

# GRACE United Methodist Church

1345 Chartres Street, La Salle IL 61301

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Office Hours 8:30 AM -1: 30 PM Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

## NEWSLETTER, APRIL 2026

*Surely, he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. Isaiah 53: 4-5.*

Dear Friends:

*Greetings to you all in the name of our RISEN LORD Jesus Christ!*

Hope you all have had a blessed Lent this year experiencing the love and forgiveness of Christ. Lent is a time of reflecting upon the sacrifice and wilderness experience of Christ, a time of reflecting on the love of God, a time of reflecting on our own selves, a time of repentance and time of renewal of our own faith in God. At church, we made possible that each of you get a personal spiritual check list towards preparing for Easter.

Easter comes after a long journey into the wilderness it is only then, that we experience the power of Jesus' Resurrection in our personal and communal lives! I do truly believe that Jesus on the Cross had his sight on me and you. He suffered for our sinful deeds. The scripture above from Isaiah illustrates the sacrifice and brokenness of Christ on the cross for us. We understand that Christ through His brokenness and wounds heals our pain and binds up our wounds and forgives us of our sins. His ability to speak peace into our hearts is greater than whatever peace the world can offer to us. Jesus on the Cross demonstrates that compassion is at the heart of God, therefore it needs to be a core attribute within our own hearts too!

Jesus as he walked upon the earth, he healed people of their hurts and diseases. He healed them not only physically, but also emotionally and spiritually. In our world and in our own context, we find that healing and peace is needed on many levels. People are emotionally and/or physically wounded. Loneliness, despair, disappointment, discouragement, depression and/or aggression, all are symptoms of deep wounds that have never truly been healed, there are deep divisions between peoples and communities and nations. While Jesus came to heal all of our diseases, he has also called His people to be those healers as well. And the challenge this season toward the resurrection of Christ for us is not only for our own healing and forgiveness but to also offer the same to all those hurting around us. Let us live as channels of God's love and compassion in people's lives. As St. Luke reminds us: Jesus is Alive.

He is Risen, Hallelujah! Let us strive to live as channels of the power of resurrection in this world.

Finally, we all are in a transition! The leadership, finance committee and SPRC of Grace UMC has taken an important decision to go part-time. And they have informed the Conference and our District Superintendent Rev. Brian Gilbert. And they have had a conversation regarding the future of Grace. In the meantime, the Bishop and the Cabinet appointed and 'Called' me to be a full time Elder at St. Andrew, Carol Stream starting July 1<sup>st</sup> 2026. My wife Rev. Satya is also appointed to be a full time Elder at Christ UMC at Algonquin. We both will be missing the Ottawa – La Salle communities. I will be missing so many friends here at Grace. Since the announcement, so many of you had personally talked and enquired about our transition and well-being.

**THANKS and I sincerely appreciate your concern for your pastor!**

Lastly, thanks to you all, for your commitment to Grace UMC, we have accomplished a lot, still more to do! My prayer for you all is that you will continue to be a faithful community proclaiming the power of Christ in this area. Pray for your new Minister. Also pray for me and my family including Archie!

Please continue to contribute to the ministry at Grace. Your Easter offering envelope is sent to you, please be generous. Thanks & God Bless!

Truly Yours,

**Pastor Solomon**

**Good Friday at 10:30 am, you can park in The Lighted Way Parking Lot to walk at Baker's Lake.**

**Aid for Ukrainian refugee family: First UMC in Ottawa is helping to support a refugee family from Ukraine. They need financial assistance to buy food, supplies, and fuel until they obtain a work permit. This could take 3 months. If you wish to help, please make the check out to Grace UMC with "Ukraine" on the subject line.**



For anyone who would like to help decorate our Church for Easter - Please meet at the Church on

Saturday, April 4th at 9:30 am.



Keep saving those cans and copper. Leave your aluminum cans in the Church's garage.

The March total for Change for Change was \$26.00. Way to go!

STEWARDSHIP NOTE: Give with a joyful heart.

2 A/C Units need to be replaced. Based on last year's cost, we can expect this to be about \$11,000. To contribute to the HVAC fund, write HVAC on the check or on the envelope. As of 3/29/26 we have collected \$5,636.03.

**CHURCH SALE/BAKE SALE:**




Thursday, April 9 3:00 - 7:00 pm  
Friday, April 10 9:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Saturday, April 11 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Please bring good, clean, already priced items like....

Jewelry/toys/books/games/puzzles/decorations/household items on:

Monday, March 30 from 5 - 7 pm  
Thursday, April 2 from 5 - 7 pm  
Saturday, April 4 from 5 - 7 pm

**NO CLOTHES PLEASE**

   **Delicious Bake Sale items can be dropped off on Wednesday, April 8 or Thursday, April 9th, from 10am - 1pm**

**THE SECOND ANNUAL SAFETY FAIR WILL BE HELD ON OUR CHURCH PARKING LOT ON SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2026. EXACT TIMES WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER. PUT IT ON YOUR CALENDAR. IT'S A GREAT EVENT FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES! THIS IS AN OUTREACH EVENT SPONSORED BY THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE.**

**Let's fill the grocery cart!**

**The church members are being asked to supply items for the pantry. Also, monetary donations are welcome (please mark the memo line on checks). If you have any questions, you may ask Nancy Hybki.**

**2026 LADIES IN FELLOWSHIP TOGETHER (LIFT)**

**THANK YOU TO THE WOMEN OF LIFT FOR PROVIDING THE PADS MEAL LAST THURSDAY.**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 19, AT 2 PM - LIFT CAFE EVENT CELEBRATING TALENTS AND CREATIVITY. DELICIOUS REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED, ALONG WITH FUN AND FELLOWSHIP. PLEASE COME, AND FEEL FREE TO INVITE A FRIEND!**

**SATURDAY, MAY 16 - LIFT LUNCH AT 11 AM AT ANGELO'S RESTAURANT IN SPRING VALLEY. PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS ONE WEEK LATER THAN USUAL.**

**Shut Ins: How about sending a greeting to one of Grace UMC's shut-ins? If you know of anyone else who should be included on this list or of any corrections, please contact Leann Wilcoxon at [lwilcoxon@comcast.net](mailto:lwilcoxon@comcast.net) or 815-223-1143**

**Ruth Kubberness 609 Rock St., Peru, IL 61354**

**Jim Baum 15540 2750 East St. Princeton, IL 61356**

**Dick Graff 505 College Ave, Ottawa, IL 61350**

**Rose Marie Redeen 714 12th St, Peru, IL 61354**

**Myrtle Hitchins, Manor Court 3230 Becker Dr. Peru IL 61354**

**Russ Defenbaugh 206 N. Central Ave. Ladd, IL 61329**

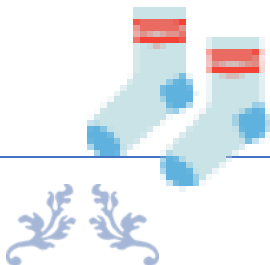
**Ginny Kochanowski, 1811 Sterling St., LaSalle, IL 61301**

**Mary Fran Walter, % Kerri Clock, 15607 Cedar Street, Basehor, KS 66007**

**Eyeglasses:** Put your old glasses, frames, or lenses in the I Care International Eyeglasses Box in the foyer at the Church. We have collected 30 big bags of glasses so far.

### Grace Giving Tree

Socks for all ages disappear as soon as they are put out, so help us restock. Clip socks on the Grace Giving Tree or leave them in the basket under the tree in the foyer. Thank you!



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## **LENT & EASTER SERVICES @ GRACE UMC**

**4.2.2026: MAUNDY THURSDAY EUCHARIST SERVICE.**

**6:00 PM STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR**

**4.3.2026: STATIONS OF THE CROSS AT BAKER'S LAKE @ 10:30 AM GOOD  
FRIDAY SERVICE: 6:00 PM**

**4.05.2026: EASTER EUCHARIST SERVICE 9 AM**

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## *I know that it is Spring!*

*I look outside the window and see the sun shining brightly.*

*I know that it is spring as the grass turns green and the leaves of the trees reach out for the warmth of the sun.*

*I know that it is spring as the redbud tree dresses in its' purple-pink color blossoming in her finest dress.*

*I know that it is spring as I watch birds begin to build nests preparing for their young.*

*I know that it is spring as the world comes alive around me and shakes off the dead of winter.*

*I know that it is spring because my heart fills with joy at all I see before me.*

*I know that it is spring, for spring has finally come and with spring comes all the hope of new life.*

*Yes, I know that it is spring!*

*Elizabeth*