



# Grace Notes

Springs of Grace Lutheran Church  
www.springsofgrace.com



## *From the ELCA website:*

When night falls on Maundy Thursday the Lenten observance comes to an end and, with Christians around the world, we gather in our congregations to celebrate the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

**Maundy Thursday:** The term "Maundy" comes from the Latin "mandatum;" it is from a verb that means "to give" or "to order" — command. After Jesus and the disciples finished the Last Supper and walked toward Gethsemane, Jesus taught them a new commandment — "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another" (John 13:34). On the first Maundy Thursday, after they had eaten, Jesus gave the disciples his body and blood together with the bread and wine for the forgiveness of their sins. Called Holy Communion or the Eucharist, Lutherans believe this to be one of two sacraments — gifts from God. The story of the Last Supper in John's Gospel records a remarkable event that is not mentioned in the other Gospels — to illustrate humility, Jesus performs the duty of a slave, washing the feet of his disciples and urging them to do the same for one another. Some Lutheran congregations incorporate this act of humility into their Maundy Thursday services. After the Eucharist is celebrated it is customary to "strip the altar," which symbolizes the abandonment of Jesus by his disciples and the stripping of Jesus by the soldiers before his crucifixion. It represents the humiliation of Jesus and the consequences of sin as a preparation for the celebration of new life. In many congregations Psalm 22 is read or sung while the paraments are being removed.

**Good Friday:** The stations of the cross is a devotional practice that consists of 14 stations, each one standing for an event that occurred in the passion of Jesus. Art, combined with literature, movement, prayer and reflection assist people as they work their way through this devotion. The seven last words of Jesus are the phrases spoken by Christ during the time of his crucifixion. Recorded in the Gospels, they reveal the divinity of Jesus as well as his humanity. Italian for "three hours," "tre ore" refers to the time that Christ was on the cross — from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. While no definite ritual is prescribed, this service centers on a series of homilies on the seven last words of Christ, along with appropriate hymns, periods for silent meditation, and the stations of the cross. Tenebrae is usually held the evening of Good Friday and includes the gradual dimming of the lights and extinguishing of candles. The Christ candle is removed from the sanctuary and a concluding "Strepitus" or loud noise (slamming shut the Bible) symbolizes the earthquake and agony of creation at the death of Christ.

**Vigil of Easter:** The Easter Vigil is the pinnacle of the church year. Held between sunset on Holy Saturday and sunrise on Easter morning, it is the first celebration of Easter (traditionally holy days are considered to begin at sunset). The Easter Vigil begins outside of the church building where a new paschal candle is blessed. Worshipers are reminded of the connection between the Passover of ancient Israel and the new Passover, which is Christ's victory over sin and death. The alleluia is used for the first time since the beginning of Lent. During a service of new beginnings, new brothers and sisters in Christ are baptized and new members are received through confirmation or the profession of faith. In "Evangelical Lutheran Worship" there are 12 Old Testament readings that are appointed for this service, which recount the acts of salvation throughout history. Some of the readings may be omitted leaving four that should not be excluded — the story of creation, the deliverance at the Red Sea, salvation freely offered from Isaiah and Daniel's deliverance from the fiery furnace.

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### Inside this issue:

Calendar	2
Those who serve	3
Flower List	4
Offering and Attendance	4
Back Page Notes	4
Council Meeting Notes	4

### In our Prayers

- Ann Kelley
- Bobby Torrence
- Mike Culbreth
- Jim Ablett
- Jerry Varner
- Gere Ablett

# April 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
Easter Sunday						
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

*Those Who Serve*

<b>Date</b>	<b>March 31</b>	<b>April 7</b>	<b>April 14</b>	<b>April 21</b>	<b>April 27</b>
<b>Refreshments</b>	Kris and Jessica Loburk	Alice Smith Gail Hackett	Larry and Barbara Cantrell	Ron and Liz Crawley	Mary Lou Saville Kay Otten
<b>Ushers</b>	Larry Cantrell Marion Varner	John and Sandy Fancher	Ron Crawley Rich Donaldson	Bob Faulks Robert Faulks	Rich VanWagoner Jim Voris
<b>Greeter</b>		Marion Varner	Hazel Pettitt	Ray Cromer	Barbara Cantrell
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Melton Roof	Bob Faulks	Gail Hackett	Tony Link	Norm Lewis
<b>Counters</b>					
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Van Wagoners Diane Ablett	Diane Ablett Mary Lou Saville	Jane Lewis Nellis Varner	Betty DeBerry Pat Morton	Van Wagoners
<b>Lector</b>	Gail Hackett	Jim Voris	Ron Crawley	Tony Link	Norm Lewis
<b>Nursery</b>	Christine Donaldson Jessie Faulks	Connie Faulks Patti DeBerry	Christine Donaldson Jessie Faulks	Connie Faulks Patti DeBerry	Christine Donaldson Jessie Faulks



**Springs of Grace  
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**Church Council:**

- Melton Roof .....President
- Mary Lou Saville .....Vice President
- Gail Hackett ..... Treasurer
- Betty DeBerry ..... Secretary
- Diane Ablett ..... Worship Chair
- Rich Donaldson ..... Property Chair
- Jim Voris..... Evangelism Chair
- Education Chair ..... vacant
- Norm Lewis.....Stewardship Chair
- Ron Crawley.... Social Ministry Chair

**April Birthdays**

**April  
Anniversaries**

**Back Page Notes**

Flower List for April: