

April 2024

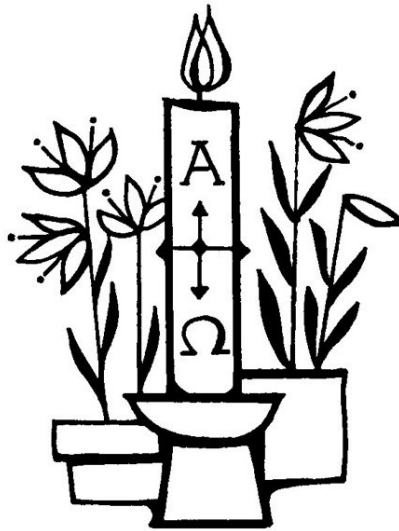
# Grace *Connections*

Lutheran Church  
Champaign, Illinois

## Good News for the Living and the Dead.

Alleluia, Christ is risen! (Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!)

During the children's sermon on Easter Sunday I talked to the children about my father's death the previous Wednesday morning, and how Jesus' death and resurrection are really good news especially for dead people. Because when you're dead, there's no illusion of being able to pull yourself up by your own bootstraps, or helping yourself in any way. You've got nothing. I carried my father's death with me through the Great Three Days of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter and those four services were just what I needed. They gave me words and song for a time when words often fail and songs go unsung. If he had to die (and he did, we all do), my dad picked a great time to die. I cannot think of a better day for a funeral than the first Saturday after Easter Sunday, and I am looking forward to celebrating the resurrection then and commending my father into God's care.



But while Jesus' and resurrection are surely good news for dead people like my father, they are also really good news for people who are still alive on this side of the grave. Because the gospel is not only about new life after death, but also about new life now, before death, and through death as well. One of the last things we did as a family while Dad was still alive was to gather at his hospital bed and sing hymns, including one he requested, "Lord thee I Love with All My Heart." (We'll sing that at the funeral too.) Just as that hymn sustained Dad in his last days, so does our singing and praying and gathering around word and sacrament sustain us through all the days of our lives, reminding us of who we are and whose we are, so that we can live lives of integrity and joy right here and right now, even in the face of death. So rejoice and be glad this Easter season. Be comforted, encouraged, and enlivened by Christ present in your life and in this community of faith at Grace.

+ Pastor Repp

# God Connections

Faith, Worship, Music, Study, Prayer

## All Creation Sings at Easter

Adult Education on **Sunday, April 7** – gathered near the piano in the church sanctuary, presented by Pastor Janet Lepp

On Easter Sunday, we in the Christian Church throughout the ages, have joined all creation in singing “Jesus Christ is Risen Today.” The Easter season Biblical texts include appearances by the risen Jesus and promises that he is with us to the end of the ages. Thankfully we have a rich supply of songs to carry us through the fifty days of rejoicing during the season of Easter!

During this Adult Education session we will be listening to, singing, and thinking about the messages found in Easter Hymns, particularly newer ones offered to us in the All Creation Sings hymnal supplement. There are some truly fascinating aspects to Easter Hymns that we will be exploring together.

All of you are invited to join in this joyful exploration!

## Faith Circle

Faith Circle meets on the third Tuesday evening of the month at 7 p.m. in the narthex. All are welcome. We begin the evening with refreshments (coffee and snacks provided by the hostess) and fellowship. The lesson leader presents the Bible study, beginning at approximately 7:30 p.m.

For our **April 16** meeting, Leanne Wichus is our hostess, and Nancy Reinertsen is our lesson leader. Plan to attend and invite a friend! Can't attend in person? Join us using the GLC's regular Zoom meeting link.

## Synod-Wide In-Person Listening Sessions

Plan to participate in one of our four upcoming in-person listening gatherings across the synod as part of our comprehensive synod-wide listening and visioning process. They will be held on **April 20 and 21** at four different churches around the synod, with refreshments provided (one will be at Saint Matthew's in Urbana on April 21). Click on this link to learn more and sign up for one of the sessions: <https://bit.ly/4akItKk>

## Grace Book Club Announcement

*Inspired* by Rachel Held Evans

The next book selection for the Grace Book Club is *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again* by Rachel Held Evans.

Rachel has filled this book with stories from the Bible, which she has professed that she loves again. In the introduction she reminds the reader that “When you stop trying to force the Bible to be something it's not – static, perspicacious, certain, absolute – then you're free to revel in what it is: living, breathing, confounding, surprising, and yes, perhaps even magic.” She believes that the Bible is both inspired and inspiring.

We will be meeting to discuss this inspiring book on Friday morning, **May 17**, at 10:00 (see email version of the newsletter for location).

Note: *Inspired* by Rachel Held Evans was published in 2018 by Nelson Books. This book can be purchased at any of your favorite bookstores and book sources (print and digital) including the Champaign Public Library.

We hope you will join us in reading *Inspired* and meeting with us in May for the discussion.

Janet Lepp and Jo Fleming

## Sunday Scripture Readings

**Second Sunday of Easter, April 7:** *Acts 4:32-35, Psalm 133, 1 John 1:1-2:2, John 20:19-31*

The Easter season is seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and sharing such that no one among us is in need.

**Third Sunday of Easter, April 14:** *Acts 3:12-19, Psalm 4, 1 John 3:1-7, Luke 24:36b-48*

**Fourth Sunday of Easter, April 21:** *Acts 4:5-12, Psalm 23, 1 John 3:16-24, John 10:11-18*

**Fifth Sunday of Easter, April 28:** *Acts 8:26-40, Psalm 22:25-31, 1 John 4:7-21, John 15:1-8*

# Community Connections

Fellowship, Fun, Congregation News, Intercessory Prayer

## Outdoor Workdays

Members of the congregation have been busy doing outdoor projects, but there is more to do. This week mulch will be delivered on Friday, April 5. Please come on **Saturday, April 6 and 13**, to help distribute the mulch and help with other outdoor tasks. If you have a wheelbarrow that you could bring, that would be helpful.

## Coffee Hour Forum

Join us for a coffee hour forum on **Sunday, April 7**, to discuss plans for a "Kids' Space" in the back area of the sanctuary.

## Grace Office Closed

The Grace Office will be closed next **Monday, April 8**. The office will be open on Tuesday and will return calls and emails then. Thank you!

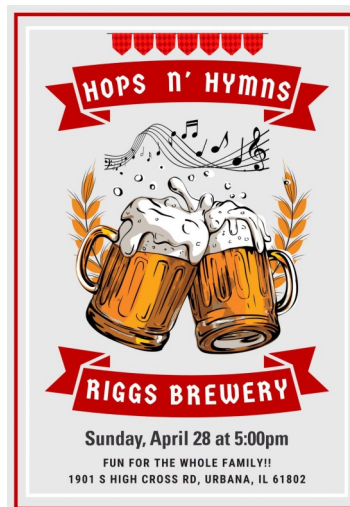
## Wood Carving Group

The wood carving group will not meet **April 8, 15, or 22**.

## Stitch and Craft

Stitch and Craft will be meeting at 7 p.m. on **April 12** in the narthex to make our projects. You may work on whatever project you want.

## Hops n' Hymns



Join folks from Grace, Good Shepherd, and St. Matthew's Lutheran Churches at Riggs Beer Company on **Sunday, April 28**, at 5 p.m. for Hops n' Hymns. It will be fun for the whole family!

Riggs address: 1902 S High Cross Road, Urbana, IL 61802

## Save the Date!

**Tuesday, May 7**, at 7 p.m.: Concert by the choir from High Point University of North Carolina

**Thursday, May 9**, at 7 p.m.: Combined Champaign-Urbana ELCA congregations Ascension Day service. This will include a combined choral anthem presented by the CU-ELCA choirs. If you have an interest in joining, please contact Nick Pierle at [music@glccu.org](mailto:music@glccu.org).

More details to come!

## Community Event:

### A Celebration of Love and Joy

Join the UIUC Choral Department and Philharmonia Orchestra on **Wednesday, April 10**, at 7:30 p.m. for a presentation of Andre Thomas's Gospel Mass and other selected repertoire. This concert will feature Dr. Andre Thomas as the conductor.

Visit this link for ticketing information: <https://krannertcenter.com/events/university-illinois-philharmonia-and-choirs>

THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS CHORAL DEPARTMENT AND  
PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA PROUDLY PRESENTS

## a celebration of love and joy

FEATURING THE WORKS OF  
ANDRÉ THOMAS AND ADOLPHUS HAILSTORK

CONDUCTED BY ANDRÉ THOMAS

FOELLINGER GREAT HALL  
KRANNERT PERFORMING ARTS CENTER  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2024

7:30PM

# World Connections

Service, Advocacy, Ecumenism, Learning

## GLC Food Pantry Monthly Update

The Grace Pantry continues to be very busy. In February we served 306 families (more than 1,145 individuals). We are seeing an average of more than 60 families per week and some of those are new clients. In February the food we were able to provide each family would cost approximately \$60 in the store. Through the Eastern Illinois Food Bank we are able to purchase \$3 in food for every \$1 donated. Without your support it would not be possible to continue this vital ministry.

We are pleased to announce two new board members: Marlys Scarbrough and Bruce Winter. We want to express our deep appreciation to Kathy Bowersox and Royce Wilken for their tireless contribution to the board in the past several years as board members. We would also like to acknowledge Carol Shupp for her many years as a volunteer and a member of the board. She and Frank were both active in distribution of food for many years. We will miss her and wish her well in her new home.

And a final thank you to all of the other volunteers and to the congregation for your contributions and prayers.

Just a note that at this time we do not need egg cartons.

Jim Fleming, Dale Herrstrom, Karen Krusa, Marlys Scarbrough, Bruce Winter

## “Coffee Hour Plus” a Huge Success

Thank you so much to every individual who helped make Easter Sunday morning's "Coffee Hour Plus" a lovely event. Fellowship Hall looked very festive, and 55-60 people participated. Many people helped pull off this gathering. Thanks to all those who helped set up tables and chairs, decorate the room, provide breakfast pastries or fresh fruit, serve, assist in tear down and clean-up, wash and dry dishes, and wash table linens. As Claire always says, "Many hands make light work!" It was definitely a team effort! Every contribution was important.

For Parish Life,  
Kathy Bowersox

## Grace Meeting Zoom Link

See your email for the Grace Meeting Zoom link.

## Web Pages and Access

See your email for the list of webpages and how to access them.

## Prayer Requests

We have two formal ways of praying for one another at Grace. One is in the Sunday morning worship service, where we pray for people by name in the Prayers of Intercession. They will also be listed in the emailed and printed versions of GraceNotes, but not in the web version.

Please send prayer requests for the Sunday-morning prayers to Alex at [office@glccu.org](mailto:office@glccu.org).

## Using GLC Facilities

Our facilities are available for use by members and by outside groups. If you would like to use any part of the facility, please fill out a Facilities Use Request, found on the web site, and contact Alex in the office to ensure that it is on the calendar, so that the space is ready for you and that you are aware of how to adjust the appropriate thermostat.

## Sunday Worship Support

	April 7	April 14	April 21	April 28
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Jo Fleming	Kathy Bowersox	Eileen Herrstrom	Claire Vail
<b>Reader</b>	Jeff Fehrenbacher	Tina Fehrenbacher	Jack Wilkie	Russ Dankert
<b>Deacons</b>	Gail Hug	Lois Wilken	Susan Monte	Tina Fehrenbacher
<b>Greeters</b>	Jeff and Tina Fehrenbacher	Dennis and Allison Archer	Meyer-Bilger family	Mary Jo Erickson and Carol Shupp
<b>Ushers</b>				
<b>Livestreamer</b>	Kevin Vail	Dave Brown	Michael Miller	Jim Anderson
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	Mary Jo Erickson and Gail Hug			Traugotts
<b>Flowers</b>	<i>Easter flowers</i>	<i>Debbie Peterson</i>	<i>Shirley and Art Traugott</i>	<i>Nancy and Rodney Marshall</i>
<b>Dedication</b>	Easter dedications - see bulletin	In memory of my mother, Madge Wojcik	In memory of our mothers	In memory of Jeanne Nicholson, Marie Nicholson, and Mary Marshall, our mothers

# April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>31</b> 9:30am Worship ( Hybrid)- In Person & Live Stream 11:00am Easter Coffee Hour Plus 12:00pm Women's AA	<b>1</b> Office Closed 6:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Wood Carving Group	<b>2</b> 4:30pm Executive Committee 6:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics 6:30pm Sweet Adelines	<b>3</b> 5:00pm Bulletin Deadline 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>4</b> 10:00am Food Pantry	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 9:30am Worship ( Hybrid)- In Person & Live Stream 10:45am Property Committee 11:00am Adult Sunday School 12:00pm Women's AA 1:00p.m. Piano recital	<b>8</b> Office Closed 10:00am Food for Seniors 6:30pm Finance Committee Meeting 7:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>9</b> 6:00am Food for Seniors 6:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics 6:30pm Sweet Adelines 7:00pm Council	<b>10</b> 5:00pm Bulletin Deadline	<b>11</b> 10:00am Food Pantry	<b>12</b> 7:00pm Stitch and Craft	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> <i>Grace Food Pantry Sunday</i> 9:30am Worship ( Hybrid)- In Person & Live Stream 11:00am Adult Sunday School 12:00pm Women's AA	<b>15</b> 7:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>16</b> 6:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics 6:30pm Sweet Adelines 7:00pm Faith Circle	<b>17</b> 7:00am Food Pantry Truck Delivery 10:00am Comrades of Art 5:00pm Bulletin Deadline 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>18</b> 10:00am Food Pantry 6:00pm Parish Life Committee	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Newsletter Copy Deadline
<b>21</b> 9:30am Worship ( Hybrid)- In Person & Live Stream 11:00am Adult Sunday School 12:00pm Women's AA 1:00pm Combined ELCA Choir Rehearsal	<b>22</b> 10:00am Food for Seniors 7:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>23</b> 6:00am Food for Seniors 6:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics 6:30pm Sweet Adelines	<b>24</b> 5:00pm Bulletin Deadline 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>25</b> 10:00am Food Pantry	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 10:00am Setup for guitar service
<b>28</b> <i>World Hunger Sunday</i> 9:30am Worship ( Hybrid)- In Person & Live Stream 11:00am Adult Sunday School 12:00pm Women's AA	<b>29</b> 6:30pm Wood Carving Group 7:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>30</b> 6:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics 6:30pm Sweet Adelines	<b>1</b> 5:00pm Bulletin Deadline 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>2</b> 10:00am Food Pantry	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>