



GraceNet

Knoxville, TN

April 2021

What Easter Cancels Out

There has been much talk about our “cancel culture.” As a lover of history I am disturbed by many of the things being “canceled.” On the other hand there are some things that need to be exposed and canceled. But it struck me that this term “cancel” is the perfect word to describe what Jesus’ resurrection caused to happen in the hearts of believers.

Easter, the Resurrection of Jesus, is an historical event that can never be forgotten nor its meaning abrogated. There is no Christianity without the literal rising from the dead by Jesus. Our belief in this brings so many wonderful things into our lives. Joy – Peace – Faith – Hope – Love. It will also cancel out things that have afflicted us from the very beginning. Here is what Easter cancels out.

Easter cancels out fear. Fear comes in all shapes and sizes. It hems us in and ruins our life. We are a culture overwhelmed by anxieties, worries and stress. The Risen Jesus bids us to come to Him and find peace. The Word tells us, “*For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship.*” (Romans 8:15).

Easter cancels out estrangement between us and the Father. We were under the wrath of God because of our sin and disobedience. But now in Christ Jesus we who were once far away have been brought near through the blood of Jesus. By faith in Jesus we are now beloved children of God. His every act toward us is meant to bring us blessing.

Easter cancels out death. Jesus by His death and resurrection took the sting out of death. The book of Hebrews describes it this way: “*Since the children have flesh and blood, He (Jesus) too shared in their humanity so that by His death He might destroy him who holds the power of death – that is the devil – and frees those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.*” Death of loved ones causes grief but not despair. It is simply a door to the second part of life – the eternal one. For believers heaven awaits. It is so glorious and wonderful that we can only imagine how fantastic it will be.

Easter cancels out purposeless living. If this life is all there is, and Jesus had not risen from the dead, then life would seem to have no enduring meaning. This has plagued many a human being as they faced the inevitability of their death. As atheistic scientists and philosophers have said and written, ‘life has no real meaning or purpose.’ In Colossians Paul writes: “*Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.*” How we live our lives and how we love is filled with meaning and has eternal consequences.



Easter is coming! Don’t fail to worship Jesus! Let us worship with all our hearts, with joy and praise, with singing and rejoicing! Easter cancels out all that is wrong in this world and in our lives and instead brings us every good thing!

~ Pastor Rich

LWML News

Ladies, You are **ALL** invited to join the Lutheran Women in Mission (LWML) for a Christian Life Workshop on **April 10, 2021**, at Faith Lutheran Church in Oak Ridge. The theme will be "**MISSION POSSIBLE**", based on Titus 3: 4-8. The program of Bible study and a guest speaker will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 2 p.m. You are invited to bring your own snacks and brown bag lunch, so that we are not sharing food. No child care will be available. Cleaning supplies will be gathered for Oak Ridge Elementary's Family Resource Center. For more information, or to RSVP, contact Susan Heitner at <heitnersc@icloud.com>. You may also arrange with Kathy Bohlken (360) 771-2685 to meet at Grace at 8:30 a.m. and ride together to Faith Lutheran for fellowship and inspiration!!



In Denial

"Peter, How could you?" This may often be our response as we hear about Peter denying he even knew Jesus when a girl asked if he was one of Jesus' disciples. This is the same Peter who shortly before vowed he would die with Jesus. What kind of commitment was that?

Before we are too hard on Peter, we ought to recall our denials. What about the time we could have told our son about the forgiveness Jesus brings? What about the time we could have told our daughter about the true love God offers? What about the time we could have told a fellow worker about the comfort we have had during Covid because we know that no matter what happens Jesus will be with us? When we don't tell, aren't we denying?

Jesus forgave Peter. However, it is important to remember the rest of the story. When Peter affirmed his love for Jesus, Jesus replied, "Feed my sheep." That is just another way of saying, "Be my witness," "Tell about Me."

~ Pastor Paul Muench

Drive-Thru Communion at Grace

Sunday, April 11

1:00—2:00 p.m.



Grace Prayer Team Welcomes Requests



The Grace Prayer Team is constantly at work! If you have a prayer request that you would like prayed over by the Grace Prayer Team, we welcome your requests. Please contact **Kristin McGee** at kdmcgee08@gmail.com (865-384-9834) or **Ev Brown** (evbrown@gmail.com (865-870-5603)). The request will then be passed on to the team. We continue to welcome Prayer Team members as well. If you are interested in praying for the needs submitted by our church family, please contact Kristin or Ev with your interest.

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

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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 Worship Schedule



- April 1*** ***Maundy Thursday Worship
with Holy Communion***
7:00p
- April 2*** ***Good Friday Worship Service***
7:00p
- April 3*** ***Easter Fest - 10:00a - 1:00p***
- April 4*** ***Easter Sunday***
7:00a - Sunrise Service
8:00a - Traditional Service
9:30a - Blended Service
11:00a - Contemporary Service

2021 Confirmands



- Jack Buchanan***
Ryan Harter
Kaylee McIlwain
Nathan Rowlands
Robert Schmidt

Our congratulations go to these special young people who were confirmed on Sunday, March 28, 2021. Please keep them in your prayers as they begin the next phase of their Christian journey.



April BIRTHDAYS

4/1	Chloe Corner	4/18	Randy Wylie
4/1	Elise Murphy	4/19	Andrew Collins
4/2	Brett Kothe	4/19	Luke Williams
4/2	Andrea Muench	4/20	Melanie Brye
4/3	Greg Nichols	4/20	Kyle Larson
4/4	Sam Jones	4/22	Janella Beeler
4/4	Vicke Pyles	4/22	Paul Hoppe
4/5	Leona King	4/24	Brad Hicks
4/5	Doug Kothe	4/24	Nathan Rowlands
4/5	Mike Masters	4/25	Joyce Dunn
4/7	Jane Jones	4/25	Jennifer List
4/9	Mel Beech	4/26	Ashley Myers
4/10	Larry Holden	4/26	Elijah Roth
4/10	Rebecca Straub	4/26	Cathy Schade
4/11	Hope Elseroad	4/27	Nancy Haase
4/13	Sarah Hunter	4/27	Terry Turner
4/14	Morgan McCay	4/28	Lucas Campbell
4/15	John Duncan	4/29	Bethany Peterson
4/15	Harrison Masters	4/30	Sylvia Belt
4/17	Hannah Haller	4/30	Jim Brown
4/17	Laney Pafford	4/30	Joe Schmitt
4/17	Cindy Plummer	4/30	Warren Smull
4/18	Grady Newport	4/30	Eugene Stern
4/18	Lisa Scheibe		



Happy Resurrection Day!!!!

April Scripture of the Month

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he is risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.

~ Matthew 28:5, NIV



April ANNIVERSARIES

4/12	Dan & Kim Kleckley
4/14	Colin & Claudie Campbell
4/15	Ted & Carol Haase
4/16	Bill & Melanie Brye
4/16	Eric & Helen Horlbeck
4/23	Joel & Stacy Roettger



All activities will be outside and will include a petting zoo, train rides, free food, egg hunt and the Easter story. This is a community event, so invite your family and friends.

Bible Quiz

We know the name of only one of the two disciples to whom the risen Jesus appeared on the road to Emmaus. Who was he?

- A. John
- B. Paul of Tarsus
- C. Joseph of Arimathea
- D. Cleopas



Answer: D (See Luke 24:18)

April Children's Curriculum Themes

In an attempt to connect the adults and children of Grace just a bit more, I will be letting people know the theme and verse of the week in our children's Sunday school classes. I would love it if the adults would join in memorizing or at least talking about it to the children as they see each other in the halls. Listed below are the themes and scripture for April.

~ Frieda Guthrie

DATE	THEME	VERSE
April 4	Jesus is our King!	<i>That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:10-11)</i>
April 11	Jesus is alive!	<i>Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies." (John 11:25)</i>
April 18	Believe in Jesus.	<i>Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. (Hebrews 11:1)</i>
April 25	God gives us gifts to serve Him.	<i>For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Ephesians 2:10)</i>



Operation Christmas Child

Since COVID so rudely interrupted this year, we are revamping our "20 in 20" campaign for 2021. Boxes can be donated year round, there are updates on how to pay, and we are ready to help with any questions you may have about this ministry. Don't feel like packing a shoebox? We will gladly accept donations for any items you would like to donate towards a box. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact Frieda Guthrie at childrens-min@visitgrace.org or Paul Guthrie at pvgint3@gmail.com

~ Blessings,

Paul and Frieda Guthrie



Resurrection in the Old Testament

The resurrection of Jesus from the dead is such a central article in the New Testament. And, it carries the promise of our resurrection to life. But, what about the Old Testament? You have to hunt for it there. The greatest word about resurrection in the Old Testament comes from Jesus in the New Testament.

The Sadducees rejected anything they did not find in the first five books of Moses, the Torah (meaning "instruction"). So, they did not believe in the resurrection because they did not find it in the Torah. They came forward to test Jesus with a dishonest question about the resurrection in which they did not believe. See Mark 12:18-27 and parallels. His response to them was brilliant. He showed them the resurrection is attested in the Old Testament and quoted from Genesis, one of the books accepted by the Sadducees, to prove it.

The Sadducees asked about a woman who had been married successively to seven brothers after each had in turn died. That was known as Levirate Marriage. Its purpose was to provide offspring for the first husband so his property would continue as an inheritance in his family without being lost to the family. "Whose wife would she be after the resurrection, since all seven had been married to her?"

Jesus quoted Exodus 3:6 in which God said, "I am the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob." Those three had died long before Moses, but God spoke of them in the present as still alive. The verb tense is present tense, not past. That shows there is life after death, and that supports a resurrection as real and true. It may not be the way we look for proof in an argument, but it is what Jesus used.

There are passages in the Old Testament that do speak of life after death and a resurrection, even though they are not many. "Your dead shall live; together with my dead body they shall arise. Awake and sing, you who dwell in dust; for your dew is like the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead." (Isaiah 26:19) Also, "And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever." (Daniel 12:2-3) (Do not make too much of "many" instead of "all." The New Testament says Jesus gave His life as a ransom for many. We know He gave His life as a ransom for all. See Matthew 20:28 and compare 1 Timothy 2:6. Sometimes "many" and "all" take the place of one another.)

You may be aware clear things in the New Testament are also found in the Old Testament, but often not yet with a clear description.



~ Rev. Phil Bohlken

HealthLine

Please note that everything written in this column will be backed by research, various studies, and facts. There will be no personal opinions.

~ Sheila Wittke



Not All Vegetarian Diets are Equally Healthy

Most dietary studies treat all plant foods as the same and define plant-based diets simply as "vegetarian" or "low in meat". When the effects of plant-based foods in diets of obese people were examined by researchers at Greece's Harokopio University, men and women who ate more plant-based foods, were in fact less likely to develop high blood sugar and high blood pressure. However, those who ate healthier plant-based foods, such as whole grains had lower risk than those who ate unhealthy plant foods such as refined grains, potatoes, juices, sweetened beverages and sugar. Lead study author, Matina Kouvari said, "Eating less meat is beneficial for heart health, particularly when it is replaced with nutritious plant foods such as whole grains, fruits, vegetables, nuts, and olive oil."

Endowment Fund Finance and Activity Update

March 2021

ADMINISTRATION TEAM

At the first meeting of 2021 the team was organized. Richard Neubauer will serve as Chair, Debbie Booher as Secretary, and member Larry Belt.

At the end of 2020 our total congregational gifts to the fund to date were \$307,500 and the asset value of the fund had grown to \$316,000. The fund has expended a total of \$37,500 in scholarships and another \$1,400 in miscellaneous expenses. Your generosity and willingness to share God's blessings are assisting those preparing to lead LCMS churches within our synod.

Currently our fund has grown to \$324,000 in gifts and the value of our investments stand at \$339,000. In spite of all the turbulence in 2020, our yield from all dividends remains at about 5.6%. It is the yield that funds all expenses, awards and scholarships.

We welcome new members of our teams: Mel Beech, Scholarship, and Erin Colbert, New Ministry. An orientation meeting of all members was held in February in order to clearly explain by-laws, responsibilities and expectations for 2021.

NEW MINISTRIES TEAM

The members of this team are, Erin Colbert, Chair; Teri Stoddard, Secretary and member Andrew Harter. At the team's first meeting a productive discussion brought about a good definition of ministries that would qualify for grants. We will be looking to the congregation for ideas and recommendations. If you want to apply for one of the grants an application can be found at <https://www.visitgrace.org>. Just hover over "Connect", then click on "Endowment" in the drop down list. A new page will open and you will scroll down to New Ministry where the application is found. **We welcome your ideas for our consideration.** You will hear more from us in the coming weeks.

RICHARD M. ELSEROAD SCHOLARSHIP TEAM

The members of this team are Bernard Wrasman, Chair; Marjorie Jergesen, Secretary and member Mel Beech. At their first meeting a schedule for solicitation of applications and receipt deadline was established to be May 1, 2021. In addition, we will send a letter and brochures to area churches to see if they have any candidates or applicants. A review of these will be conducted and our recommendations forwarded for financial determination. We will make these awards by August 1 and announce the awardees to the congregation.

The application forms for candidates to seminary or other undergraduate church related study at a Concordia Campus is available on line at <https://www.visitgrace.org>. Then go to "Connect" then "Endowment".

GENERAL COMMENTS

After a turbulent 2020, we will be more proactive in 2021, and we will keep the congregation informed. It is because of your trust and generosity, we are able to serve our Lord by encouraging others as future church leaders and consider your New Ministry Applications! Thanks be to God!

~ Larry Belt

Christ is Risen! Hallelujah!!!



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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.*

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