

GRACE NEWS

#224780— April 20, 2010
Vol. 44, No. 38

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

John 10:23-30

Noise, Noise Everywhere

We live in a noise-filled world. Televisions blare at you in grocery store checkout lines. Advertisers yell while you pump gas. Cars roar along the roads. Then there is the self-inflicted noise from mobile phones, radios, MP3 players, and more. It becomes hard to listen when we are all trying to be heard. Some days it is as though everyone is talking and no one is listening.

If we cannot hear one another, how in the world will we hear Jesus? Yet somewhere in the din is the voice of Jesus, the Good Shepherd. It is hard to imagine him screaming out our names with the veins on his neck bulging. But there he is calling to us, guiding us to "springs of the water of life" and promising to "wipe away every tear" (Rev. 7:17). It is Jesus with his arms stretched wide, as he hangs on the cross, who offers us eternal life. Once again Jesus offers us what we need most desperately, whether it is what we want at the moment or not.

So how will we hear him calling our names? How can you create a quiet space, not just Sunday morning but in all of life? How can you invite people to turn everything off and listen for the quiet voice of Jesus inviting us to sit with him beside still waters?

The greatest promise in the gospel this day is not that we can make it quiet enough to hear Jesus. The greatest promise is that Jesus will get to us, his sheep. One way or another Jesus will be heard, through prayer, through Scripture, through newspaper stories, gracious reminders from loved ones, and more. Make no mistake. Jesus will be heard by his sheep.

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Music at Grace

Millersville University Orchestra
under the direction of Dr. Vera Volchansky
at Grace on Sunday evening,

April 25, at 8 pm

The concert will feature guest violin soloist, **Igor Yuzefovich**, who is Asst. Concertmaster of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and Concertmaster of Lancaster Symphony Orchestra. Yuzefovich will play two works by Tchaikovsky with the orchestra, "Serenade Melancholique" and "Valse-Scherzo." The orchestra will perform "Kamarinskaya" by Glinka, and conclude with Dvorak's 9th Symphony, "From the New World."

All are invited to this special event, with parking available in the Lancaster General Hospital Downtown Pavilion Parking Garage.

Next Book Group Date— May 11—7 pm People of the Book

In People of the Book, Pulitzer Prize-winning Author Geraldine Brooks presents a fictional history of the Sarajevo Haggadah -- an important Jewish book that originated in fifteenth-century Spain. People of the Book is a set of stories about the book's survival, woven together through the story of a conservationist who is trying to unlock the mysteries of the book in the mid-1990s. Brooks skillfully weaves fact and fiction to create compelling tales.

Dates to Remember

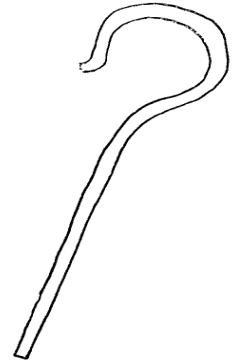
- May 8/9**—Youth Park Day/Lock-In
- May 9**—Ephrata Cloister Chorus at Grace—4 pm
- May 13**—Ascension Day Service at 7:30 pm at Ascension Lutheran in Willow Street
- May 15**—Property Clean-Up – begins at 8 am
- May 19**—Grace Seniors Banquet—12 noon
- May 23** –Annual Cong. Meeting & Confirmation Projects beginning at 9 am Confirmation at 10:30 am Shepherd's Picnic at the A's—5 pm
- June 6**—Razzmatazz Barbershop Concert—4 pm



Shepherd News

After a long, snowy winter the fields are alive with vegetation, flowering trees and bushes and grazing animals. Once again, God has given us signs of renewal and rebirth. In the Bible lands of today we can retrace the path that Abraham and his descendants took to renew their covenant with God.

As we celebrate the Easter season, we remember the New Covenant, bringing us face to face with the promise of everlasting life, through the sacrifice of Jesus, the Christ. It is a humbling experience to acknowledge this reality, for the Good Shepherd became and becomes our guide through the challenges of life on earth.



When we are willing to place our trust in Him, we gain new insight about the role of a Suffering Servant. Are we able with God's help to take up our Cross and follow him? Take some time to sit quietly without the burden of a cell phone, an I-pod or an I-pad to enjoy the beauty around us. New growth, visually and spiritually, gives us a fresh start to face the tasks ahead. Your shepherds and I wish you a happy spring, filled with the Holy Spirit, good health and confidence that Jesus will keep his promise, as recorded in John 14:16 to send another Counselor to be with you forever, after he has ascended to the Father. Peace!

Marianne N, Shepherding Coordinator

Grace Seniors' 30th Annual Banquet

Wednesday May 19—noon

State Room of the Eden Resort, off the
Oregon Pike, near Route 30

Meal choice is either Chicken Marsala or Raspberry Salmon, and the program will be given by the outstanding Lancaster AARP Choir. The cost of the event is \$20. Reservation sheets are located in the hallway outside the St. Peter Chapel and in the Narthex. Call Dick for information.

Property Committee Work Day

Saturday, May 15 —beginning at 8 am

The committee is looking for help with our spring clean-up and work day on Saturday, May 15. There are sign-up sheets located in Fellowship Hall, the Narthex, Church Office, and the

Stafford Room. Coffee, donuts, and cold drinks will be provided. If you have any questions, feel free to talk to Fred P or Larry L. Your help is needed! Thank you.

Our Church Family

Donald G, Pat L, and Jane N are in Lancaster General. **John Byers** was also a patient in Lancaster General last week but has been discharged. **Marge S** was admitted for hip replacement on Monday, April 19.

The family of **Donald B** (the W & families), would like to thank members of Grace for cards and sympathy extended to them over the last few weeks. Special thanks to Pastor Verkouw and staff as well as the Requiem Choir for the beautiful service. Thanks also to Lori Kerr and her helpers for the luncheon after the service.

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—APRIL 23—29

- Fri.** Sunrise Bible Study—Parlor 6:30 a.m.
Girl Scout “Sleep-Over” - begins Friday at 6:30 p.m.; ends at noon on Saturday—Fell. Hall
- Sat.** Suzuki—Fellowship Hall 1:00 p.m.
Millersville University Orchestra Rehearsal—Nave 2:30 p.m.
Holy Communion—Chapel 6:00 p.m.
- Sun. Fourth Sunday of Easter**
Lessons: Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30
Hymns: 476, 451, 252
Holy Communion—Nave 7:45 a.m.
Refreshments— Fellowship Hall 8:30 a.m.
Kyrie Bells—Balcony 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Holy Communion—Nave 10:30 a.m.
Narcotics Anonymous—Fellowship Hall 7:00 p.m.
Millersville University Orchestra—Nave 8:00 p.m.
- Mon.** Gloria Bells—Balcony 6:30 p.m.
Christian Formation Team—Parlor 7:30 p.m.
- Tue.** Girl Scouts—Fellowship Hall 6:30 p.m.
HIV-AIDS Support Group—Stafford Room 6:30 p.m.
Mary Circle—Parlor 7:00 p.m.
- Wed.** Community Dinner—Fellowship Hall 5:30 p.m.
Sanctus Bells—Balcony 6:45 p.m.
- Thu.** Grace Choir—Balcony 7:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE, April 17/18: 23 + 48 + 193 = 264 Sunday School—90

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 am Friday morning for inclusion in the next week’s issue.