
THE VISION

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

April 2024

Dear friends in Christ,

What on earth do you write about in April when Easter happens in March?

It is certainly tricky to know what to do for an April church newsletter when the big headline of our whole faith happened last month!

That's why I'm throwing you a curveball and writing about...Christmas. (I know, but stay with me.)

At our house there is a friendly debate that goes on whenever we hear one certain Christmas song: Harry Belafonte's *Mary's Boy Child*. I bet you can hear the melody of the chorus:

*Hark, now hear the angels sing
A new King born today
And man will live forevermore
Because of Christmas day.*

One member of our household (no names will be mentioned), thinks that the line isn't quite correct, because Easter day is actually at the heart of the Christian faith and the promise of eternal life. Another member of the household thinks it's a good point, but it's just a song and maybe he should just sing along and enjoy it already. (See what I did there? I threw a certain member of my household right under the bus.)

But here's the thing. I hate to say it this way, but....he's right. (*Please oh please don't tell him I said this.*)

God's love came to us in the person of Jesus. Christmas is just Part One of that story. Part Two comes on Good Friday. Easter is the grand finale. It's where the rubber meets the road. It's the meat and potatoes. It's the big kahuna. It's the....well, you get what I mean. It's the most important one. When Jesus's heart started beating again so many years ago, it became the rhythm of our faith.

So, I guess that's what you write about in April when Easter happens in March.

Peace and Joyful Hallelujahs,
—Pastor Sarah

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
10 S. SEVENTH STREET
SHAMOKIN, PA 17872
THE REV. SARAH HERSHBERGER
OFFICE: (570)648-7534
EMAIL: gracelutheranch@yahoo.com
WEBSITE: gracelutheranshamokin.org
THE SERVICE: 10:00 A.M.
(In Person)
STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Sarah Hershberger
Secretary	Sandee Cupp
Organist	Walter Boyer
Choir Director	Charlene Pell
Inside Sexton	Robin Orme
Sexton	Willie Marsh

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Bruce Romanic	Jeffrey Clutcher
	Bill Hoffa
	Craig Rhoades
	Jim Shingara

CONGREGATION OFFICERS

President	Bruce Romanic
Vice President	Jeffrey Clutcher
Secretary	Sandee Cupp
Financial Secretary	Debra Keefer
Treasurer	Nancy Joraskie

STANDING COMMITTEES

Altar Guild	
Christian Education	Pamala Rhoades
Fellowship Team	James Shingara
Finance	Nancy Joraskie
	Gladys Shingara
	Ron Weller
Mutual Ministry	Bruce Romanic
Property	Bill Hoffa
	Bill Joraskie
	Jeffrey Clutcher
	Craig Rhoades
Social Ministry	Bruce Romanic
Worship & Music	Charlene Pell
	Sandee Cupp
Youth	Rebecca Romanic



4-06 Mary Ann Hardin
 4-07 Nancy Kompare
 4-13 Charles Souders, II
 4-16 Donald Madison
 4-18 David Kopitsky, Sr.
 4-21 Sean Weikel
 4-22 Emily Keefer
 4-26 William Joraskie
 4-28 Blake Palmitessa
 4-29 Joey Hardin
 4-30 Harry Deitz
 4-30 Tom Fiorey



4-05 Mr. & Mrs. Mark Cupp
 4-16 Mr. & Mrs. Donald Madison
 4-17 Mr. & Mrs. Mark Hardin

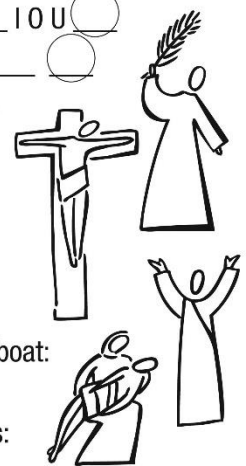
Grace Lutheran Church Building Fund Report

FEBRUARY 2024

Balance January 31, 2024	\$315.30
Income	
Green Envelopes	
Feb. 4	\$180.00
Feb. 11	\$ 15.00
Feb. 25	\$ 75.00
Total Income	\$270.00
New Balance	\$3585.30
Expenses	
0.00	
Total Expense	\$0.00
Balance February 29, 2024	\$3585.30

Respectfully submitted
 Charlene Pell, Treasurer

Puzzle!



It is a simple but very important part of our ministry. If you would like to be a link in our chain, call the church office at 570-648-7534 or see Pastor Sarah.



APRIL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 	2 Tulpehocken Pastors Conference 10am	3	4 Ministerium 10:am	5 AA Meeting 7 pm	6 
7 Sunday School 9 am Worship 10 am	8 SAHS Alumni 6 pm	9	10 	11	12 AA Meeting 7 pm	13
14 Worship 10am	15	16 	17	18 	19 AA Meeting 7 pm	20
21 Worship 10am	22 Grace Council 6:30 pm on Zoom	23	24	25	26 AA Meeting 7 pm	27
28 Worship 10am	29	30				



BAKING

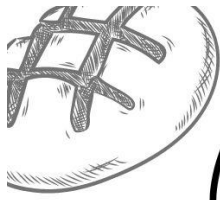
Communion Bread

After Easter was over, I heard lots of great comments about the BREAD. We had actual *real* bread for communion on Palm Sunday and Easter! There was, however, just one problem: the church mice probably got fat from all of those CRUMBS that the bread left behind. As a result, I'm interested in trying the following recipe that comes from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. I've heard it makes less crumbs and is easy to hold, with the added bonus of being delicious.

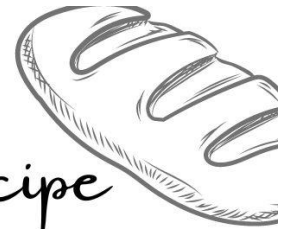
If you are also a baker and know how to follow a recipe, I would love to have your helping hands make a few loaves that we can freeze and use week-to-week. Or if you feel like googling recipes for communion bread, we could have ourselves a communion-bread bake-off, March Madness style. I'm open to both your ideas and your spirit of helpfulness!

--Pastor Sarah

P.S. Do I know that bakeries make bread all the time? Yes, I know. However I have some experience with this. Sometimes when a variety of people are in charge of purchasing the bread, sometimes we get a seeded rye bread or garlic knots for the body of Christ, and that seems like it might not be ideal.



Communion Bread Recipe



From Luther Seminary to your table

Sift dry ingredients together three times: (important!)

2 c whole wheat flour
1 c white flour
1 & 1/4 tsp baking powder
1 & 1/4 tsp salt

Stir in 4 tsp oil. Set aside.

Mix wet ingredients together until dissolved:

3/4 cup + 2 Tbsp very hot water (minimum of 180 degrees F)
3 Tbsp honey
3 Tbsp molasses

Add wet ingredients to dry ingredients and mix well. Dough should be slightly sticky. Do not knead.

Divide into four balls and flatten each into a 1/4 inch thick disk.

With a knife, score the top of each loaf into eight pie-shaped sections, so that the sections can be more easily broken off while serving. Alternatively, you could score a cross onto the loaf.

Lay the loaves on a baking sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes. Remove from oven and brush the tops of the loaves with oil. Bake an additional 5-8 minutes. Let cool.

Yield: four 8 oz. loaves. Each loaf serves 60-70 people, depending upon the size of the piece given. The loaves freeze well.

A well-used, well-loved recipe

Luther Seminary's communion bread recipe has been used here for more than 25 years. It is baked by Luther Seminary dining services staff and served as part of our weekly Holy Communion service in chapel each Wednesday.

This recipe is known throughout the country as one of the best tasting and easiest to make. It's become quite popular! In July 2012 Luther Seminary dining services staff baked an estimated 1,900 loaves and Fed-Ex-ed them to the ELCA's youth gathering in New Orleans for their Sunday Eucharist!



GENERAL FUND

Beginning Balance February 1, 2024	\$ 18,754.47
Receipts	\$ 13,311.33
Expenditures	\$ 7,421.59
Ending Balance February 29, 2024	\$ 24,644.21

First National Bank

2/1/2024 through 2/29/2024

Check Number	Date	Payee	Amount
16528	2/2/2024	Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA	\$ 458.33
16529	2/2/2024	Bloom Heating	\$ 547.00
Debit	2/2/2024	UGI	\$ 175.00
16530	2/3/2024	Postmaster	\$ 204.00
16531	2/5/2024	Backflow Prevention Services	\$ 125.00
Debit	2/5/2024	McAfee	\$ 158.99
Debit	2/6/2024	PPL Electric Utilities	\$ 213.16
Debit	2/12/2024	PenTeleData	\$ 120.97
Debit	2/12/2024	PPL Electric Utilities	\$ 175.77
Debit	2/13/2024	Aqua PA	\$ 68.30
Debit	2/13/2024	Aqua PA	\$ 249.85
16532	2/17/2024	1517 Media	\$ 187.54
16533	2/17/2024	Void	\$ -
16534	2/17/2024	Metro Pest Control Services, LLC	\$ 80.00
16535	2/17/2024	SCTJSA - (Sewer Authority)	\$ 99.00
16536	2/17/2024	Quill Corporation	\$ 112.97
16537	2/22/2024	C.S.P. Office Equipment Co.	\$ 312.42
16538	2/22/2024	Boyer, Walter	\$ 348.78
16539	2/22/2024	Cupp, Sandee	\$ 623.60
16540	2/22/2024	Marsh, Willie	\$ 222.59
16541	2/22/2024	Orme, Robin	\$ 437.06
16542	2/22/2024	Void	\$ -
16543	2/22/2024	Hershberger, Sarah	\$ 2,055.84
Debit	2/27/2024	Portico	\$ 445.42
			\$ 7,421.59

Good news flags

Use batik, a unique fabric-dyeing method, to create flags celebrating the good news of Christ's resurrection.




What you need:

- Colored chalk
- White linen fabric
- Washable gel glue
- Acrylic craft paint
- Textile medium
- Paintbrushes

What you do:

1. Cut fabric to the desired size and shape. Set it on a flat, protected surface. With chalk, lightly sketch an Easter design or message.
2. Completely cover the chalk lines with gel glue. Let dry.
3. Mix equal parts paint and textile medium. Paint the flag with that mixture, which makes paint permanent. Let dry.
4. Soak the dried fabric in warm water a few minutes. Then gently peel away the glue to reveal the unpainted areas. Lay flat to dry.
5. Hang the flags and celebrate!



RESURRECTION HOPE

Romans 6:5 reveals the hope we have because Jesus rose from the dead on Easter.

Directions: First solve the math problems. Then put the corresponding words in the blanks; for example, the word next to the answer "1" goes in the first blank, the word next to the answer "2" goes in the second blank, and so on.

2+2 = ____	united	2x3 = ____	death	7+6 = ____	resurrection
3x3 = ____	certainly	18-16 = ____	have	4-1 = ____	been
0+1 = ____	if	2x4 = ____	we	13-1 = ____	him
2+3 = ____	in	20-6 = ____	like	2+5 = ____	his
2x5 = ____	be	8+3 = ____	with		

"For ____ we ____ ____ ____

1 2 3 4

with him ____ a ____ like ____ ,

5 6 7

____ will ____ also ____ united

8 9 10

____ in a ____

11 12 13

____ his." Romans 6:5, NIV

14

Answer: For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. Romans 6:5, NIV

