



GRACE NEWS

#224780—March 23, 2010
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The Cost of Joy—Palm/Passion Sunday

We start off with shouts of joy, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" and before you know it we hear those horrible words, "Crucify, crucify him!" This day is an awful reminder of how easy it is for us to shift from proclaiming our love of Jesus to denying him, just as the rich ruler discovered (Luke 18:18-30) that the idea and the reality of following Jesus can be two very different things. So we gather for worship on Sunday morning, proclaim our faith, and sing praises to Jesus, but how do we live the rest of the week? What do credit card statements and checkbook ledgers reveal about what we really value? How much are we really willing to change our lives? Or is it easier just to mumble along with the crowd, "Crucify, crucify him!"?

On this day of palms and passion we are shown so clearly the cost of faithful obedience. Finally, on the cross we come to face the haunting reality that it is not our faithfulness, our good deeds, our righteousness that saves us. It is Jesus and only Jesus whose righteousness makes us righteous. It is Jesus' faithfulness to the Father that we trust our lives to.

We start with joyful shouts of faith today, but just like every other day the pressures come, compromises are made, and we justify living our lives pretty much the way we want to live them. Thanks be to God that Jesus bore the cost of obedience on the cross so that we might spend our lives in the light of his grace.

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Holy Week at Grace

March 28—April 3, 2010

Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday

Sat. at 6 pm in the Chapel / Sun. at 7:45 & 10:30 am in the Nave

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Maundy Thursday

Holy Communion at 12 noon in the chapel and 7 pm in the Nave

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Good Friday

**7 am Stations of the Cross & Breakfast—meet at St. Peter Chapel
12 noon to 2 pm Neighborhood Cross Walk—meet at First Baptist Church,
612 N. Duke St.**

7 pm Service of Good Friday in the Nave

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Easter Vigil

7 pm begins in the church-yard; continues in the Nave

Eco-Palms

This year we will again be using **Eco-Palms** in partnership with Lutheran World Relief. Eco-palms are harvested in a sustainable manner, where harvesters are trained to gather only quality palm fronds in a way that allows the plant to keep growing. The palms are then brought to a community processing building, where the palms are processed and packaged for export.

By processing the palms themselves, these communities capture more of the profits, improving the communities' standard of living and ensuring that the money paid for the palms benefit those who labor. With the additional income, the harvesters' community can do such things as build processing buildings to improve working conditions, provide scholarships to students, pay teachers' salaries, and support elderly members of the community.

As we raise our branches Sunday, may we share the jubilation of Palm Sunday with the people who harvested our palms!

Pictorial Directories are Here!

The Evangelism Committee is happy to announce that our pictorial directories have arrived. The procedure for distribution is as follows...

1. Members who had their pictures taken by Always and Forever Photography or submitted a photo for the directory will receive a free directory. Each di-

rectory has a letter attached to it with the name of the person who should receive it.

2. Pick-up location...Fellowship Hall. Evangelism Committee members will assist in the distribution of the directories.
3. Pick-up times & dates
March 20, 27, April 3 & 10 -
after the 6 pm service
March 21, 28, April 4 & 11 -
after 7:45 & 10:30 services
4. New members who have been received into membership since November, 2009, will receive a free directory.
5. A limited number of directories will be made available for sale for members who were not able to have their picture taken or submit a photo for the directory. Orders will be taken after April 11—cost will be \$12.
6. After April 11, directories will be moved to the church office for distribution.
7. Shut-in visitors or family members of shut-ins may distribute the directory to their shut-in or family member if they are to receive a free directory. Directories for shut-ins will be mailed in late April to those who have not received them.

Thanks to all who have assisted in this project...

—Claire A & the Evangelism
Committee

Grace Seniors 30th Annual Banquet

Mark your calendars! The 30th Annual Grace Seniors Banquet will be held in two months on Wednesday, May 19, at noon at the Eden Resort Inn. The entertainment will be the outstanding AARP Chorus. More information will come the week of April 19.

Richard K

Our Church Family

Rich & Tricia A have moved to Stevens, PA 17578

Edna L has moved back to her apartment at John Herr Retirement Home in Columbia. **Helen B** is back home after a stay at the Mennonite Home. **Randy T** is a patient at Lancaster General.

Congratulations to the B family on the birth of Carolyn's daughter, **Penelope June Bertrand**, on March 16.

Women of the ELCA Day of Renewal

"Hope for Your Future"

'A Look at Rachel and her inspiration'

Date: Saturday, April 10, 2010

Time: 9:30 am to 3:00 pm (Registration begins at 9:00 am)

Place: St James Lutheran Church
53 Chestnut Street
Lebanon, PA 17042

Cost: \$10.00 (Covers program and lunch)

Rev. Sally Gausmann, co-pastor at St. Paul - West York will be the leader for the day. Through Scripture (Genesis 29-31

and Jeremiah 31:17) we will get to know Rachel. Our day together as Women of the ELCA will include the celebration of the Eucharist, study, fellowship, laughter and renewal.

Make reservation check payable to: LS SWO Women of the ELCA and send to Kathy Hefner, 755 Oxford Road, Lancaster, PA 17601 before April 1.

This has become one of my favorite Women of the ELCA activities. I still recall the opportunity to share in a Bible Study with Mrs. Heinly, the much loved wife of a pastor who served at Grace. This is our chance to meet and become friends with women of faith through study, worship and conversation. All women are encouraged to participate. Need to know more - desire a partner - need a ride? - call or E-mail Joyce - I have space for at least three (3) in my car. Thank you!
Joyce S

Volunteer at Luther Acres

Here are some of the present needs:

Ice Delivery—Tues., Wed., Thurs., or Fri—9 to 10 am

Pinocle Players—to play with residents any afternoon

Readers and Friendly Visitors—flexible

Bridge Player—Tues., 1:30 pm—Holder Dining Room

Physical therapy transporter—Mon. & Wed. mornings

Interested? Need more information? Call Mary at 626-1171, ext. 541

—last two articles submitted by Joyce S

Church Office-397-2748—www.GraceLutheranChurch.com

Staff

The Rev. Stephen P. Verkouw, Pastor
Kathleen A. Good, Director of Christian Formation
The Rev. Nancy L. Weiss, Visitation Pastor
Murray J. Foreman, Director of Music
Barbara A. Slotter, Parish Secretary
Kathryn H. Verkouw, Director of Bell Choirs
Patrick L. Burke, Director of Youth Ministry
Dennis L. Maharg, Sexton
Robert D. Durand, Assistant Sexton

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CALENDAR—MARCH 26—APRIL 1, 2010

- Fri.** Sunrise Bible Study—Parlor.....6:30 a.m.
Sat. Holy Communion—Chapel.....6:00 p.m.
Sun. **SUNDAY OF THE PASSION/PALM SUNDAY—Luke 19:28-40 & Luke 22:14—23:56**
Holy Communion—Nave.....7:45 a.m.
Refreshments— Fellowship Hall.....8:30 a.m.
Kyrie Bells Rehearsal—Balcony.....8:30 a.m.
Sunday School9:00 a.m.
Holy Communion—Nave.....10:30 a.m.
Narcotics Anonymous—Fellowship Hall7:00 p.m.
Mon. Drama Group—Auditorium.....4:30 p.m.
Gloria Bells Rehearsal—Balcony6:30 p.m.
Tue. HIV-AIDS Support Group—Stafford Room6:00 p.m.
Girl Scouts—Fellowship Hall6:30 p.m.
Wed. Community Dinner—Fellowship Hall5:30 p.m.
Sanctus Bells Rehearsal—Balcony.....6:45 p.m.
Nominating Committee—Library7:00 p.m.
Thu. **MAUNDY THURSDAY HOLY COMMUNION**12 noon in the Chapel/7 pm in the Nave
Grace Choir Rehearsal—Balcony8:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCES: March 20/21: 47 + 57 + 181 = 285 Sunday School—87

WEB PAGE IS MAINTAINED BY ARLENE VOLK: www.GraceLutheranChurch.com - If you wish to have her list something on the web-page, e-mail her at: **ASV@AmishCountryLanes.com**.

GRACE NEWS is prepared by Barbara Slotter at the end of each week. Please e-mail, call, or send articles to Barbara by 9 a.m. Friday morning for inclusion in the next week's issue. (**barb@GraceLutheranChurch.com**).