



*Easter Season*

# *Grace Lutheran Church*

## *April 25, 2021*

### **Grace Lutheran's Purpose Statement**

*“We share God’s love by welcoming all and making a Christ-like difference in our community and world.”*

### **GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

#### **WELCOME**

#### **PRELUDE**

*(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.)*

**P:** Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**C:** Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

**P:** Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.*

**P:** We thank you, risen Christ, for these waters where you make us new, leading us from death to life, from tears to joy. We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters of rebirth, like rains to our thirsting earth, like streams that revive our souls, like cups of cool water shared with strangers. Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear. Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness. Send us companions on our journey as we share your life. Make us one, risen Christ. Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with life. To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen.

#### **GATHERING HYMN** “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!”

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#### **GREETING**

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C:** And also with you.

## **KYRIE**

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: **Amen, amen.**

## **HYMN OF PRAISE**

Glory to God, we give you thanks and praise;  
of heav'nly joy and earthly peace we sing.

We worship you, to you our hearts we raise,  
Lord God, almighty Father, heav'nly King.

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P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole.**

**Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **WORD**

*God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.*

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

### **Acts 4:5-12**

*Peter and John had been arrested the previous day because they were proclaiming the news of the resurrection to the people. In today's reading, Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit so that he can proclaim salvation in Jesus' name to the religious authorities.*

<sup>5</sup>The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, <sup>6</sup>with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. <sup>7</sup>When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” <sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, <sup>9</sup>if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, <sup>10</sup>let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. <sup>11</sup>This Jesus is ‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.’ <sup>12</sup>There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 23

*The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (Ps. 23:1)*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd;  
I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>You restore my soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways for your name’s sake.

<sup>4</sup>**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

<sup>6</sup>**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

### 1 John 3:16-24

*Jesus’ death on our behalf is the clearest demonstration of divine love. This is the very love we share with others, not just through our words but especially through our deeds. In sharing such love we fulfill God’s commandments.*

<sup>16</sup>We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. <sup>17</sup>How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

<sup>18</sup>Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. <sup>19</sup>And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him <sup>20</sup>whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows

everything. <sup>21</sup>Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; <sup>22</sup>and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. <sup>23</sup>And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. <sup>24</sup>All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia. Jesus says, I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me. Alleluia.**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

### **John 10:11-18**

*In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to overcome death for them.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>11</sup>“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup>The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. <sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

P: The Gospel of Our Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

### **HOMILY**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY** “The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

*Text: Henry Baker; Music: Irish Tune. This selection is in the public domain.*

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.**

**He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again;**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,**

**the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **INTERCESSORY PRAYERS**

*(Response after each petition)*

**P:** Let us pray.

**C:** Have mercy, O God.

## **OFFERING**

### **OFFERTORY**

**P:** Let us pray...God of love,

**C:** you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ. Amen.

## **THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

**P:** O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

**C:** Amen.

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,**

**thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory,**

**forever and ever. Amen.**

## **SENDING**

### **BLESSING**

**P:** May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.

The God of life, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### **SENDING HYMN “Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises”**

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### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **DISMISSAL**

**P:** Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

**P:** Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

**C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

#### **POSTLUDE**

## **GRACE IN-PERSON WORSHIP REMAINS SUSPENDED**

With increasing COVID-19 cases in our area, the decision is to continue suspension of in-person worship services. Out of an abundance of Christian care and caution for our community and health care workers this decision was made. The local conditions are continually evaluated and we pray to return to in-person worship soon. With increasing number of people vaccinated and continued public health practices, this pandemic is almost over. We all can be part of the solution to this pandemic by everyone making sacrifices for just a while longer. *Thank you.*

## **PRAYERS**

Elaine Hatch, Scott Lancaster, Betty Dulebohn, Paul Denstaedt, Gerald Lancaster, Charlotte Werth, Hannelore Duenkel & Family (Charlotte Werth's niece), Dorothy Hansen, Don, Verna & Tammy Furze, Larry Nelson, Michele Amelotte, Joanne Nicholls, Deb Nitchman's Family, Diane Prevost, Harold Kissau, Jim Malaski, Emma Nelson, Allison, Bishop Craig Satterlee and Synod staff, Amanda Lema (Betty Dulebohn's granddaughter), Lyn Marshall, Joanne Coughlin, Sylvia Rouech, Jimmy Lappan, Herb Schiller, Donna Hatch, Jordyn, Maggie, Genie Diamond, Laura Bleau, Sharon Anderson, Becky, Jodi Kennedy Dinnan, Stephanie Bradford, Charlotte Barnard, Jamie Shipman, Betty Kelly, Maria Shelton, Emily Cross, Liz, Lucas David, David Delano (David's Dad), Edna Delano, Joseph Hansen, and Scott Coddington.

*Our prayer list is redone each month. If you, or a family member, would like to continue on the prayer list, please call the office (354-2640).*

**Prayer concerns received by the church office by Tuesday each week will be included in the coming weekends bulletin. Please do have the person's permission for inclusion and realize it is published online, so more than our congregation will know about it.**

## **IN OUR PRAYERS**

In observance of our covenant with the LARCC (Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic and Congregational UCC) parishes of Alpena, we pray each week for a specific ministry of one of the 5 LARCC parishes. This weekend we pray for the Music Program at First Congregational UCC. We also pray for this week's Synod Prayer Partner: Zion Lutheran Church/Comstock Park, Rev. Julie Schneider-Thomas.

## **VIEW SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE AT 9:30 AM ONLINE**

Our Sunday morning worship service will be livestreamed. Go to [www.gracelutheran-alpena.org](http://www.gracelutheran-alpena.org) for the link to the YouTube livestream. A recording of the service will be available for viewing anytime afterwards.



## **ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR SUNDAY APRIL 25**

### **Prophets**

Predicting the future in faith or society is a risky undertaking. Many times, prophets are spectacularly wrong. What do you think of prophets in faith? What do you think of people who claim they speak for God? Join us at 11 on Zoom as we talk about trying to discern what God desire for God's Kingdom and God's people. Contact Pastor Tom if you need the Zoom connection.

### **MARK BIBLE STUDY**

With Mark the Gospel for this lectionary year, we will start a Sunday series on the Gospel on May 2 by reading through the whole gospel together . Then lessons on specific parts will continue on Sundays through June. The books for the series are \$12.

**Please contact Pastor Tom or the office by April 27 to order.**

### **PERSONAL CARE KITS NEEDED**

Lutheran World Relief has reached out to Grace. They are in desperate need of personal care kits. The discipleship committee is asking those that can to help. The items need for the kits follow:

- One bath size dark color towel
- 2-3 bath size soap bars (8-9 oz.) in original wrapper
- one adult size toothbrush, in original package
- one sturdy comb, no fine tooth combs
- one metal nail clippers

If you can purchase one complete kit and return the items to the church during office hours, before Saturday May 22, we can help to make a Christ-like difference in our community and world. Thank you, Phran Ludington and Dawn Anderson, Discipleship Co-chairs

### **CHRIST IN OUR HOMES DEVOTIONAL FOR APRIL-JUNE**

Christ in Our Homes Devotional for April-June is available in the Office Lobby. Pick one up during office hours of Tuesday - Thursday 8 am to noon or call the office and we will mail one to you.

### **CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

The Church Office is open Tuesday-Thursday, from 8 a.m. - noon. We ask that you please wear a mask when in the building. Please log in on the sheets as you enter the Office Lobby. Please also log out as you exit the building, noting the areas of the building that you were in.



## Anniversaries of Baptism

**April 1**  
Jon Carr

**April 2**  
Kaitlyn Tomaszewski

**April 3**  
Ruby Haske  
Dorene Schultz

**April 4**  
Norm Timm

**April 7**  
Tyler Suszek

**April 8**  
Don Cross

**April 9**  
Patrick Daly

**April 11**  
Shane Jaroch

**April 12**  
David Hansen

**April 14**  
Jeanette Chroninger

**April 15**  
Anna Greene

**April 21**  
Taylor Agius

**April 22**  
Vicki Cripps

**April 24**  
Donna Czarnecki

**April 25**  
Jacob Gapske  
Denise Timrick

**April 26**  
Reed Lappan

**April 27**  
Grant Anderson  
Patrick McCourt

**April 28**  
Mike Dekett  
Chloe Hayward

**April 29**  
Michael Herrmann  
Sophia Kamyszek



**April 1**  
Jim Clemens  
Bryan Stafford  
Larry Suszek

**April 6**  
Janet Carlson

**April 7**  
Robert Greene  
Everett Haske

**April 8**  
June Daly  
Tyler McKenzie

**April 9**  
Phran Ludington

**April 10**  
Nicholas Schillerstrom  
Logan Suszek

**April 11**  
James Malaski

**April 13**  
Jeanne Pankey  
Piper Slominski

**April 14**  
Kendra McInerney

**April 15**  
Wesley Garant  
Myles Granata  
Alec Kennedy

**April 16**  
Pamela Agius  
Bruce Anschuetz

**April 18**  
Alecia Lewis  
Julie Troy

**April 19**  
Ryan Reynolds

**April 20**  
Connor Freel

**April 22**  
Stacey Piontkowski

**April 23**  
Mike Schiller

**April 24**  
Madison Timmreck

**April 25**  
Terry Bertrand  
Jordyn Cieslik

**April 26**  
Sharon Engstrom  
Lorah Lappan

**April 27**  
Nancy Amelotte

**April 30**  
Molly O'Connor

## *Wedding Anniversaries*

6th Don & Verna Furze  
8th Donald & Myra Cross  
12th Rich & Sherie McTaggart  
14th Dustin & Angela Crittenden  
17th Joel & Corinne Fraley  
Michael & Donna Morgan  
18th Richard & Janet Carlson  
30th Douglas & Staci Chroninger

### GENERAL FUND GIVING

Average needed each week to meet budget	\$ 4,489.00
Weekly giving - April 18	4,414.13

We received:

21 envelopes, 12 Simply Giving recurring payments,  
and 1 Give+ payment made from our website

**GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**      **119 W. Dunbar St., Alpena, MI 49707**  
**Phone: Office 354-2640      Pastor's Home 356-8729      Pastor's Cell Phone 916-8759**  
**Pastor: Rev. Thomas W. Orth ~ Web Site: [www.gracelutheran-alpena.org](http://www.gracelutheran-alpena.org)**  
**E-mail: [pastor@gracelutheran-alpena.org](mailto:pastor@gracelutheran-alpena.org)      [officemanager@gracelutheran-alpena.org](mailto:officemanager@gracelutheran-alpena.org)**



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