

Grace Lutheran Church
45476 St. Hwy M-26
P.O. Box 249
South Range, MI 49963
(906) 482-2011
www.gracesoutrange.com

Grace Notes

March 2016

Dearest Friends,

Come to Jesus is the title of a song recorded by Chris Rice, who also did the hilarious hit, *What if Cartoons Got Saved?* Although his cartoon song has gotten considerable play and is enjoyed because of the various voices he uses to portray cartoon characters give praise to God, Chris Rice has created some pretty solid lyrics to draw us closer to the God we love and long to know. *Come to Jesus* is just one of those songs. (If possible, find it on youtube.com)

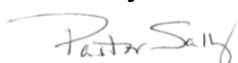
Lent is not the only time we are called to come to Jesus, but is a special time set apart for being with Jesus in all of his life, suffering and death. Rice's song does the same, inviting us to come to Jesus, as we taste our sin and give thanks for forgiveness. He reminds us that we will not follow Jesus as well as we'd like, but he is there to pick us up. That sometimes we struggle and feel so alone, yet we can always bring our tears to Jesus. And his song reminds us to celebrate with Jesus as well. When life is good and we are grateful for all of God's blessings, he invites us to dance. Finally, just as the verses of an Ylvasakir favorite, *Bourning Cry*, tells us, Jesus is waiting for us at the end of our earthly life.

There are still several midweek services left and all are invited to come to Jesus as we reflect on our own participation in each story we hear. Holy Week offers us a variety of worship and prayer experiences that draw us to Jesus and invite us to live. (See the worship schedule in this newsletter or on our webpage: gracesoutrange.com)

Not just during Lent, but always and throughout our lives, the invitation to come to Jesus stands. If we have not taken the time to just sit with him, or to hear him speak and act in the Gospels, it is never too late to begin. Our celebration on Easter Sunday, becomes something well beyond singing *Jesus Christ is Risen Today*. Our hearts swell and our spirits soar, not because it is accompanied by horns, but because we have lived and died with Jesus and know how complete it is that he accomplished his glorious mission.

No silly cartoon voices, no funny responses to salvation, but a heartfelt, Holy Spirit led journey to Jesus that will be invited to repeat and repeat and repeat throughout our lives. Can you hear Jesus saying, "Come?"

Peace to you,



Pastor Sally



Kiitos Paljon



Thank you to Jeanine Baillod for her years serving on the Grace Council.

Anniversaries

Sam and Joleen Jenkins
March 20

Bruce and Sandra Maki
March 29

Birthdays

Angela Small 1

Josh Karvakko 5

Dave Aro 7

Justin Nicholas 14

Sherri Lystila 21

Sue Slinde 22

Chris Bohjanen 25

Nancy Harris 4

Janet Kokko 7

Billy Griggs 12

Rick Schulze 16

Emma Juntunen 21

Heather Aro 23

Sam Jenkins 29

From the office

Would you like to start receiving a weekly devotion from the church office on Mondays? Please send Katie your name and email address.

Newsletter items are due in the office the last week of the month.

Please save your Econo receipts and return them to a box in the library. Grace receives 1% of the total receipts.

If you have not already visited our web site, take a look.

www.gracesouthrange.com

Find us also on Facebook

www.facebook.com/GraceLutheranChurchSouthRangeMi



Family Game Night

**Saturday, April 9th,
5:30pm to 7:30pm**

Hotdogs, buns and the fixings will be provided. Feel free to bring a snack to share.

Quilters

March 2nd and
16th at 1:00pm

Bible Study

Wednesdays
11:00am
(after Cup of Grace)

Because we live in a diverse world and we have diversity of opinion in our congregation, it will always help if we remember that one does not need to be wrong for the other to be right. We are the Church of paradox.

So we also keep these words in mind: "We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented."- Elie Wiesel

~ Pastor Sally

Bread for the World
a project of the Stewardship Committee

In addition to our ongoing support of Lutheran World Relief, this year we are adding a "Bread for the World Sunday" to our financial stewardship efforts. "Bread for the World" is a well-known international ministry that provides a collective Christian voice urging our nations' decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad. This is an award winning non-profit effort, with a well-deserved reputation of responsible stewardship of all donations.

We are inviting everyone to do something this year to support them. "Bread for the World Sunday" will be March 6, when a bulletin insert and giving envelopes will be provided to everyone attending worship. The insert and envelope will also go out with the March newsletter, so everyone has a chance to be a part of this effort.

The Quarter Tube will be out during Lent this year to collect additional offerings for Bread for the World. The quarter tube will be available for offerings on both Sunday and Wednesday evenings through Maundy Thursday. Please start saving your quarters as they can add up very quickly.

Multiple copies of the prayer cards on the tables during soup supper will be available to each family that would like to use it at home during Lent. The prayer cards include scripture references, a prayer for the week, and either a reflection or a suggested action. This is one way to stay focused on what really matters as we observe Lent.

March
Worship Text

Sunday, March 6
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
The parable of the
forgiving father

Sunday, March 13
John 12: 1-8
Mary anoints Jesus
for his burial

Sunday, March 20
Luke 22:14-23:56
The passion and
death of Jesus

Sunday, March 27
John 20:1-8
Seeing the risen
Christ



Learning Circle

This has been an interesting experience so far. We continue to meet every other week, but to accommodate busy schedules, we have had three different meeting times - Sunday supper, Sunday lunch, and, our last session, Saturday breakfast. No matter when we meet, God shows up and we learn something new about God, about ourselves, about our faith.

The next Learning Circle gathering will be on Sunday, March 13th at 5:00pm, at the parsonage. As we are only three sessions into the book and there are still books available, you are invited to join us, if you like. Talk with Pastor Sally if you are interested.

Soup Supper Hosts:

Wed., March 2nd

Christian Education with
Sunday School and After
School Program Teachers

Wed., March 9th

LRVRT
Council

Wed., March 16th

Outreach
Mutual Ministry

Grace Lutheran Congregational Contact Information

Volunteer Coordinators

Acolytes/Bell Ringers	Katie Bridgers	482-2011
Altar Duty	Chris Davis	482-5567
Communion	Chris DeForge	482-8068
Counters	Marianne Bohjanen	482-8459
Funeral Servers	Patty Savola	281-5100
Readers	Cheryl Stimac	281-7909
Fellowship	Carolyn Rundman	482-6344
Ushers	Pam Long	482-4065
Greeters	Heather Aro	482-0341
Ride Coordinator	Katie Bridgers	482-2011
Office Volunteers	Katie Bridgers	482-2011
Gardening	Janet Kokko	482-2368

Building & Grounds Maintenance

Paul Bridgers	482-3665	Dave Aro	487-6161
Tom Stimac	281-7910	Pennie Makela	281-4667
	Heather Aro	482-0341	

Parsonage Maintenance

Paul Bridgers	482-3665	Dave Aro	487-6161
Katie Bridgers	482-2011	Pam Long	482-4065

Grace Lutheran Council

Pam Long (President)	482-4065
Cheryl Stimac (Vice President)	281-7909
Laurie Aho (Treasurer)	482-0817
Sally Wilke (Pastor)	231-0048
Katie Bridgers (Secretary)	482-2011
Chris Bohjanen	482-8459
Rebecca Frost	231-0903
Heather Aro	482-0341
Dave Aro	487-6161

PRAYERS

Savior,

We thank you for everything you have given us, most importantly your Son, Jesus Christ. We are so grateful you can love us even while not loving everything we do. Please make us able to extend that same grace to others.

We ask for strength and peace for those who are ill, those who are grieving and those who are caretakers. Bring guidance to our leaders so that there is peace between nations so all can work together to fight disease, feed the hungry, improve our planet, and eliminate waste. Teach us to be good stewards.

Help us as we journey with Jesus this Lenten season on his way to the cross. Remind us that he came to save us by dying for our sins. Teach us to be like him: caring, forgiving, loving and comforting. In your name we pray. Amen.



Grace Lutheran
is a member of
the Evangelical
Lutheran
Church
in America.

Gentle Reminder

The office and financial staff, do not work on Sunday mornings. Thanks for respecting their worship time with their families.

I hope to see you
at Family Game
Night! I'm so
excited Game
Night is
BACK!!!!



I love you.
You love me.
God loves us.
I love that.

(Author unknown)

Worship at 11:00am
the last Thursday of
the month at Arbor
Green and at The
Bluffs at 11:15am.
All are invited to

Heart to Heart

Prayers, Cards, Calls, Visits, Hugs

Elaine Aro at home
Nancy Harris at home
Delores Paavola at home
Eleanor Maki at the Bluffs
Amanda Mountjoy at home
Irene Kokko at Portage Pointe
Esther Parolini at Portage Pointe

Where's Pastor Sally?

Grace Lutheran
Mon. & Wed.
Sally's day off is
Thursday.
On Tues. & Fri.,
she's at
First Lutheran.



Service Workers for March

Altar Duty ~ Jeanine Baillod, Chris Davis and Katie Bridgers

	March 6	March 13	March 20	March 27	
Counters	J. Baillod C. Stimac	A. Harju C. DeForge	P. Long K. Bridgers	K. Johnson M. Bohjanen	
Fellowship	Open	Fellowship	Open	None	
Ushers	Karl and Carolyn Rundman				
Acolyte & Bell Ringer	Youth	Youth	Youth	Youth	
S.S. Teacher	Janet Kokko	Chris DeForge	Tammy Harju	No Sunday School	
Reader	Jeanine Baillod	Chris DeForge	None Needed	Susan Beck	

Counters on Wednesday Lent Service

March 2nd
P. Long & C. Stimac

March 9th
J. Baillod & C. Stimac

March 16th
C. Stimac & K. Bridgers

Maundy Thursday
Jean Simila & Still Needed

More funny things on the way to church

(compiled by Dave Anderson and Tim Wilcox)

Cure for Baldness

It's a special time in worship when children of the congregation come forward to watch a baptism. Knowing that members of the preschool class had been studying the sacrament, I asked them one morning at the font, "Why do we use water in baptisms?" A thoughtful youngster piped up immediately, "To make the baby's hair grow." Hmmm.

~ The Rev. James Boler
Webster Groves, MO.

Good Friday - A Prayer Vigil

A *vigil* is a time for being observant, attentive, alert, wide awake and mindful. *Prayer* is an invocation, intercession, devotion.

A *prayer vigil* is a time to be attentive to God, alert and awake to God's presence while sitting quietly before the cross, meditating on God's amazing gift of grace, through Jesus Christ.

We are hosting a prayer vigil on Friday, March 25, 2016, from 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. You are welcome to sign up for a block of time, in fifteen minute segments, to pray in our worship area. Prayer starters and other resources will be available for your use, if you desire. You may come empty handed or with your own resources, if you prefer. Sit where you like or kneel at the altar as you pray. The sign up sheet may be found on the stand in the gathering area, near the left door. No rules, just the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

February Council Highlights

1. Grace Lutheran and First Lutheran held a joint meeting and our relationship continues to work well.
2. We will hold joint worship services during Holy Week with First Lutheran of Dollar Bay, Grace Lutheran of South Range, Portage Lake United of Houghton and Good Shepherd of Houghton.
3. Pastor Sally will start a book study for those interested in evangelism.
4. The council thanks Jeanine Baillod for her years on the council, as we welcome Chris Bohjanen to the council. Pam Long was elected as president, Cheryl Stimac as vice present and Katie Bridgers as secretary.
5. Grace Council had a discussion on Grace Church Vitality as requested by the ELCA for our parochial report this year.
6. Grace will give \$1,000.00 from undesignated funds to go toward the NGLS Welcome Worship Witness social media campaign.
7. Grace Lutheran council set Sunday, April 17th, as our NGLS Mission Interpreter Sunday.



Would you like to supply the church with an Easter lily or other spring flower in memory or honor of a loved one?

In memory/honor of:

From: _____

After Easter:

_____ I will take my plant

_____ Use it at the church

Please cut this out and return to Katie in the office.

More slips located in Narthex.

Unbinding the Gospel

Do you want to let the good news of Jesus have free reign in your life? Do you want to celebrate all that God is doing in the world with others who are also excited about unleashing the power of Jesus? A new book study is about to begin. Several council members and other church leaders have already indicated an interest and we are looking for a few more people who might want to join us. The book is titled *Unbinding the Gospel* and has been used in churches of multiple denominations in churches across the nation. More than anything else, the book invites readers to celebrate and share with one another what it means to let the good news of Jesus transform lives. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Sally for more information.

Pastor Sally Wilke

231-0048

Office Hours

Mon. & Wed.

pastorsally@gracesoutherange.com

Katie Bridgers

Grace Office: 482-2011

Office Hours

Mon. to Thurs. 8am to 2:30pm

grace@gracesoutherange.com

www.gracesoutherange.com

<https://www.facebook.com/GraceLutheranChurchSouthRangeMi>

Primetimers

Tina's Katalina

Tues., Feb. 9th,

1:00pm.

Please contact Elma

Rice at 482-0516

for a reservation.

Thank you.

Luther's Seal

(Adapted from The Lutheran Handbook)

Martin Luther sent the following letter from Coburg Castle to Lazarus Spengler on July 8th, 1530:

"Since you wish to know whether my seal is well done, I shall gladly comply with your request by communicating to you the thoughts I originally desired my seal to embrace as indicative of my theology.

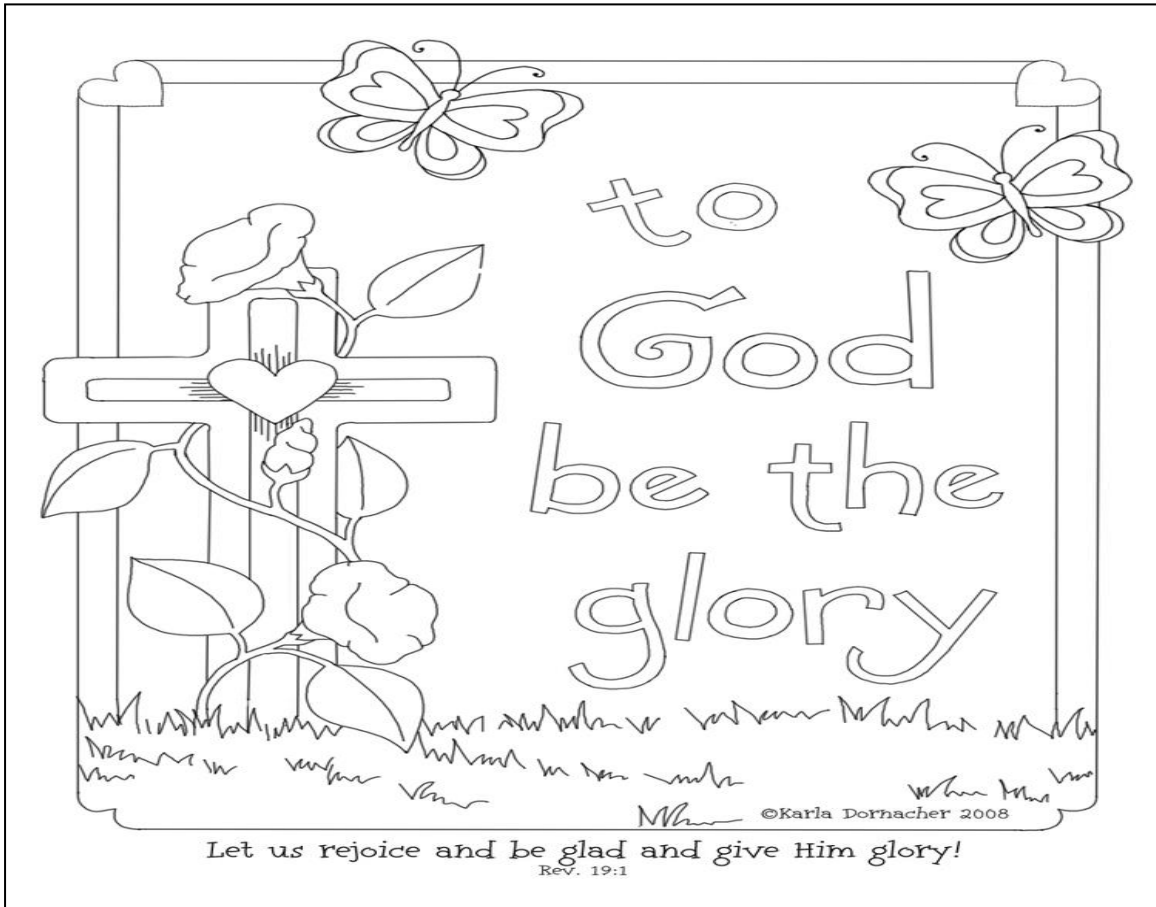
First there is a cross, black on a heart in red, as its natural color. This is to remind me that faith in the Crucified saves us: for if one believes with the heart, one is justified. Now although it is a black cross, although it mortifies and is designed to inflict pain, it nonetheless allows the heart to keep its color, it does not destroy its nature, that is, it does not kill but keeps alive. (For the just lives by faith, but faith in the Crucified.)

Such a heart is to be centered on a white rose in order to indicate that faith yields joy, conform, and peace and straightway beds one on a white, pleasing rose. Nor does faith yield the peace and job of the world. Therefore the rose would be white not red, because white is the color of the spirits and all of the angels.

This rose is on a field tinted with hues of heaven to indicate that this job in the spirit and faith is a beginning of the future heavenly joy, a joy which, to be sure, is even not present in faith and embraced by hope but is not yet revealed.

And around this field runs a ring of gold to show that the blessedness of heaven endures forever and ever and is more precious than all pleasures and possessions of earth, as gold is the most precious and the noblest metal."

Kids' Korner



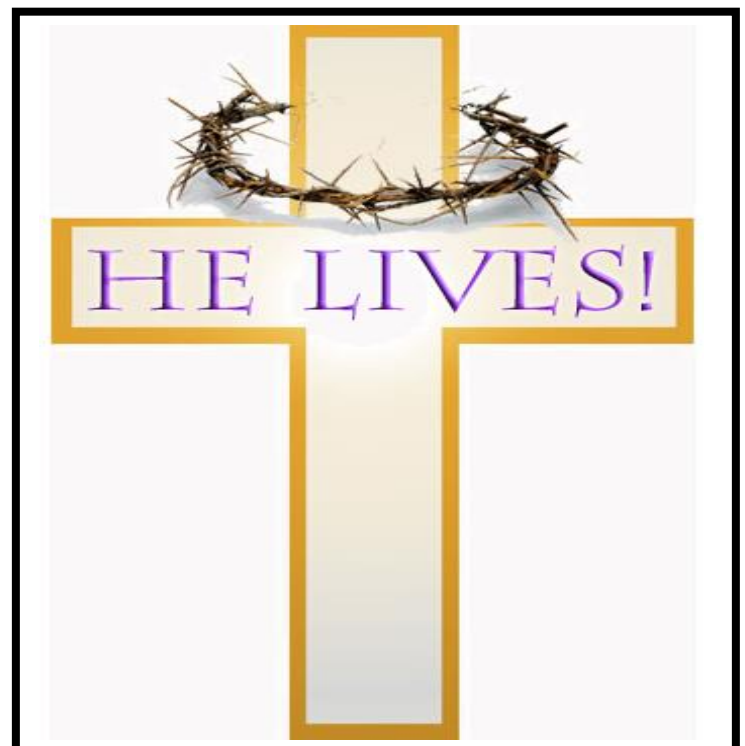
Join us Sunday
mornings for
Sunday School
at 10:00am.


Sunday, Mar. 6
The Crosses

Sunday, Mar. 13
World
Communion

Sunday, Mar. 20
The Story of Holy
Week

Sunday, Mar. 27
No S.S.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 1:00pm Knit, Pray, Crochet	2 10:00am Cup of Grace 11:00am Bible Study 1:00pm Quilting 3:00pm A.S.P/F.F 5:30pm Soup Supper 6:15pm Lent Service	3	4 8:00pm AA/ AL-Non	5
		6 9:45am Choir 10:00am S.S. 11:00am Worship with Pam Long	7 2:30pm Stewardship Meeting 6:30pm Prayer Service	8 1:00pm Knit, Pray, Crochet 1:00pm Primetimers at Tina's Katalina	9 10:00am Cup of Grace 11:00am Bible Study 3:00pm A.S.P/F.F 5:30pm Soup Supper 6:15pm Lent Service	10
13 9:45am Choir 10:00am S.S. 11:00am Worship 12:00pm Fellowship 5:00pm Learning Circle	14 10:00am LRVRT Meeting 7:00pm LCW	15 1:00pm Knit, Pray, Crochet 6:30pm Council	16 10:00am Cup of Grace 11:00am Bible Study 1:00pm Quilting 3:00pm A.S.P/F.F 5:30pm Soup Supper 6:15pm Lent Service	17	18 8:00pm AA/ AL-Non	19
20 9:45am Choir 10:00am S.S. 11:00am Worship	21	22 1:00pm Knit, Pray, Crochet	23 10:00am Cup of Grace 11:00am Bible Study NO ASP/FF	24 Maundy Thursday Service 6:30pm Grace Lutheran	25 Good Friday Service 1:00pm First Lutheran 6:30pm Good Shepherd	26 Easter Vigil 6:30pm Portage Lake United
27 Easter 11:00am Worship 2:00pm Little Brothers Easter Meal	28	29 1:00pm Knit, Pray, Crochet	30 10:00am Cup of Grace 11:00am Bible Study NO ASP/FF	31 10:00am Arbor Green Worship 11:15am The Bluffs Worship	8:00pm AA/ AL-Non	

Three Days: One Worship Service

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, March 24, 6:30 p.m. Grace Lutheran, South Range

With nightfall Lent comes to an end, and we begin the Three Days, honoring Jesus' passage from death to life. At the heart of the Maundy Thursday liturgy is Jesus' commandment to love one another, which we see at work in forgiveness of sins, foot-washing, the Lord's Supper, and our Christian service. Today's liturgy continues on Friday.

Good Friday

Friday, March 25

1:00 p.m. First Lutheran, Dollar Bay

6:30 p.m. Good Shepherd Lutheran, Houghton

At the heart of Good Friday worship is the passion story from John, proclaiming Jesus as the triumphant king who reigns from the cross. The ancient title for this day "Good" reminds us that the church gathers not to mourn but to celebrate Christ's life-giving Passion and to find strength and hope in the tree of life. In the ancient bidding prayer we offer petitions for all the world for whom Christ died. Today's liturgy culminates in the Easter Vigil tomorrow evening.

Easter Vigil

Saturday, March 26, 6:30 p.m. Portage Lake United, Houghton

This is the night! This is our Passover with Christ from darkness to light, from captivity to freedom, from death to life. Jesus' resurrection is proclaimed as we first gather around a fire, hear the ancient stories of our faith, and affirm our baptisms. The service ends with the Lord's Supper. Raised with Christ, we go forth into the world, aflame with the good news of the resurrection. The Easter Vigil does not take the place of Easter Sunday. It helps put Easter Sunday in the broadest and deepest Christian context.

A Vigil of Another Kind

The Easter Vigil has long been the conclusion of the great Three Days, which also includes Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. The Maundy Thursday service will be held at Grace in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 p.m. on March 24. There are two options for Good Friday worship: A 1:00 p.m. service at First Lutheran in Dollar Bay or a 6:30 p.m. service at Good Shepherd in Houghton.

The Easter Vigil will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 26 at Portage Lake United in Houghton. This vigil will be about 90 minutes long as it includes a telling of many of the major stories of our faith. After a long, dark and cold season of Lent, it is very exciting to light the New Fire and carry it forth as we reclaim the Alleluia at this service. It is quite a remarkable worship experience.

DO NOT BE AFRAID
I KNOW YOU ARE LOOKING FOR JESUS
WHO WAS CRUCIFIED
HE IS NOT HERE

He has risen!

MATTHEW 28:5 - 6