

Grace Lutheran Church  
45476 St. Hwy M-26  
P.O. Box 249  
South Range, MI 49963  
(906) 482-2011  
[www.gracesouthrange.com](http://www.gracesouthrange.com)

# Grace Notes

## April 2016

Dear Friends,

Coming from just a little further south of here, I never have expectations about spring on the day the calendar calls the first day of spring, but I do sort of look forward to all the signs of spring that come in April. Like today, for instance. It is the last day of March, but it is raining and it is likely to continue raining until (it turns back to snow) this particular front passes through.

With an early Easter, this is also the time of year that a new Jesus passes through. When I share the post-Easter stories with the children, I refer to the disciples and others as meeting Jesus in a new way. No longer the preacher, teacher, healer on his way to death. He is the preacher, teacher, healer, resurrected and calling us all to new life in him.

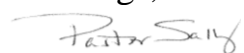
Notice how Jesus “passes through” the walls of the locked upper room to let his disciples see him and know that he is alive (Sunday, April 3). And how he “passes through” on the beach, unrecognized at first by his disciples, but later known in a new way as he serves them breakfast (Sunday, April 10). On the fourth Sunday of Easter (April 17), we are reminded that Jesus was, is and always will be the Good Shepherd, whether walking with the disciples or walking with us. The reminder to us to love one another, heard on Maundy Thursday, is repeated on April 24th and it may impact each of us in a brand new way.

The post-Easter stories include after resurrection sightings of Jesus, as well as the older stories shared shortly before his arrest in Jerusalem. Because of the resurrection, all the stories are new and introduce us to the Jesus we may not have known before now. All the stories —whether we hear them on Sunday morning or Wednesday afternoon or we read them for ourselves — all the stories give us a glimpse of the new life to which we are called.

All those dead looking trees and branches, all that snow covered dirt, will soon be sprouting with new life for us to treasure and enjoy. We take delight in the new life that appears in spring. Can you imagine the delight God takes in our acceptance of the new life we are given?

As we continue to celebrate Easter into May, my prayer is that each day of each week, we find new life...in the world...in each other...in ourselves.

Blessings,



Pastor Sally



## Kiitos Paljon



Thank you to Karl Rundman for building the new shelving in the Sunday School Room.

### Anniversaries

Paul and Katie Bridgers  
April 6

Dave and Tammy Harju  
April 10

Chris and Marianne Bohjanen  
April 17

Steve and Melissa Nicholas  
April 18

### Birthdays

Steve Kneebone 1  
Bill Mannisto 5  
Kristen Rundman 8  
Christopher Lystila 12  
Shaylee Waltanen 17  
Kiera Sweeney 19  
Chris Davis 24  
Rebecca Frost 27  
Jeanine Baillod 28  
Christa Harju 30

Patience Griggs 3  
Tyler Andrews 6  
Riley Anderson 9  
Kayla Semmens 15  
Vincent Kaster 19  
Kai Krznarich 20  
Louis Raffaelli 24  
Pam Long 28  
Ralph Tapani 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.gracesoutherange.com](http://www.gracesoutherange.com)

Find us also on Facebook

[www.facebook.com/GraceLutheranChurchSouthRangeMi](http://www.facebook.com/GraceLutheranChurchSouthRangeMi)

# Family Game Night

**Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>,  
5:30pm to 7:30pm**

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

### Quilters

April 6<sup>th</sup> and  
April 20<sup>th</sup>

### Bible Study

Wednesdays  
11:00am  
(after Cup of Grace)

## Foreman House Fundraiser

On Sunday, April 10, after worship, the Stewardship Committee will be hosting a fellowship Sandwich Lunch with a free-will offering for the Foreman House. The Foreman House is being developed right here in South Range and will provide housing for up to 12 homeless individuals and possibly one small family for up to six months, while working with them to help provide permanent housing, jobs, and education.

Brian Foreman, who is making this much-needed facility available for deserving people, has asked all of the religious organizations in the area to host collections to fund renovations to the building and some furnishings such as appliances, carpeting, etc. Brian will be here to give us an overview of the shelter at a Temple Talk right before the service begins on Sunday and will be with us at fellowship to answer any questions we might have.

I hope we can count on you to be generous givers in support of this worthwhile effort. Please join us for worship and fellowship on Sunday, April 10.

## Donation-Only Rummage Sale

The stewardship committee has authorized a rummage sale (without prices) to be held in the fellowship hall on the morning of April 30 to raise funds for activities and resources for those young people who are in Faith Formation classes and those who are already confirmed. Pastor Sally has a wide range of gently used household goods and some pieces of furniture that she would like to donate to this effort. Others **may** wish to increase their contribution to youth ministries by donating a few nice items that could bring in a sizable donation. We will not be selling any clothing, knick knacks, or those items better recycled in another way. If you choose to help us, we request that you bring your items to the church by noon on Wednesday, April 27 **and** that you check back on Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning to pick up your items if they were not sold. We do not have the capacity to store or donate any excess merchandise.

## April Worship Text

### Sunday, April 3

John 20:19-31  
Beholding the wounds of the risen Christ.

### Sunday, April 10

John 21:-19  
Jesus appears to the disciples

### Sunday, April 17

John 10:22-30  
Jesus promises life to his sheep

### Sunday, April 24

John 13:31-35  
Love one another

*Love  
one another*

## Upcoming Dates in May

**May 8<sup>th</sup>**

Church Music Sunday

**May 15<sup>th</sup>**

Confirmation Sunday

**May 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Bishop Skrenes Preaches and Luanne Skrenes teaches, also Baccalaureate and pastors Wendy

and Joel Berthelsen will be with us

**May 29<sup>th</sup>**

Healing Service

## Learning Circle

Gets back on schedule on April 3. If you have thought about joining us, this is the perfect time. We have just finished up the chapters on the death and resurrection of Jesus and are about to embark on Jesus and his church in the world. Come to the parsonage for a light supper on Sunday evening, April 3, at 5:30, just to see if this might be a group you would like to join.

## 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

Dear Lord,

We give thanks to you for our Lenten journey that allows us to contemplate what you have done for all of us. Your mercy, love and forgiveness freely granted are such examples for us to follow. Help us to truly learn how to pass this on to each other and to everyone we meet. Teach us to celebrate the joy of the resurrection every day and to live in the knowledge that we are your forgiven children forever.

Bring your healing touch to those who suffer from mental or physical health issues. Give us wisdom to know how to help one another when we are grieving the loss of loved ones.

Teach world leaders and those in positions of power how to live in peace and harmony with one another. Let each of us treat everyone as we would like to be treated. We thank you for the blessings you continue to give your people. In Jesus' 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.

We hope to  
see you at  
Family  
Game Night!



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  
Delores Paavola at home  
Eleanor Maki at the Bluffs  
Amanda Mountjoy at home  
Nancy Harris at Omega House  
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 April

Altar Duty ~

|                                      | April 3                     | April 10                        | April 17                      | April 24                     |  |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| <b>Counters</b>                      | Chris Davis<br>Angela Harju | Marianne Bohjanen<br>Sue Slinde | Jean Simila<br>Katie Bridgers | Heather Aro<br>Karen Johnson |  |
| <b>Fellowship</b>                    | Open                        | Stewardship<br>Committee        | Open                          | Potluck                      |  |
| <b>Ushers</b>                        | Pam Long<br>Jeanine Bailod  | Don and Sally<br>Rule           |                               |                              |  |
| <b>Acolyte &amp;<br/>Bell Ringer</b> | Youth                       | Youth                           | Youth                         | Youth                        |  |
| <b>S.S.<br/>Teacher</b>              | Heather<br>Aro              | Chris<br>DeForge                | Tammy<br>Harju                | Janet<br>Kokko               |  |
| <b>Assisting<br/>Minister</b>        |                             |                                 |                               |                              |  |
|                                      |                             |                                 |                               |                              |  |

## More funny things on the way to church

(compiled by Dave Anderson and Tim Wilcox)  
Dial-a-Prayer

While visiting members of the congregation I serve as director of Christian education, I was grateful for the privilege of joining them in family devotions. Their custom was to read the bible and pray before dinner. So we did. Then the mother, smiling broadly at her husband, said, "This reminds me of another time." Seems the family had read scripture, prayed, and was about to say grace when the phone rang. Up jumped the father, grabbed the phone, and said, "Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest..."

~James Haack  
Carrollton, MO.

## Reminder

There are greeting cards for sale by donation in the library. All donations from card sales go to the after school program.

Grace Lutheran is still collecting Econo Food receipts. Please bring your receipts to the library. Grace gets 1% back of the total of receipts turn in.

## NOTICE

Angela Small will be leaving at the end of April so we will need a new church musician. Please let Katie or Pastor Sally know if you are aware of anyone who might qualify.

## March Council Highlights

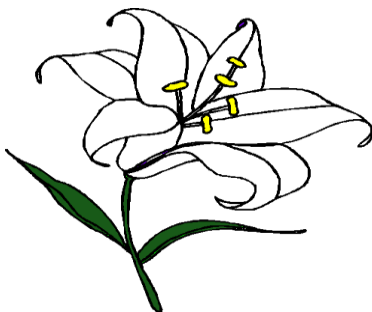
1. Financial Situation ~ the council president asked the treasurer if we are still behind on expenses, Laurie reported the cumulative figure over the last three months is a negative \$7300.00. The council decided to have a congregational meeting on April 24<sup>th</sup>, after worship, to discuss the matter. Sally and Pam will write a letter to send to the congregation
2. Two Bids ~ Charter gave a bid to lower the cost of the phone over for a cheaper rate. The council approved changing the line to Charter. The Office Planning Group gave a bid for a new copier and maintenance plan; however, chose not to accept this at the present time.
3. Stewardship ~ Please read about the Foreman House. A rummage sale and Walk for Water are in the works.
4. Parish Records Task Force ~ A letter to lapsed members will be sent to about five members at a time. Not all will get a letter. Some may get a call or a visit.
5. Pole Barn Agreement Task Force ~ Final changes and rewording for clarity will be done and brought to the council for approval in April. They have decided on a lottery system.

**Easter lilies were lovingly given  
for the festival service at Grace:**

Sharon Maki  
In memory of Sonny,  
parents, and family.

The Rules and Raffaellis  
In memory of MaryAnn,  
Roxanne and Robert John.

Janet Kokko  
In memory of Jacob and Irene Kokko  
and Mary Erbetta.



## Seven Important Things Luther Said (and one funny one) And What They Meant

(Adapted from The Lutheran Handbook)

Watch for more in the upcoming  
months!.

“When our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ,  
said, ‘Repent,’ [Matthew 4:17] he called for  
the entire life of believers to be one of  
repentance.”

~*Ninety-five Theses* (1517)

Luther meant that faith and its Christly  
acts of love and service are never to be  
separated from real life. Faith isn’t just a  
hobby; it’s an entire way of life!

**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>

## Christian Education Meeting

**Tues., April 5<sup>th</sup>,  
1:00pm.**

Vacation Bible School  
plans will be set. All  
who are interested in  
volunteering are  
welcome to join us.



March 30, 2016

Dear Friends in Christ,

We are writing on behalf of the Grace Lutheran Congregational Council to inform you about our financial situation. When we reviewed the December 2015 income, it was lower than we expected. As a result, we have been monitoring income and expenses since then, and have seen no improvement.

Consequently, we need to come together to discuss ways to increase our income in order to sustain our ministry in this community. You are encouraged to attend and participate in a special congregational meeting to discuss this more fully in light of the mission to which we have been called.

The meeting will be held on Sunday, April 24, 2016, immediately following worship. Please bring a dish to share at the fellowship potluck after the meeting.

In His Service,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Pastor Sally".

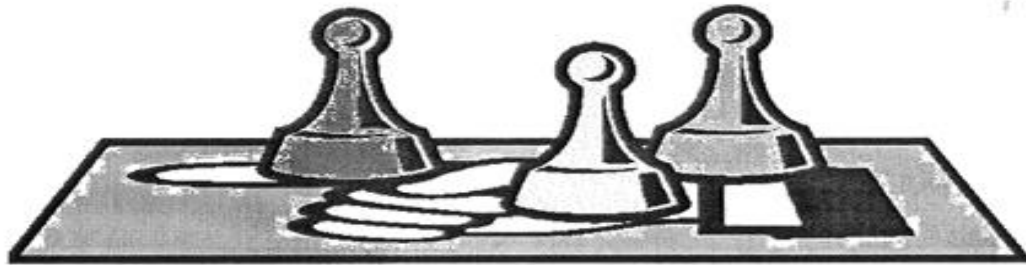
The Rev. Sally L. Wilke  
Pastor, Grace Lutheran Church

Pamela C. Long  
President, Grace Lutheran Church



# Kids' Korner

## FAMILY



## GAMENIGHT

**Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>  
5:30pm to 7:30pm**

Hotdogs, buns, and the fixings will be provided.

Feel free to bring a snack to share.

Invite your family, your friends and your neighbors.

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

**Sunday, April 3  
Movie**

**Sunday, April 10  
Breaking of Bread**

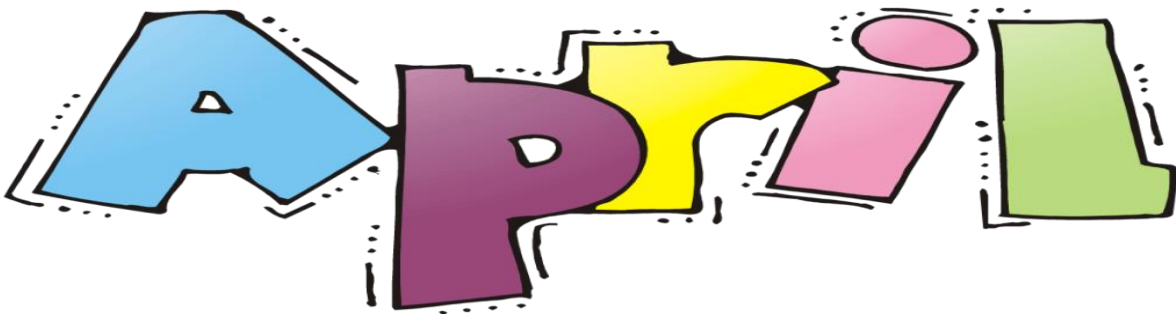
**Sunday, April 17  
Known in the Morning**

**Sunday, April 24  
Good Shepherd**



*April Showers Bring May Flowers*



| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday                            | Saturday  |
|---|---|--|---|---|-----------------------------------|---|
|    |   |  |   |   | 1<br><br>8:00pm<br>AA/AI-<br>Non  | 2   |
| 3<br><br>9:45am Choir<br>10:00am S.S<br>11:00am Worship   | 4<br><br>2:30pm<br>Stewardship<br>Committee<br>Meeting<br><br>6:30pm<br>Prayer<br>Service | 5<br><br>1:00pm<br>Knit, Pray,<br>Chrocet<br>1:00pm<br>Christian Ed Mtg<br>6:30pm<br>Worship and<br>Music committee<br>meeting | 6<br><br>10:00am<br>Cup of Grace<br>11:00am<br>Bible Study<br>1:00pm Quilting<br>3:00pm ASP                   | 7   | 8<br><br>8:00pm<br>AA/AI-<br>Non  | 9<br><br>5:30pm<br>to<br>7:30pm<br>Family<br>Game Night |
| 10<br><br>9:45am Choir<br>10:00am S.S<br>11:00am Worship<br>12:00pm fellowship<br>hosted by the<br>stewardship<br>committee for the<br>Foreman House        | 11<br><br>7:00pm<br>LCW   | 12<br><br>1:00pm<br>Primetimes<br>Rock House<br>Mine Shaft<br><br>1:00pm<br>Knit, Pray,<br>Chrocet                             | 13<br><br>10:00am<br>Cup of Grace<br>11:00am<br>Bible Study<br>3:00pm ASP/FF                                  | 14  | 15<br><br>8:00pm<br>AA/AI-<br>Non | 16  |
| 17<br><br>9:45am Choir<br>10:00am S.S<br>11:00am Worship<br>with Cheryl Stimac<br>Mission Interperter<br>Sunday<br>3:00pm Fortune<br>Lake Annual<br>Meeting | 18  | 19<br><br>1:00pm<br>Knit, Pray,<br>Chrocet<br><br>6:30pm<br>Council Meeting  | 20<br><br>10:00am<br>Cup of Grace<br>11:00am<br>Bible Study<br>1:00pm Quilting<br>3:00pm ASP/FF               | 21  | 22<br><br>8:00pm<br>AA/AI-<br>Non | 23<br><br>3:00pm<br>MacDonald<br>& Waltanen<br>Wedding  |
| 24<br><br>9:45am Choir<br>10:00am S.S<br>11:00am Worship<br>12:00pm<br>Congregational<br>meeting<br>potluck to follow                                       | 25  | 26<br><br>1:00pm<br>Knit, Pray,<br>Chrocet   | 27<br><br>10:00am<br>Cup of Grace<br>11:00am<br>Bible Study<br>2:00pm Nursing<br>Home Visits<br>3:00pm ASP/FF | 28<br><br>10:00am<br>Arbor Green<br>Worsihp<br><br>11:15am<br>The Bluffs<br>Worship | 29<br><br>8:00pm<br>AA/AI-<br>Non | 30<br><br>Rummage<br>Sale                               |

# There is a place and an activity for YOU at Grace:

Would you like to get more active in a ministry at Grace that will benefit you and others, as well? There are a number of opportunities during the week. Everyone is invited to participate in any or all.

- On the **first Monday** of each month, there is a brief (30 minutes or less) prayer service that includes both silent and spoken prayers. It begins at 6:30p.m. in the worship area.
- On the **second Monday** of each month, the Lutheran Church Women (open to all) meet at 7:00p.m. for bible study and fellowship.
- On **every Tuesday**, the Knit, Pray, Crochet group meets for an hour or two of working on prayer shawls, baby blankets, or an individual project. They gather around 1:00p.m. and stay as long as the yarn, treats, coffee and energy hold out.
- **Primetimers** (that's many of us) gather for lunch at a different area restaurant each month on the **second Tuesday** of the month at 1:00p.m.
- **Wednesday** is filled with opportunities. Beginning at 10:00am with Cup of Grace, a community coffee time, this is an hour of conversation, coffee, and treats provides a nice midweek social break.
- The Lectionary Bible Study begins at 11:00am., on **most Wednesdays**. Because the study is different each week, people can come as often or as infrequently as desired. Resource materials are always provided, and the coffee remains ready for drinking.
- On the **1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays**, a group of women from Grace and the surrounding community get together to talk and sew quilts. If you can thread a needle or push and pull yarn, one stitch at a time, you are overqualified. Come anytime you can. Quilters start arriving any time after noon, and are often finished around 4, sometimes 5, but you may come and go as you like.
- **Most Wednesdays** at 3:05pm, a bus load of children arrive from the elementary school for our After School Program. While you are welcome to visit just to see all the activity, we also appreciate volunteers - in the kitchen, doing crafts, telling stories, reading books, helping with homework, driving to community service events - we can always put volunteers to work. Typically, the children are picked up between 5:00 and 5:30p.m.
- On the **fourth Wednesday** of the even months, a group gathers at Grace (around 1:30p.m.) to car pool to Houghton Medical Care and Cypress Manor for worship with the residents. We sing and pray and listen to readings and a brief devotion and the residents are delighted to have us with them in this way. (June, August, October, December, February, and April)
- The **last Thursday** of each month is set aside for Holy Communion Worship at Arbor Green (10:00a.m.) and The Bluffs (11:15 a.m.) It is a great time to spend with those who are not able to get to worship each week. You can accompany our singing, sing along, read the lessons, help serve communion, or just worship with some new friends.
- The office is closed on **Fridays**, but an AA group meets in the fellowship hall. If you are a person in recovery, it may be for you.
- **Sunday morning** brings Choir rehearsal at 9:45a.m. and Sunday School at 10:00a.m., with worship following at 11:00 a.m. Many **Sundays**, we have Coffee Fellowship following the service. A potluck is held on the **last Sunday** of each month. If you like to sing, want to tell stories to children, enjoy needing to meet up with God and God's people, come to any of these.