



SPIRIT of GRACE

GRACE CHURCH, 820 Howard St., PO Box 596,
Carthage MO 64836

**COFFEE
HOSTS**

Clifton
& Emily
Kester



April 2024

From the Desk of The Rev. Joe Pierjok

"the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said."

The word on the street was that Sunday in Jerusalem was almost too good to be true. This was so unexpected, so astonishing, such a dramatic reversal of the misery and devastation of the previous three days. This would take days to sink in. Weeks even. In some ways, it would take his disciples the rest of their lives to grasp the impact of this news. **He has risen!** Indeed, for all eternity his people will stand in awe of the love of God on display in Christ's death, and the power of God bursting forth through his resurrection. No one truly expected this to happen, except Jesus himself. He tried desperately to tell his disciples that he would die and rise again. He dropped hints, told parables, and even downright told them such would come to pass. However, no one could possibly understand, especially after the crucifixion.

"Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead...'"

When the news came from the women, the disciples thought this was impossible, a tale of hysteria. You see, it was simply beyond their imagination, but not beyond God. Could such a fantasy become a reality? Might there be some deep magic that could turn back the clock of time? Even more incredibly yet, could there be a creator that is powerful enough to bring about a new way of life, a life of resurrection? Could this God truly defeat the final enemy, death? All questions that I am sure were racing through the disciple's minds. The most incredible part of this Easter season is that the answer to all these questions is "YES"! Even more amazing is that God did all of this for YOU! God did this for all his children, past, present, and yet to come! Truly, this is something worth being joyful over and celebrate every day! You see, God won for us a great victory that first Easter morning and fulfilled all the promises that he made with his creation. Why? Well, the answer is simple, yet sometimes just as hard to understand as the necessity of the crucifixion and the resurrection, because He loves you! Beloved, my Easter message for you this year is simple. YOU ARE LOVED! There are no strings attached to that statement, there is no expatiations, or obligations that go along with that. God has wonderfully and meticulously created you out of pure love. No matter what we may face in our lives we can always rest in the assurance that we are loved and known by God who gave us our life and promises us eternity in his loving embrace. After all, this was the victory won on the cross and given to us through Christ resurrection. So, whoever you are, wherever you find yourself know this to always be true; You are beautiful, and you are loved just for who you are! God loves you and so do I! I wish you each a very blessed Easter season!

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Emily Pence, Lola Grace Chapman, Liam Tidball
- 2 Judy Kester, Rev Jose Plma
- 6 Libby Wilson, Annabelle Leek
- 7 Eli Stiles, Mike Saiz, Katie Dankelson
- 8 Gail Gregg 10 Jeana Bartosh
- 11 Gabriel Wilson, Ashlyn Erdman
- 12 Julie Anderson, Elliot Kester
- 13 Bruce Harwell, Katie Pence
- 16 Tyrese Hill 18 Gabriel Speck
- 19 Lora Phelps 20 Martha Figueroa
- 21 Kathy Martin, Tristan Lynch
- 22 Rebecca Escobar
- 23 Tammy Stark, Patsy Leiker, Charlie Blair 24 Steve Erwin
- 26 Maria Hernandez
- 27 Kathy Laytham 28 Clif Kester
- 29 Pat Brown, Vincent Wilkowski
- 30 Skaia Brooks

ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Roger & Mary Kirby
- 17 Gary & Carolyn Cole, Jim & Christina Ptasinski
- 21 Larry & Ruth Hartman

APRIL ALTAR FLOWERS

- 7 Jason & Ceri Otero
- 14 Peggy Ralston, Jeff & Sue Neely
- 21 Larry & Ruth Hartman, Gary Starchman
- 28 Terry & Cindy Chilton

VESTRY March 12

Last week's meeting - in attendance including Mark, Zelma, Cindy, Austin, Fr. Palma, Chuck, Ben, Fr. Colin, Fr. Joe, Jeanie, Larry, Mike, Alyssa, Gloria, and Andy (who joined late). The walking tour was postponed to the end of the meeting, where Episcopad was highlighted, the agenda was approved, and previous meeting minutes were amended to include Mike. Various discussions ensued, including Joe's meeting with TEC Service regarding a camera sensor issue, plans for youth activities, St. Nicholas, Noel rectory rental updates, and the proposal of a quarterly feeding program. There were also updates on technical issues, financial matters, and staffing considerations. The meeting ended with discussions on Good Friday offerings. The meeting adjourned with plans for a group picture and tour.

Update on 2024 budget:

At the end of February, the total income was \$90,376.52 which includes prior year pledges and Investment/Endowment Income with total expenses being \$109,486.21 resulting in a deficit of \$19,109.69. We budgeted for a deficit of \$21,646.00 so at the end of February, the church is \$2,536.31 ahead of budget.

The PARISH PRAYER LIST

St Luke's: Louise Barton, Tom Huntley, Mary Lambert

Oak Pointe: Nancy Frerer, Richard Goolsby, Lida McCulloch

Wildwood: Helen Moss

Moberly: Eric Adams *OKC:* Kay Graham

Lockwood: Edith Walters

College View: Roger & Sherrie Stinnett

Parishioners: Ann Carter, Terry Chilton, Sue Friede, Lynn Harrington, Marilyn Kelley, Frank Lane, Harry Rogers, Karen Rouse, Steve Wampler, Vincent Wilkowski, Bill Wilson, Hans Ytell

Current: Walt Adams, Zeke Ambrosius, Jake Berger, Jim Bracht, Byron Collinsworth, David Crough, Heather Dabney, Curtis Feather, Danielle Ferguson, , Laura Hall, Hernandez Family, Robert Johnson, Deloris Kastner, Louis Kollmeyer, Ruth Manor, Joseph Martin & family, Patrick McCarthy, Angie Miller, Jane Mitchell, Ginia Oehlschlager, J D Sample, Jeff Sawyer, Suzy Seim, Chasie Stearnes, Rodney Taylor, Brandon Theerman, Clyde Thornbrugh, Maribeth Ward

Our Seminarians,

Katie Mansfield & Jory Mertens

MEN of GRACE

APRIL 14: 9am

Come and enjoy
Breakfast Casseroles
ALL are welcome

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP

Tues, April 16, 2 pm

Caregivers will be starting again in April. This group will be open to anyone who is currently caring for a loved one, or has in the past cared for someone. It is a time for sharing feelings, concerns, ideas, or information related to caring for others. This gathering is open to all in the community.

The first meeting will be on Tuesday, April 16th in the parish house at 2 pm.

For more information contact Donna Lane by phone or text at 417-793-1471, or email at fndlane@gmail.com.

SAVE the DATE

TEA & THEE LADIES FELLOWSHIP

Every Wed, 10 am

BIBLE STUDY

Every Thurs, 11 am

In-person or via Zoom (link sent weekly to email list)

FRIENDS FELLOWSHIP

Every Thurs, 3 pm

Pull up a chair and make new friends!

MEN of GRACE FELLOWSHIP

1st & 3rd Sat, 9 am

Men of the parish are invited to join in the fellowship and activities.

VESTRY

Tuesday, April 16, 5:30 pm

KNITTERS

Tues, April 9 & 23, 6 pm

Los caminos de Dios son perfectos (Salmo 18:30). Por lo tanto, Su tiempo es perfecto. Nunca se adelanta ni se retrasa. En nuestra impaciencia humana natural, a veces puede parecer que Dios se retrasa, pero Él siempre nos da lo que necesitamos cuando lo necesitamos. Puede que sea un poco más tarde de lo que nuestra zona de confort prefiere, aunque Dios no nos deja en el olvido; simplemente nos hace esperar y nos hace depender más de Él, confiando en Sus tiempos.

En nuestro mundo moderno, podemos conseguir una gratificación casi instantánea y muchas veces obtenemos lo que queremos y necesitamos en el momento en que decidimos que lo necesitamos o lo queremos. Aunque esto nos parezca natural, no es así como opera Dios. Él está cumpliendo Sus propósitos divinos en todo momento, pero a veces tardan en hacerse evidentes para nosotros. Tomemos como ejemplo a David. David fue ungido como futuro rey de Israel por el profeta Samuel cuando era joven (1 Samuel 16:1-13). Sin embargo, hubo un tiempo de espera desde que fue ungido para el trono hasta que lo asumió. Los historiadores estiman que pasaron unos quince años desde la unción de David como rey hasta que se convirtió en rey a la edad de treinta años. Algunas tribus tardaron siete años más en reconocer a David como rey (2 Samuel 5:4-5). Parecería razonable suponer que David cuestionó el tiempo y los métodos de Dios durante esos más de quince años, pero Dios tenía propósitos para David durante esa espera. Durante esos años, David desarrolló una sólida relación con Dios y los rasgos de carácter que necesitaría para ser rey. Nuestra paciencia revela nuestra confianza en los tiempos de Dios (Salmo 37:7; Lamentaciones 3:25). Es un fruto del Espíritu (Gálatas 5:22-23). Dios promete fortalecernos durante la espera. Isaías 40:31 declara: "Pero los que esperan al Señor tendrán nuevas fuerzas; levantarán alas como las águilas; correrán, y no se cansarán; caminarán, y no se fatigarán" (ver también el Salmo 27:14).

Nuestra capacidad para confiar en Dios radica en lo bien que lo conocemos. Él promete que Sus planes para nosotros son buenos y que si lo buscamos lo encontraremos (Jeremías 29:11-13; Mateo 7:7-11; Romanos 8:28). La mejor manera de conocer a Dios es a través de la oración y de Su Palabra. La fe que necesitamos viene de escuchar Su Palabra (Romanos 10:17). Su Palabra nos guía (Salmo 119:105) y nos da esperanza y seguridad (Salmo 119:114, 117). Nos fortalece (Salmo 119:28) y nos hace sabios (Salmo 119:97-100), equipándonos para la vida en Cristo (2 Timoteo 3:16-17). Estudiar y meditar en la Palabra de Dios nos permite conocer mejor Sus caminos y Sus tiempos (Proverbios 3:5-6).

Por lo general, cuando nos esforzamos por conocer los tiempos de Dios es porque nos encontramos en una situación difícil de la que nos gustaría salir. Si tratamos de hacer las cosas en nuestro propio tiempo, probablemente sentiremos que todos nuestros esfuerzos se estrellan contra un muro. Cuando Dios está en el momento oportuno, las cosas tienden a funcionar mucho mejor.

This month we wrap up the last half of “The Creed” by Luke Timothy Johnson during our Adult Book Study on Wednesday nights at 7pm. Beginning in the month of May until the of program year at the end of May Fr. Joe will be leading us in our next Adult Formation series. Fr. Joe will be leading us through Themes of Christian Spirituality in the Lord of the Rings book series by J.R.R. Tolkien. If you are a fan of the book series you will not want to miss out on this series! Even if you haven’t read the books or have only seen the movies, I promise you will enjoy this class. The Lord of the Rings is a favorite of Fr. Joes and mine! So come join in the fun and discussion surrounding Tolkien’s spirituality found in his works.

Of course, with summer not so far away we will draw an end to the program year for the summer break period and pick up again in September with formation and Sunday School and Youth Group.

Please remember Vacation Bible School is scheduled for June 19th, 20th, and the 21st. Keep an eye out for more information about VBS to come soon. If you are interested in volunteering for VBS please make Alyssa Hess or me aware of your interest.

SUMMER HAPPENINGS

Play Safe & Enjoy Your Summer

MAY

5 Youth Sunday & Senior Recognition

10 Encore-Chris Kang Cooking &
Beth Kang Program

19 Pentecost Sunday & Parish Picnic

25 Garden Tour

JUNE

19—21 Vacation Bible School

JULY

3—5 Offices Closed

20 Katie Mansfield Ordination

AUGUST

4 Bishop Visitation

16 Parking Lot Party

18 Backpack Blessing

SEPTEMBER

3 Offices Closed

4 Program Year Begins

22 Stewardship Kickoff Breakfast

BOOK STUDY

“The CREED will be finished sometime in April.
Father Joe will lead a discussion of “The Lord of the Rings”

The Lord of the Rings is an epic high fantasy novel by the English author and scholar J.R.R. Tolkien. Set in Middle-earth, the story began as a sequel to Tolkien's 1937 children's book *The Hobbit*, but eventually developed into a much larger work. Written in stages between 1937 and 1949, *The Lord of the Rings* is one of the best-selling books ever written, with over 150 million copies sold.

The title refers to the story's main antagonist, Sauron, the Dark Lord who in an earlier age created the One Ring to rule the other Rings of Power given to Men, Dwarves, and Elves, in his campaign to conquer all of Middle-earth. From homely beginnings in the Shire, a hobbit land reminiscent of the English countryside, the story ranges across Middle-earth, following the quest to destroy the One Ring, seen mainly through the eyes of the hobbits Frodo, Sam, Merry and Pippin. Aiding Frodo are the Wizard Gandalf, the Men Aragorn, and Boromir, the Elf Legolas, and the Dwarf Gimli, who unite in order to rally the Free Peoples of Middle-earth against Sauron's armies and give Frodo a chance to destroy the One Ring in the fire of Mount Doom.

Tolkien's work, after an initially mixed reception by the literary establishment, has been the subject of extensive analysis of its themes, literary devices, and origins. Influences on this earlier work, and on the story of *The Lord of the Rings*, include philology, mythology, Christianity, earlier fantasy works, and his own experiences in the First World War.

The Lord of the Rings is considered one of the greatest fantasy books ever written, and it has helped to create and shape the modern fantasy genre. Since release, it has been reprinted many times and translated into at least 38 languages. Its enduring popularity has led to numerous references in popular culture, the founding of many societies by fans of Tolkien's works, and the publication of many books about Tolkien and his works. It has inspired many derivative works, including paintings, music, films, television, video games, and board games.

MINISTERS of WORSHIP: APRIL

Wed, Apr 3: 6 pm

Reader: AJ Rhymer
Chalice: Austin Rhymer
Sacristan: Zelma Watts

Fri, Apr 5, 10 am

Sacristan: Sue Neely

Sat, Apr 6: 9 am

Sacristan: Cindy Chilton
5 pm

Reader/Chalice: Bill Putnam
Sacristan: Jeanie Slates

II EASTER Sun, Apr 7: 8 am

Reader/Chalice/Server: Chuck Edds
Prayers: Shirley Gollhofer
Sacristan: Margaret Wampler

II EASTER 10:30 am

OT: Barbara Mountjoy
NT/Chalice: Ruth Hartman
Prayers/Chalice: Larry Hartman
Mentor: Tracy Wilkowski
Server: AJ Rhymer
Cross: Connor Wilkowski
Torches: Sam Hess & Owen Hess
Sacristan: Cindy Chilton
AV: Elisa White
Ushers: Austin & Jennifer Rhymer
Flower Delivery: Gloria Gubser & Peggy Ralston

Wed, Apr 10: 6 pm

Reader/Chalice: Jory Mertens
Sacristan: Zelma Watts

Fri, Apr 12: 10 am

Sacristan: Sue Neely

Sat, Apr 13: 9 am

Sacristan: Debby Orr

5 pm

Reader/Chalice: Bill Putnam
Sacristan: Jeanie Slates

III EASTER

Sun, Apr 14: 8 am

Reader: Ashley Rouse
Prayers: Bill Putnam
Chalice/Server:

Sacristan: Margaret Wampler

III EASTER Apr 14: 10:30 am

OT: Paige Rhymer
NT/Chalice: Andy Lynch
Prayers/Chalice: Austin Rhymer
Mentor:

Cross: Allie Rhymer
Server: Paige Rhymer
Torches: Alana Harris & Brooklyn Rhymer
Sacristan: Debby Orr
AV: Jennifer Rhymer
Ushers: Max Hill & Steve Erwin
Flower Delivery: Zelma Watts & Julie Anderson

Wed, Apr 17: 6 pm

Reader/Chalice: Jon Haffner
Sacristan: Cindy Chilton

Fri, Apr 19: NO MASS

Sat, Apr 20: 9 am

Sacristan: Jeanie Slates

5 pm

Reader/Chalice: Bill Putnam

Sacristan: Jeanie Slates

IV EASTER

Sun, Apr 21: 8 am

Reader/Chalice/Server: Chuck Edds

Prayers: Ashley Rouse

Sacristan: Debby Orr

IV EASTER Apr 21: 10:30 am

OT: AJ Rhymer

NT/Chalice: Elaine Wurst

Prayers/Chalice: Mark Sponaugle

Mentor: Elisa White

Servers: A J Rhymer

Cross: Connor Wilkowski

Torches: Barrett & Lincoln Cook

Ushers: Chris Orr & Zach Hess

Sacristan: Cindy Chilton

AV: Jim Wakefield & Allie Rhymer

Flower Delivery: Diann Ferguson &

Cathy Thompson

Wed, Apr 24: 6 pm

Reader: Regina Newport

Chalice: Jory Mertens

Sacristan: Zelma Watts

Fri, Apr 26, 10 am

Sacristan: Sue Neely

Sat, Apr 27: 9 am

Sacristan: Margaret Wampler

5 pm

Reader/Chalice:

Sacristan: Cindy Chilton

V EASTER

Sun, Apr 28: 8 am

Reader: Shirley Gollhofer

Prayers/Chalice/Server: Bill Putnam

Sacristan: Margaret Wampler

V EASTER

Sun, Apr 28: 10:30am

OT/Chalice: Austin Rhymer

NT: Regina Newport

Prayers/Chalice: Andy Lynch

Mentor: Elaine Wurst

Server: Tristan Lynch

Cross: Trenton Lynch

Torches: Peyton Lynch &

Carson Stremke

Ushers: Jim Wakefield &

Allie Rhymer

Sacristan: Debby Orr

AV: Mike Robertson &

Brooklyn Rhymer

Flower Delivery:

DAILY READINGS in APRIL 2024

Mon, Apr 1: *Acts 2:14, 22b-32, Matthew 28:9-15*

Tues, Apr 2: *Acts 2:36-41, John 20:11-18*

Wed, Apr 3: *Acts 3:1-10, Luke 24:13-35*

Thurs, Apr 4: *Acts 3:11-26, Luke 24:36b-48*

Fri, Apr 5: *Acts 4:1-12, John 21:1-14*

Sat, Apr 6: *Acts 4:13-21, Mark 16:9-15, 20*

II EASTER, Sun, Apr 7: *Acts 4:32-35, I John 1:1—2:2, John 20:19-31*

Mon, Apr 8: *Isaiah 7:10-14, Hebrews 10:4-10, Luke 1:26-38*

Tues, Apr 9: *Exodus 15:1-21, I Peter 1:13-25, John 14:18-31*

Wed, Apr 10: *Exodus 15:22—16:10, I Peter 2:1-10, John 15:1-11*

Thurs, Apr 11: *Exodus 16:10-21, I Peter 2:11-25, John 15:12-27*

Fri, Apr 12: *Exodus 16:23-36, I Peter 3:13—4:6, John 16:1-15*

Sat, Apr 13: *Exodus 17:1-16, I Peter 4:7-19, John 16:16-33*

III EASTER, Sun, Apr 14: *Acts 3:12-19, I John 3:1-7, Luke 24:36b-48*

Mon, Apr 15: *Exodus 18:13-27, I Peter 5:1-14, Matthew 1:1-17, 3:1-6*

Tues, Apr 16: *Exodus 19:1-16, Colossians 1:1-14, Matthew 3:7-12*

Wed, Apr 17: *Exodus 19:16-25, Colossians 1:15-23, Matthew 3:13-17*

Thurs, Apr 18: *Exodus 20:1-21, Colossians 1:24—2:7, Matthew 4:1-11*

Fri, Apr 19: *Exodus 24:1-18, Colossians 2:8-23, Matthew 4:12-17*

Sat, Apr 20: *Exodus 25:1-22, Colossians 3:1-17, Matthew 4:18-25*

IV EASTER, Sun, Apr 21: *Acts 4:5-12, I John 3:16-24, John 10:11-18*

Mon, Apr 22: *Exodus 32:1-20, Colossians 3:18—4:6-18, Matthew 5:1-10*

Tues, Apr 23: *Exodus 32:21-34, I Thessalonians 1:1-10, Matthew 5:11-16*

Wed, Apr 24: *Exodus 33:1-23, I Thessalonians 2:1-12, Matthew 5:17-20*

Thurs, Apr 25: *Isaiah 52:7-10, Ephesians 4:7-8, 11-16, Mark 1:1-15*

Fri, Apr 26: *Exodus 34:18-35, I Thessalonians 3:1-13, Matthew 5:27-37*

Sat, Apr 27: *Exodus 40:18-38, I Thessalonians 4:1-12, Matthew 5:38-48*

V EASTER, Sun, Apr 28: *Acts 8:26-40, I John 4:7-21, John 15:1-8*

Mon, Apr 29: *Leviticus 16:1-19, I Thessalonians 4:13-18, Matthew 6:1-6. 16-18*

Tues, April 30: *Leviticus 16:20-34, I Thessalonians 5:1-11, Matthew 6:7-15*

