



GraceNet

Knoxville, TN

March 2024

Monthly Ministry Focus

Cancer Companions

The *Cancer Companions* ministry may be new to many of you, but it's actually been around for quite a few years. The program was started by a Christian Family Counselor named Karen Tripp from St. Louis, Missouri around 2011. In her profession she had encountered many families dealing with the impact of cancer on their lives as both patient and caregiver. There were many organizations that supported patients from a physical standpoint and local churches attempted to provide encouragement spiritually, but none brought the two together. She began to pull together Bible verses that applied, along with stories from her experiences and started writing a Bible study/devotional series that addressed the cancer journey from an encouraging, Christian viewpoint. Her vision began with 3 volunteers in her local church and today includes over 400 trained volunteer companions in 28 states. Our ministry here at Grace is the first and only one in Tennessee! The ministry we began at Grace last year has grown to a dozen volunteers.

We offer personalized, one-on-one Bible study with topics and material specifically designed to assure the patient or caregiver that Jesus is walking with them throughout their cancer journey. We also provide access to "Inside the Cancer Journey - 365 days of devotions", a series of prayers that arrive each day in their email or text inbox. All of our volunteers are also certified Prayer Partners, providing regular communication to those who can't otherwise participate.

Cancer Companions' website at <http://www.cancercompanion.org> is a great source of prayers, devotional material and encouraging and uplifting music

and readings for anyone, not just those participating in the program.

All of our members have been trained and are certified by Cancer Companions, equipped to work with patients, caregivers and others to provide support, compassion and spiritual guidance. To date, our program at Grace has touched more than twenty patients and caregivers from our own congregation, providing them with inspirational literature, individualized devotionals, companionship, prayers and, most of all, the assurance that Jesus is walking with them every step of their cancer journey.

Unfortunately, there seems to be no end to the number

of people in our church and community touched by cancer so our work continues and our need for qualified volunteers increases. You can help in this ministry by volunteering to be trained as a Prayer Partner or as a Cancer Companion. There is no cost to you for the training, just your time and dedication. Grace has budgeted for all our needs and been very supportive of this ministry with Pastor

Danny as our primary contact and advocate. The team meets monthly to coordinate our efforts with the various patients/caregivers and to learn more about the organization's resources that are available to us. If you feel that you'd like to be a member of this rewarding ministry, please contact Steve or Kathy Crum directly at thecrums1@comcast.net or by phone at 443-340-2244 or 2245. We'd love to talk with you about the program and how you can get involved.



~ Steve and Kathy Crum

New VIA de CRISTO Weekend Coming

April 18-21, 2024



What is the purpose of VIA de CRISTO? VIA de CRISTO is based on the fundamentals of Christianity, concentrating on the person and teachings of Jesus Christ. The focus is not on VIA de CRISTO itself, but on the local church. The objective of the movement is to inspire, challenge and equip local church members for Christian action in their homes, churches and communities. It is based on solid Lutheran teachings.

VIA de CRISTO is intended for lay people from every walk of life, for pastors, for people who live strong and active lives in Christ, and also for those who seek to be renewed and strengthened in their relationship with Christ and the people around them. VIA de CRISTO is open to married couples, and single men and women. Prayerfully consider attending this spring retreat for a renewal of your walk with the Lord. The retreat is April 18-21. For applications, see the bulletin board near the church mailboxes.



Rite of Confirmation Service

Sunday, March 24
(Palm Sunday)

9:30 a.m.

Coffee or Lunch with Pastor Danny?

Pastor Danny would like to share a cup of coffee or meal with you—no strings attached! You can sign up to meet with Pastor Danny <https://calendly.com/pastordannygraceknoxville/breakfast-lunch-meeting>

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** kdmcgee08@gmail.com (865-384-9834) or **Ev Brown** evbrown3@gmail.com (757-870-5603). 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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Grace Lutheran Church - LCMS

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Articles for GraceNet are due by the **10th of each month**
for the
following month's edition.

GraceNet Staff

Debbie Booher, Editor
Anna Wilson
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Email to Editor:
dbooher0510@gmail.com



If you have a special event you would like to have publicized in GraceNet, please submit the information to Debbie Booher by the 10th of each month for publication in the following month's newsletter.

LENTEN AND HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

March 6, 13, 20 — Lenten Worship Services, 6:30 p.m. — Sanctuary

Sunday, March 24 — Palm Sunday Services, 8:00, 9:30 (with Rite of Confirmation), 11:00

Thursday, March 28 — Maundy Thursday Worship Service, 7:00 p.m. — Sanctuary

Friday, March 29 — Good Friday Worship Service, 7:00 p.m. — Sanctuary

Saturday, March 30 — Easter Fest /Passion Play, 10:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 31 — Easter Services

7:00 a.m. — Sunrise Service

8:00 a.m. — Traditional Worship

9:30 a.m. — Blended Worship

11:00 a.m. — Contemporary Worship

Sunday, March 31 — Annual Easter Sunday Pot-Luck Breakfast, 8:30— 10:30 a.m. — FLC

*Worship With Us
This Easter*



Easter Fest

Saturday, March 30
10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Passion play, egg hunt, and lots of fun!! **Volunteers are needed,** please sign up in the Grace coffee area. For more info, please contact:

Colin Campbell—colincampbell1985@gmail.com

Anna Wilson—awilson@visitgrace.org

†Children 4 years old—9th grade are invited to participate in the **Annual Passion Play** at the beginning of Easter Fest.

Rehearsals: March 29—5:00-6:30 p.m. (dinner provided)

March 30—8:00-9:00 a.m. (breakfast provided)

For more information contact: **Frieda Guthrie: childrensmin@visitgrace.org**
or **Jeff Spradlin: jeffspradlin70@yahoo.com**

†We are **collecting individually wrapped regular and gluten/nut free snacks and candy** for Easter Fest. If you would like to help stuff eggs, contact **AdriAnne Kothe at aakothe@gmail.com**



**Easter
Festival**

**Easter Fest is free to the
community—
so invite your friends!!!**

MARCH

Birthdays

3/1	Isaac Smith	3/16	Anne Smeltzer
3/2	Sarah Anderson	3/16	Patricia Strickland
3/2	Nicole Cox	3/17	Alli Duenckel
3/2	Gary Pruett	3/17	Erik Kabela
3/2	Mack Webster	3/17	Andrew Simpson
3/3	Mitchell Meyers	3/17	Cole Turner
3/3	David Plummer	3/18	Olivia Baserman
3/3	Levi Smithey	3/18	Kelsey Parton
3/4	Penny Perry	3/20	Kenny Blankenship
3/4	Rachel Rogers	3/20	Scotty Krempasky
3/5	Pam Baker	3/20	Mary Stoner
3/5	Mike Donnelly	3/20	Rich Wolfe
3/5	Mary Belle Early	3/21	Abigail Baserman
3/6	Barbara Sears	3/21	Erin Kragenbrink
3/6	Jennifer Wylie	3/22	Andrew Harter
3/7	Kylie Hatfield	3/22	Nicholas Mackley
3/8	Edward Richards	3/22	Morgan Schmidt
3/10	Melanie Butler	3/24	Kathy Crum
3/10	William Cole	3/26	Scott Surprenant
3/11	Kaylee McIlwain	3/26	Carol Voorhees
3/11	Teri Stoddard	3/28	Dale King
3/12	Deborah Rowlands	3/28	Katha O'Hatnick
3/12	Becky Strickland	3/30	Evan Thompson
3/13	Addison Malone	3/31	Amy Baserman
3/15	Rheagan Haynes	3/31	Christian Collins
3/16	Rev. Philip Bohlken	3/31	Sherry Schoolcraft

MARCH

Anniversaries

3/1	Craig & Chris Emerson
3/3	Les & Jan Grebe (62)
3/3	Larry & Diana Holden
3/12	Kim & Janis Wold
3/13	Don & Holly Mings
3/22	Don & Nicole Cox
3/25	Marianne & Bill Drake
3/25	Jerry & Maggie Geithman (57)
3/26	Eric & Suzi Schmidt



Daylight Savings Time Begins
Sunday, March 10, 2024

Bible Quiz

The "Christ hymn" in Philippians 2 proclaims that after Jesus humbled himself even to the point of death, God exalted him, and that eventually all will worship him. What two body parts are named as part of that worship?

- A. knee; tongue
- B. hands; feet
- C. arms; lips
- D. heart; mouth



Answer: A (see Philippians 2:10-11)

March Scripture of the Month

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.

~1 Peter 3:18, NIV

March 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 March .

~ Frieda Guthrie

<i>DATE</i>	<i>THEME</i>	<i>VERSE</i>
March 3	Commit to follow Jesus.	<i>I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. (Romans 1:16)</i>
March 10	God wants sincere worship.	<i>Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. (Psalm 95:6)</i>
March 17	Jesus wants to save us.	<i>For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)</i>
March 24	Give cheerfully to God.	<i>Each man should give what He has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:7)</i>
March 31	Jesus is our King!	<i>That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:10-11)</i>



Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child is a year-long effort for children around the world who would not otherwise receive gifts for Christmas. Please consider filling a shoebox(es) during 2024 to bless a child. If you don’t want to fill the box yourself, you can contribute funds for a box and we’ll fill it for you. If you don’t know what to put in a box, there’s information in the Children’s wing on suggestions for items. If you have questions, please don’t hesitate to contact Frieda Guthrie at childrensmin@visitgrace.org or Paul Guthrie at pgvint3@gmail.com.

Thank you for supporting this important ministry!



Where Are You Going?

Often God steers us in new directions. We are attracted, guided and then taken into a serving experience which builds God's mission. Please pray about responding to either or both of the mission experiences planned by Grace.

English Learning for Immigrants at Pelican Lutheran Church, Naples, Florida

For two years some members of Grace have been traveling to Naples, Florida to help Pelican Lutheran Church teach English to immigrants. Please consider joining the group going to Naples, June 24-28, 2024.

Child Beyond Orphanage Ministry in Guatemala

Child Beyond is an orphanage ministry in Guatemala that Grace has been supporting. We are recruiting a team of Grace members to do a project in Guatemala for the orphanage and their ministry. Please consider volunteering, July 14-21, 2024.

Please prayerfully consider serving in one or both of these ministries. For more information, please contact **Rev. Paul Muench**, Paul.Muench@concordia.edu



VBS—Celebrate the Savior!

July 15-18, 2024

9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

All children 3 years old—5th grade are welcome to attend. We are also accepting volunteers of all ages. For more information, contact Marlene Landon at (865) 567-3578 or mtlintn@aol.com

VBS

Lutheran Women in Mission

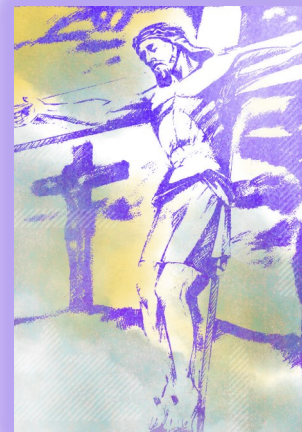
The LWML will be hosting a one-day retreat on **Saturday, April 6**, from 9:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m. The topic is Social Media's Impact on Youth, which can be both positive and negative. Presenters include our Deaconess Intern, Christina Childers and Emily Hager, PhD, of TN Suicide Prevention Network Survivors of Suicide Loss. The retreat will include a Bible study, collection for LOSS (Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors), singing, fellowship, and lunch with a freewill offering. Sign up across from the coffee bar or contact Susan Heitner.



Because Jesus Said So

One intriguing person in the Passion account is the thief on the cross whom Jesus promised a same-day entrance to paradise (see Luke 23:43). Pastor and radio host Alistair Begg says he can't wait to meet that man and ask how everything unfolded. "You were cussing [Jesus] out with your friend," Begg says. "You've never been in a Bible study. You've never been baptized. You didn't know a thing about church membership, and yet you made it!"

In a sermon, Begg pictures an imaginary angel at the pearly gates, growing frustrated during the sinful thief's entrance interview. After receiving no clear answers from the thief about doctrines such as justification, the angel finally asks, "On what basis are you here?" The thief simply replies, "The man on the middle cross said I can come."



Valleys

Dear family and friends, how many times do we say in Psalm 23, “*Yea though I walk through the valley.*” There is the dreadful valley that we must deal with. How we like the mountain-tops of Christ and good health; of Christ and plenty of money; of Christ and no deaths in the family; of Christ and no worries; of Christ and plenty of sunshine and no clouds.

But oftentimes in the walk of the Christian life there is the rugged terrain of the valley. It may be physical sufferings, family problems, loss of loved ones, and many heart-breaking things. Only God knows why we must pass through the valley, but this we can be assured: “*All things work together for the good of them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose.*” (Romans 8:28)

As we go through the clouds and darkness of the valley, we must look up to the light of Jesus’ face. The secret of making it through the valley is to “*fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith.*” (Hebrews 12:2) And we are told in Psalm 27:14: “*Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart: wait, I say, on the Lord.*” Isaiah says in 41:10: “*Fear not, for I am with you. Be not dismayed for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yea, I will help you. I will uphold you with the right hand of My righteousness.*”

The Lord has much to teach us in the valley, much to show us about ourselves, much to cleanse us from, much to reveal to us about Himself and His ways. Jesus meets us in the valley and says to us, “*Trust Me!*” “*Take My hand!*” “*Lean upon My arm!*” Never is His love so sweet and consoling as when He speaks to us in our sorrows and sufferings.

So dear Christians, do not despise the valley experiences of life. They fit us to be better Christians, more faithful witnesses, more diligent workers—as we get ready for the coming of our Lord!

The valley experiences give us strength against the ever-increasing anti-Christian spirit of this world. Let us not become apathetic about the tide of worldliness sweeping our land. Like the frog in the proverbial kettle, we find that we can gradually adjust our morals so that the lifestyle of the world doesn’t disturb us anymore. May God help us to stem the tide, forgive us our sins, and persevere faithfully to the very end as His devoted disciples.

Let us humble ourselves under God’s mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time. (1 Peter 5:6) Whatever God allows or sends in the valley, remember we have His abounding grace in Christ Jesus to carry us through. And may He bless our prayers and offerings as we seek to spread the blessed Gospel of Christ “*which is the power of God unto salvation to every one who believes.*” (Romans 1:16)

“Cast your burdens on the Lord and He will sustain you.”

Love, Pastor Stephen Skov

Be the Donkey

Corrie ten Boom, a devout Christian who helped shelter hundreds of Jewish people from Nazis during World War II, was asked how she stayed humble despite her fame.

“When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday on the back of a donkey, and everyone was waving palm branches and throwing garments onto the road and singing praises, do you think that for one moment it ever entered the head of that donkey that any of that was for him?” she replied. “If I can be the donkey on which Jesus Christ rides in his glory, I give him all the praise and all the honor.”

Jesus told his followers they’d need to carry (or “take up”) their cross. But how well do you carry your Savior? How do you bring him into a world that desperately needs the good news of the gospel?



AARP Tax-Aide

This is the second tax season that Grace Lutheran Church will be hosting an AARP Tax-Aide site for free preparation and e-filing of federal and state individual income tax returns.

This site will be managed by Allen Schultz, who has volunteered with the Tax-Aide program for 16 years. The program always needs more volunteers to help taxpayers with their tax filing requirements. The program provides all the training necessary to provide this service. No prior knowledge of taxes or experience in this field is needed. If interested or have questions, please contact Allen (865-947-0334) or sign up at www.volunteers.aarp.org.

AARP membership is not required to volunteer for this program or to participate in having your tax return prepared. The Tax-Aide program is national in scope, therefore, this site will be open to the greater Knoxville community.

Operating days for this site are planned for Tuesdays through April 9, 2024.



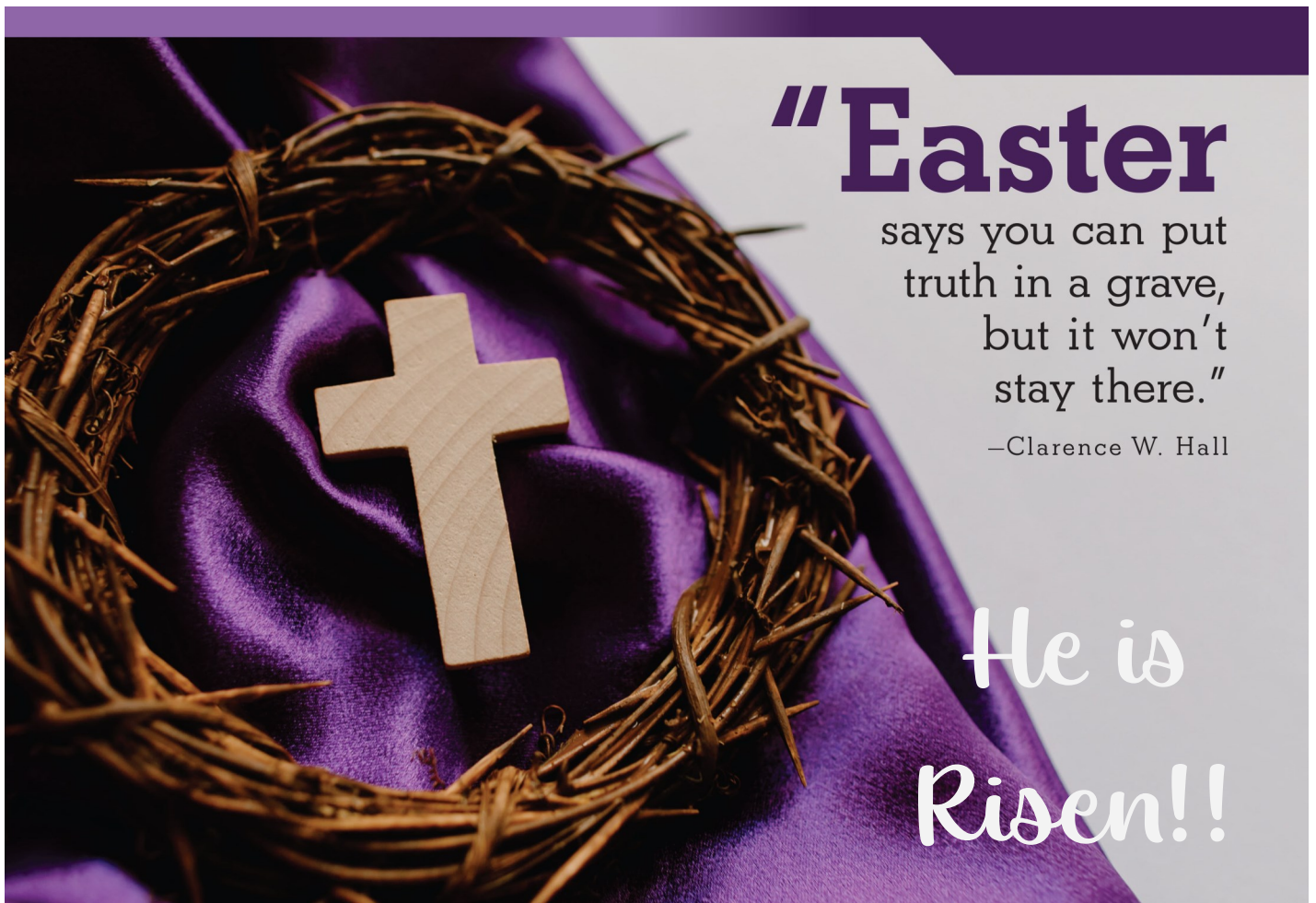
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E-mail address: glc@visitgrace.org
Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. (Traditional) and
9:30 a.m. (Blended)/11:00 a.m. (Contemporary)

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TO:



Connect ~ Grow ~ Serve



"Easter

says you can put
truth in a grave,
but it won't
stay there."

—Clarence W. Hall

He is
Risen!!