, he takes a job as a teacher at a local Christian high school. A student challenges him to investigate the existence of Jesus Christ, a search that changes his life forever.

When the Game Stands Tall (DVD Fic Whe): After the De La Salle High School football team amasses an unprecedented 151 game winning streak, the players and the team must learn when the streak is broken that it is not about how you fall, but how you get back up.

Ragamuffin (DVD 921 Mul): This movie chronicles the life of Christian music prodigy Rich Mullins who was determined not to let his struggles with alcoholism, addiction and women take him away from the God he longed to know and love.

The Identical (DVD Fic Ide): When a son of a preacher embarks on a career as a rock artist, rejecting his father's desire for him to be a minister, he finds pain, success, failure and a family secret that ultimately brings restoration to his family.

Find these and other materials new to the library on display throughout the month.

~ Mary Schultz

REVOLUTIONS - I



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH'S FIRST ANNUAL BIKER SUNDAY

April 12th

(The Sunday following Easter)

11:00 AM Contemporary Worship

"Blessing of the Bikes" immediately following the worship
(Receive a free event patch at the blessing)

Then try your hand on the slow skills course!

Put on your Sunday best leathers and do rag
(Or doo rag, or du rag, or dew rag),
and join us as we praise the God and Savior
from whom ALL blessings flow!

Librarian Appreciation Month

If you have not visited our library at Grace, you don't know what you are missing. Mary Schultz is our librarian, and we are surely blessed with all her talents. Mary has filled our library with fiction, non-fiction, biographies, books for all ages, reference books, CD's, DVD's, and so much more. Each month she gives us suggested readings through her article in *GraceNet* (see page 5), and, if you are not sure of what your looking for, she will be more than happy to help you find it.



Mary buys books, catalogs, covers, repairs, and keeps an up-to-date listing of everything in our library.

We want to say **THANK YOU**, and we appreciate all you do --

Mary Schultz



Mark your calendars to participate in the spring small groups that will begin on Wednesday, April 8!

Spiritual Parenting introduces the simple but revolutionary concept that parents are, by the power of God's Spirit, to obey and depend on God in order to create an environment God can use to beckon their children to Him. He wants hearts and souls that are shaped in vibrant faith and love toward God and others. How can parents cultivate this in their children? In this book Dr. Michelle Anthony shares practical examples and biblical insight on the spiritual role of parenting.

Led by Frieda Guthrie

Bad Girls of the Bible. Enjoy a fun, honest, devotional look at "Bad Girls of the Bible: and What We Can Learn from Them" by Liz Curtis Higgs. This is a "Bible Study" in conjunction with the "Book Study", as we use the "Bad Girls of the Bible" book to dig deeper into Scripture to see what God has to teach us about these woman and what messages He has for us through their stories. This is a women's Bible study and women of all ages are welcome and invited to come and enjoy learning with and from each other as we dive into God's Word. We will take a closer look at what God has to tell us about these particular women as we deliberate why He chose to write about them.

Led by Pat Kopp

Earthquake and Resurrections

What was that? Matthew 27:51-54 raises our curiosity. Why was there an earthquake when Jesus died, and why did some rise from the dead?

(51) And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. (52) The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, (53) and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. (54) When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

We believe the tearing of the very heavy temple curtain opened the inner part of the temple and gave direct access to God through the death of Jesus for us. That also signaled the end of the ceremonial law of the Old Testament. Those things were only a shadow of what was to come in Jesus. (Colossians 2:16-17)

One might say an earthquake was necessary to rip the curtain, but it had another purpose, too. People in the First Century world and earlier looked on an earthquake

as a sign from God of His appearance and activity, a theophany. Particularly, an earthquake was thought to be a sign that a god had either just been born or had just died. This was true for both Jews and Greeks, which included everyone. Further, Jews in the period before Jesus' birth believed that when the Messiah came, there would be resurrections.

The confession of the Roman Centurion in verse 54 has been a point of discussion for many. What did it mean that he said, "Truly this was the Son of God!" How would he know? Once we understand what was in the daily lore of the people and in their thought, we can see that God used the earthquake and the resurrections to tell people the significance of Jesus' death for the entire world with signs partially in nature (earthquake) and partially super-natural (people coming out of graves).

~ Rev. Phil Bohlken

Source: Gerhard Kittel, *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, ed. and trans. Geoffrey W. Bromily (10 vols.; Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1964-1976), Vol. VII, p. 196-200.

Healthline is a 30-minute Medical Education television show hosted by Grace's very own Sheila Wittke.

AIR TIME: Sunday afternoons at 6:00 p.m.

STATIONS:

CTV COMCAST Cable Channel 12 (Knoxville)

CTV CHARTER + WOW Channel 6 (Farragut)

AT&T U-Verse Channel 99

Direct TV and Others: You can stream HealthLine on your computers, but it must be done at the time it is aired. Go to CTVKnox.org, click the CTV icon and watch.



APRIL 2015 SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND GUESTS

05 - Why Mitral Valve Replacement, Not Repair - Dr. Chadwick Stauffer

12 - Pelvic Organ Prolapse - Dr. Bryce Bowling

19 - Traveling Abroad: Immunizations, Medicines, Health Tips - Dr. Martha Buchanan

26 - Knowing Your Cholesterol Numbers - Dr. Casey Page



CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY!

Grace Lutheran Church-LCMS

9076 Middlebrook Pike

Knoxville, TN 37923-1557

(865) 691-2823

Fax: (865) 691-4895

E-mail address: glc@visitgrace.org

*Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. (Traditional) and
9:30 a.m. (Blended)/11:00 a.m. (Contemporary)*

Wednesday Worship: 6:30 p.m. (Blended)

Sunday School & Bible Classes @ 9:30 a.m./11:00 a.m.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TO:

