



Grace Notes

April 18, 2021

Grace Lutheran Church, Champaign Illinois / www.glccu.org

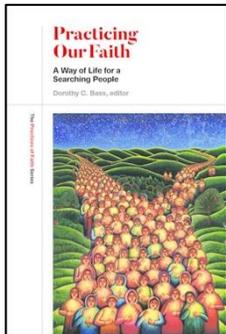
Web Edition

Third Sunday of Easter,

In Person Worship Survey

As the covid cloud begins to lift, we would like to solicit the congregation's input about in person worship. In-person services will be communion services, and as per CUPD guidance will be without congregational singing and with everyone masked and distanced. Note: live-streamed service will continue at least until we are fully back to normal. If you have not already filled out the survey on returning to in-person worship, please do so this week to help guide our decisions. Here's the link:

[In Person Worship Options](#)



Adult Sunday School

Last week we begin a fifteen-session course on connecting our faith to our daily life using the book *Practicing Our Faith: A Way of Life for a Searching People*, edited by Dorothy C. Bass. The book is available from various internet retailers in three different editions. Although any edition will work for most of the class, the later two editions (2010 & 2019) contain an extra chapter that helps connect personal faith practices to communal practices in a faith community. Order a copy, and join us!

Treasurer's Report, March 31, 2021

	<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Revenues	\$21,074.02	\$63,165.62
Expenses	\$29,648.26	\$92,842.54
Net	-\$8,574.24	-\$29,676.92

See the Bible Study on Page 4

Thank You!

Together, we did it! We bought the farm and more! Thank you to everyone who participated in our Lenten challenge to raise funds for ELCA Good Gifts. Through your generosity, we were able to raise \$1135. This is enough money to buy a family farm; including a cow, a couple of goats, a dozen chicks, two pigs, farming tools, seeds and agricultural training, with additional funds to also



purchase a community vegetable garden with honey bees and support for an irrigation project. ELCA Good Gifts: Gifts that make a difference in fighting hunger and transforming lives.

East Central Conference Assembly

Join us Today, April 18, from 4-5:30 p.m. on Zoom for worship, our conference annual meeting, and faith-filled discussion. We will be joined by the ELCA Foundation, LSSI, and others, who will share how their spiritual toolboxes have been filled in new ways during the pandemic. We will have time to talk with one another about what tools we've developed and where we are still growing. [Click here](#) for the Zoom link.

Zoom Links are available at email version of Grace Notes.

Faith Circle

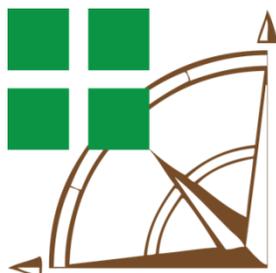
Faith Circle will meet Tuesday evening, April 20, beginning at 7pm via Zoom. Sue Kozlowski is scheduled to lead our final session on angels, entitled “Feasting, Funny, Alleluia Angels,” from the April issue of the WELCA “Gather” publication.

Planning our Future Together

The council has appointed a team of seven people to facilitate a strategic planning program this spring and summer for the whole congregation. It is important that we have broad participation from across the congregation. During this time, GraceNotes will include a brief weekly Bible study focusing on a biblical call story. These are intended to help us discern God’s call to us as a congregation in our particular time and place. We hope they will serve as a starting point for understanding who we are and how we can best plan to live out our calling. Each study comes with questions that you are asked to respond to using an online bulletin board. Responses may be anonymous if you choose, but will be viewable by everyone who participates. The council and planning team are excited about this project and look forward to your input!

New Members + Current Members

On The Way is a regular faith-formation opportunity at Grace devoted to exploring and deepening our understanding and practice of the Christian faith. We meet next tomorrow, April 19 at 7:00 and will then continue in May with a few more sessions. Join us for discussion, reflection on a biblical text, and prayer. We use the Grace Meeting Zoom link.



ON THE WAY

Coffee Hour

Every Sunday morning at 8:45! Your host, Claire Vail, will cut you off promptly at 9:25 to give you time to get ready for the service.



Bell Choir and Choir Zoom Dates

Bell Choir Zoom is on Mondays at 7PM, *April 19 and May 3, 17*

Choir Zoom is on Wednesdays at 7:30PM, *April 28, and May 12, 26.*

WORSHIP NOTES

The W&M Committee is actively seeking new members (and even a new chair). We meet once a month to talk and plan the services. Both pastor and Andy are on our committee and provide expertise and leadership. If you are interested in participating, please let me know. I would be happy to email you copies of our recent minutes so you see the kinds of things for which we are responsible. Text or email Ruth Anderson if you are interested.

We are still looking for favorite hymns for the summer. Please email your favorite hymns to Carolyn Pater.

We are also looking for people interested in providing special music this summer. If that is you, please let Ruth Anderson know. (Some of these may be prerecorded and others may be in person)

Stitch & Craft Zoom Meetings

Stitch & Craft meets at 7PM on Friday, April 23, May 7 and 21. Join via Zoom link in Zoom link box

Grace Food Pantry Update

The second Sunday of each month is Grace Food Pantry Sunday. The Food Pantry does not operate out of the General Fund, which is the destination for Sunday morning offerings unless otherwise designated. Because of this, Food Pantry depends on special designation for donations from those in the congregation. Financial contributions are a great way to support Food Pantry, because every \$1 that is given can have the purchase power of much as \$10 at the Eastern Illinois Food Bank. Please consider making an extra donation to the Pantry at this time!



Online Giving

Thank you to everyone who has continued to give to Grace through our online platforms! During this transition, we have heard of some issues with the various ways you can give online. To properly address these issues, we would like to hear from you! If you have noticed anything, please contact Caitlyn at gracelife@glccu.org

Daily Bread Yoga Announcements

Daily Bread Yoga is still on ZOOM! Go to www.dailybreadyoga.life to see the calendar of weekly classes being offered on ZOOM. If you have questions or would like to receive the weekly newsletter from Rachel, email her at dailybreadyoga@gmail.com. ZOOM is a great way to try yoga from the comfort of your own home, but with a live instructor and real community. Please join us!

□

Live-streamed & Recorded Services

Our Sunday morning Service of the Word begins at 9:30. The link to follow the service is found at the top of the Grace home page (glccu.org) or click here, glccu.org/livestreams

Help With Zoom

We're using the Zoom (zoom.us) for meetings and classes at Grace during this time of physical-distancing. If you need help setting up and using Zoom, here are two helpful tutorials.

The first is for using Zoom on your computer:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9isp3qPeQ0E>

The second is for using Zoom on a phone.

This should also work for tablets:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IO206_NezaY

About GraceNotes and the Newsletter

GraceNotes is our weekly publication for timely announcements to the congregation. Please send all announcements for GraceNotes to Lyla at office@glccu.org by Wednesday evening. Items for the monthly newsletter should be sent to Caitlyn at gracelife@glccu.org by the 20th of the previous month.

Grace Office Hours

Unless otherwise announced, a staff person will be in the building from Tuesdays through Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. for deliveries, inspections, and other essential functions

With thanks and appreciation for Easter Floral Donations and Dedications from:

Ken Bengoechea & Nancy Johnson	In honor of departed loved ones
Van & Kathy Bowersox	In memory of our parents
Wally & Sally Duchow	In memory of loved ones
George & Bev Kieffer	To the glory of God
Doug and Karen Krusa	In honor of our parents
David & Carol Larson	In memory of Aunt Cody who we lost this year
Rena Lee Lenz	In memory of Reno and Cleota Lenz & Cherie Lenz
Tim and Ann Marty	In honor of our grandson, Jayden Gerard Marty
Mikel and Ann O’Clock	In memory of Earl and Becky Swanson
Robert Pearson	In memory of June Pearson
Brian and Gloria Rainer	In memory of Robert and Florence Evans
William and Grace Schoedel	Remembering Frank Shupp
Cynthia Saylor and Family	To the Glory of God and in loving memory of Paul Saylor
The Shupp Family	In memory of Frank, in honor of Carol, and in memory of Frank and Carol’s parents, Rev. Floyd and Mona Shupp, and Rev. Francis and Helen Edwards



DISCERNING GOD'S CALL

ABRAHAM

Genesis 12:1-9

BACKGROUND:

The story of Abram (renamed Abraham) begins the long narrative of the chosen people of God. This passage is only 12 chapters into Genesis, the first book of the Bible. After creation (and Adam and Eve) the stories move quickly from Noah to the Tower of Babel. Beginning with Abraham, the story becomes specific to a person, a family, a clan, and (eventually) the nation of Israel.

In the verses before this passage, Abram and his wife Sarai moved from Ur of the Chaldeans to a new home in Haran. God then spoke to Abram and calls him to take their family somewhere they had never been. Then came the promises of a land (which came to be known as Israel) and a great nation (God's chosen people). These promises shape the rest of the Biblical story.

SCRIPTURE:

Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot, and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the Lord appeared to Abram, and said, 'To your offspring I will give this land.' So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the Lord and invoked the name of the Lord. And Abram journeyed on by stages towards the Negeb.

- How do the people in the story hear God's call to them?
- How open are they to God's call?
- What might this passage say to our community of faith?

Please go to the "Padlet" online bulletin board at [this link](#) and respond to these questions by clicking the + in the column for this week (Week 1). Your responses may be anonymous, or you may enter your name in the Title field of your entry.

This Week at Grace: April 18, 2021 - April 25, 2021

<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Sunday, April 18, 2021		
Coffee Hour	8:45 AM	Online (Zoom)
Worship	9:30 AM	Live Stream (Sanctuary)
Confirmation Class	10:45AM	Online (Google Meet)
Adult Sunday School	10:45AM	Online (Zoom)
Conference Assembly	4:00 PM	Online (Zoom)
Monday, April 19, 2021		
Property Committee	5:30 AM	Online (Zoom)
Bell Choir Rehearsal	7:00 PM	Online (Zoom)
Tuesday, April 20, 2021		
<i>Newsletter Copy Deadline</i>		
Faith Circle	7:00 PM	Online (Zoom)
Wednesday, April 21, 2021		
Food Pantry Truck Delivery	7:00 AM	Fellowship Hall
Bulletin Deadline	5:00 PM	
Thursday, April 22, 2021		
Food Pantry	10:00 AM	Fellowship Hall Hoffmeister Room
Friday, April 23, 2021		
Stitch & Craft	7:00 PM	Online (Zoom)
Sunday, April 25, 2021		
<i>World Hunger Sunday</i>		
Coffee Hour	8:45 AM	Online (Zoom)
Worship (Morning Prayer)	9:30 AM	Live Stream (Sanctuary)
Confirmation Class	10:45AM	Online (Google Meet)
Adult Sunday School	10:45AM	Online (Zoom)