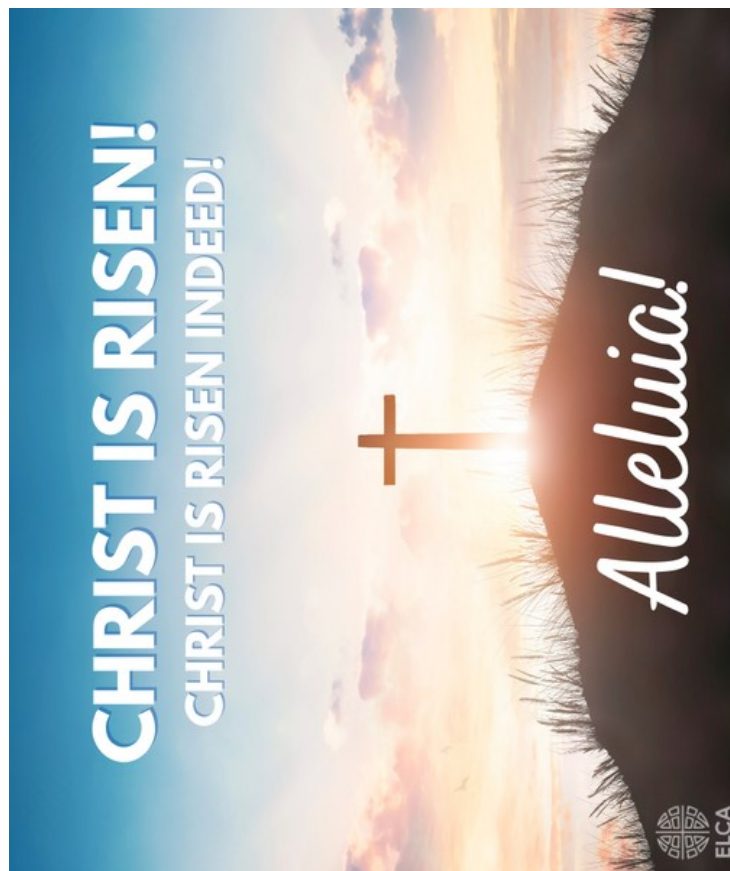


# “Grace Greetings”

## March 2024



**Grace Lutheran Church**  
521 Providence Road  
Chesapeake, VA 23325



<https://linktr.ee/gracelutheran>

*Grace Lutheran—a community of believers in Christ called to be servants to all people.*



# Grace Lutheran Church

A worshipping community of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

[www.GraceLutheranChesapeake.org](http://www.GraceLutheranChesapeake.org)

## March 2024 "Grace Greetings"

### **Mission Statement:**

We are a community of believers in Christ called to be servants to all people.

### **Do Christians hold Seder Meals?**

Out of a profound desire for authenticity, Christians have shown an ever-increasing interest in Seder meals. This desire for authenticity is grounded in the wish to know (and perhaps even experience) the origins of the Eucharistic celebration and to know "what really happened." This desire finds expression in a popular spiritual question: What did Jesus do? (WDJD). Let us consider three dimensions of Seder Meals in a Christian context: historical knowledge, Seder Meals and Holy Communion and Jewish/Christian Relations.

### **Historical Knowledge**

Much of the interest in Seder meals is as stated above: a desire to share in an experience of Jesus. Such intentions to rediscover the past in order to inform the present can be commended, but with important reservations. First, there is the question of whether the Last Supper Jesus celebrated was indeed a Passover meal. The gospel accounts are conflicting on this matter. In the Gospel of John, Jesus celebrated a meal with the disciples before the designated time for the Passover meal. This allowed John to equate the death of Jesus with the sacrifice of the Passover lamb. But perhaps even more importantly is the fact that we simply have no written accounts of the Seder meal from the first century. In fact, the earliest written accounts of the Seder meal date from the medieval period; they witness to a Seder meal which had developed and changed significantly from the meal celebrated in the first decades of the first century of the Common Era when the Temple was still the center of Jewish ritual and religious life.

### **Seder Meals and Holy Communion**

Although Jewish ritual influences Christian worship still today, the experience of the Passover meal as something to be recreated is very different than the Christian meal experience of Holy Communion. Many Christians, Lutherans among them, understand Communion as a present moment, the gift of Jesus received in bread and wine. When we commune together, we are not remembering in the sense of reliving the past, a kind of pretending. A statement from the ELW companion resource Keeping Time conveys this well:

The mystery of the death and resurrection of Christ is not primarily a past event but is experienced in the present by the baptized community that is drawn by the Spirit into a future promised by God (Keeping Time, 97).

According to Scripture, we know that on the night of his betrayal Jesus took bread, broke it and said: "do this in remembrance of me." We do not know if he celebrated the Jewish Passover. Holy Communion shares roots with Jesus' meal on the night of his betrayal, yet our experience of communion is also rooted in meal traditions of Jesus. If we look at the meal

tradition in the gospels, we will notice something peculiar: Jesus was breaking every ritual norm when he celebrated a meal. He would eat with those deemed unworthy (or ritually "unclean") and, when he ate with "religious folk," he always introduced an element to unsettle the ritual purity of the event (Matthew 9:9-13; Luke 7:36-50; Luke 19:1-10). The meal tradition Jesus initiated (constituted by all the meals Jesus celebrated with his followers and not only the Last Supper) was a ritual that pointed away from itself, aware of those who were not present at the celebration. The meal tradition as celebrated by Jesus was so radically different, so radically new that the meal (the sharing of bread and wine – and not the elaborate ceremony of the Seder meal) became the central act by which the early Christians (and all subsequent generations) remembered Jesus.

The desire to celebrate a Seder meal as "Jesus did" can dilute the memory of the radical newness of what Jesus began as it can divert attention from the primary "passage" which Christians celebrate in the Easter Vigil and which culminates in the Eucharistic celebration on Easter Sunday (the Eighth Day). Most Christians around this world call Easter "Pascha" meaning Passover, but this is distinctly Christian Passover, a Jewish ritual set in the home transformed to a Christian public ritual. In a very real sense, the Christian Easter Vigil functions as the Passover does for the Jewish people. Rather than trying to authentically recreate a past event, perhaps a far more urgent concern for Christians in the twenty-first century would be to fully develop our celebration of the vigil and to note, to what extent our celebrations of Holy Communion are attentive to the outsider, to the one who cannot return the invitation.

### **Jewish/Christian Relations**

As scholar Gail Ramshaw has noted, "The seder is the holiest ritual event in the lives of devout practicing Jews (Treasures Old and New, p. 188). For this reason, Christians contemplating holding a Seder meal need to consider how it might be perceived by our Jewish neighbors. While it is an admirable and truly Christian practice to be open and welcoming of other religious traditions, taking a tradition that does not belong to us and practicing it in our congregations could be an imitation that is not welcomed at best and very offensive at worst.

That said, providing opportunities for Christians to learn about or experience a Seder outside of worship could be an enriching event. Holding or having a group attend an educational forum about Seder meals would be a possibility. Attending a Jewish Seder meal as invited guest would be not only educational, but a means of creating interfaith community.

*From the ELCA Worship FAQ:*

[https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/  
Do\\_Christians\\_hold\\_Seder\\_meals.pdf](https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Do_Christians_hold_Seder_meals.pdf)

*Revised January 2013*

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notice appears on each copy.*

# EVENTS

Mark your Calendar

Mar 3	9am	Sunday School
	10am	Combined Worship
	11:30am	Fellowship Hour
Mar 4	9am	Food Pantry
	1:30pm	Bible Study (Zoom)
	7pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Mar 5	10am	Threaders
Mar 6	6:30pm	Lenten Soup Supper
	7:15pm	Lenten Worship (Hybrid)
Mar 9	8am	Men's Group
Mar 10	9am	Sunday School
	10am	Combined Worship
	11:30am	Craft Group
Mar 11	9am	Food Pantry
	1:30pm	Bible Study (Zoom)
	7pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Mar 12	10am	Threaders
	7pm	Council (Zoom)
Mar 13	6:30pm	Lenten Soup Supper
	7:15pm	Lenten Worship (Hybrid)
Mar 17	9am	Sunday School
	10am	Combined Worship
Mar 18	9am	Food Pantry
	1:30pm	Bible Study (Zoom)
	7pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Mar 19	10am	Threaders
Mar 20	Noon	Ladies Lunch Out
	6:30pm	Lenten Soup Supper
	7:15pm	Lenten Worship (Hybrid)
Mar 23	8am	Property Clean Up Day
Mar 24		Palm/Passion Sunday
	9am	Sunday School
	10am	Combined Worship
Mar 25	9am	Food Pantry
	1:30pm	Bible Study (Zoom)
	7pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Mar 26	10am	Threaders
Mar 27		NO Midweek Lent
Mar 28	7pm	Maundy Thursday Worship (Hybrid)

Mar 29	7pm	Good Friday Worship
Mar 31		<b>Easter Sunday</b>
	9am	Potluck Breakfast
	9:30am	Egg Hunt
	10am	Worship (Hybrid)



## Sunday School

### Sundays at 9am

- The **Elementary School Class** meets in Classroom #1.
- The **Middle & High School Class** meets in the Youth Room.
- The **Adult Sunday School Class** meets in the Fellowship Hall and on Zoom.

# Hybrid WORSHIP

## Combined Worship (Hybrid)

### Sundays at 10am

Join us on site or online. Zoom log-in information is available at [www.gracelutheranchesapeake.org/news--upcoming-events](http://www.gracelutheranchesapeake.org/news--upcoming-events).



## Monthly Fellowship Hour

### First Sunday of the month after worship (~11:30am)

We will gather each first Sunday of the month after worship for a fellowship hour in honor of the birthdays and anniversaries of



that month. If you would like to volunteer to bring refreshments one month, please contact Faith Longworth.



**Monday Bible Study (Zoom)**

**Mondays at 1:30pm**

- Join via computer/smartphone/tablet by clicking this link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87557721128?pwd=b2J4ektpdGtwWk9NQkJudzllcHBBQT09> (Passcode: Grace).
- Join via phone by calling 646-558-8656 and entering the Meeting ID: 875 5772 1128 and Passcode: 152551



**Bell Choir Rehearsal**

**Mondays at 7pm**

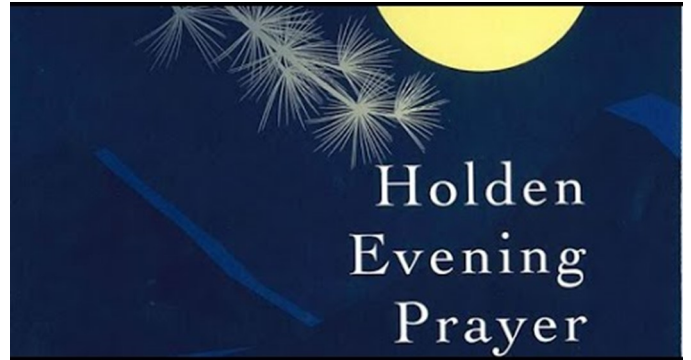
If you have any questions, please contact Morgan.



**Threaders**

**Tuesdays at 10am**

The Threaders meet on Tuesdays at 10am to make walker bags for people throughout our community. There are jobs for various skill levels: sewing machine operator, button sewer, iron operator, etc. Questions? Contact Jane Jennings or Peggy Barry.

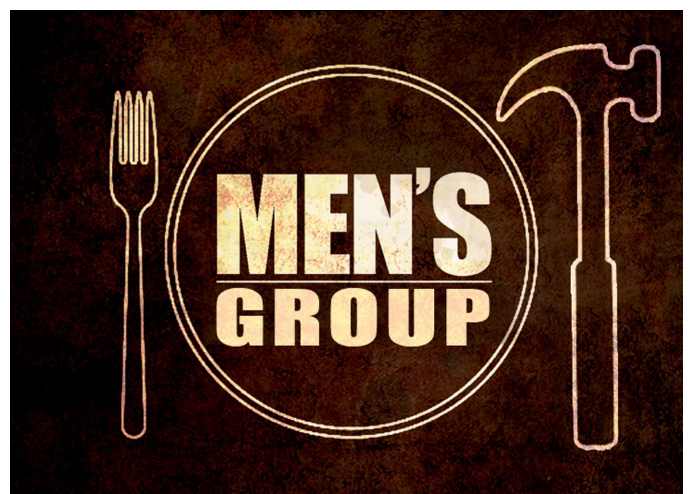


**Lenten Soup Supper & Worship (Hybrid)**

**Wednesdays in Lent (Mar 6, 13, & 20)**

Join us for a **simple Soup Supper** at 6:30pm followed by **Holden Evening Prayer** (on site and on Zoom) at 7:15pm.

- Join via your smartphone/tablet/computer by clicking this link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/621600567?pwd=OHhzWUF1c0FIQit0MjN5c0IEcINtQT09> (Passcode: Grace).
- Join via your regular phone, by calling 646-558-8656 and entering the Meeting ID: 621 600 567 and Passcode: 672531.



**Men's Group**

**Saturday, March 9th at 8am**

Join the men of GLC for potluck breakfast and work around the church.

## Easter Lily Orders

**Due by March 10th**

Each plant is \$13. Order forms are available in the Narthex and on page 10.



## Craft Group

**Sunday, March 10th after worship  
(~11:30am)**

Calling all knitters, stitchers, scrapbookers, etc.—let's get together and work on our projects. Bring a bag lunch and meet in the Fellowship Hall after worship. Any questions, contact Sandra Fraenkel.



## Council Meeting (Zoom)

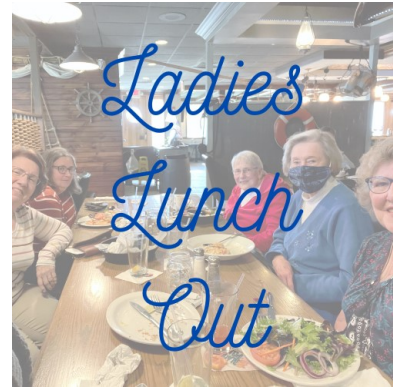
**Tuesday, March 12th at 7pm**

- Join via computer/smartphone/tablet by clicking this link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87468766112?pwd=Z3VnL2RyVkRKdXhXRFFWT2E0ZlcrZz09> (Passcode: Grace).
- Join via phone by calling 646-558-8656 and entering the Meeting ID: 874 6876 6112 and Passcode: 740742.

## Lawn Care Volunteers Needed

The mowing season is here and we need your help to care for the lawn at church! Please sign up to help with lawn care by clicking the link: <http://tinyurl.com/2024Lawn> Information about lawn care procedures can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/>

[lawncareinstructions22](#). If you have further questions, please contact Fred Schleede.



## Ladies Lunch Out

**Wednesday, March 20 at Noon  
at Smokey Bones**

**(1405 Greenbrier Pkwy, Chesapeake)**

Join the ladies of GLC for fellowship & food. Please sign up in the Narthex by Sunday, March 17th.

### Upcoming Dates & Locations:

- April 17, 2024—Wickers
- May 15, 2024—Olive Garden
- June 19, 2024—Black Pelican
  - July 17, 202—Outback
  - August 21, 2024—TBA
- September 18, 2024—Freemason Abby
- October 16, 2024—Lucita's Pupuseria
- November 20, 2024—Sunrise Pizzeria



## Property Clean Up Day

**Saturday, March 23rd, 8am-Noon**

Help us beautify the church property before Easter. Come dressed to weed, rake, trim, spread mulch, etc. Please bring your own gloves and tools.





# JOURNEY THROUGH HOLY WEEK WITH US.

JOIN US DURING HOLY WEEK AND THEN CELEBRATE CHRIST'S RESURRECTION ON EASTER.

## Palm/Passion Sunday Worship (Hybrid)

**Sunday, March 24th at 10am**

We will begin worship outside and process into the sanctuary with palms (weather permitting).

We will need extra volunteers to help with the reading of the Passion story, please sign up online: <http://tinyurl.com/WorshipServers>

## Maundy Thursday Worship (Hybrid)

**Thursday, March 28th at 7pm**

The Maundy Thursday service includes the words of Jesus' new commandment (*Mandatum*, from which *Maundy* comes) to love one another. As a sign of our calling to follow Jesus' example of humility and service, those on site will participate in a service project. On this night in which Jesus was handed over to death we also gather around the Lord's supper. At this service's conclusion, the altar area may be stripped of furnishings as a sign of Jesus' abandonment.

## Good Friday Worship (Hybrid)

**Friday, March 29th at 7pm**

At the heart of this service is the passion reading according to John, which celebrates Christ's victory on the cross. As Jesus draws all people to himself, we pray for the whole world for which Christ died. Finally, we honor the cross as a sign of forgiveness, healing, and salvation. With all God's people we are invited to bow before

this mystery of faith. Christ has died, so that we may live.

## Easter Sunday

**Sunday, March 31st**

Join us to celebration Christ's resurrection!

**9am—Potluck Breakfast** (*sign up in the Narthex*)

**9:30am—Egg Hunt**

**10am—Worship (Hybrid)**

**Spring FLEA MARKET**

Located at  
**Grace Lutheran Church**  
 521 Providence Road  
 Chesapeake, VA 23325  
 757-420-4704

**Saturday April 13th 8am-2pm**

**10' x 10' spaces only \$10**  
 Bring your own tables, chairs, and tents!  
 Food and drinks will be available for purchase.

**Spaces are LIMITED!**  
 Reserve your space online at  
[www.GraceLutheranChesapeake.org](http://www.GraceLutheranChesapeake.org)

## Spring Flea Market

**Saturday, April 13th, 8am-2pm**

Ways to get involved:

- Reserve a spot online: <http://tinyurl.com/Spring24FleaMarket>
- Sign up to volunteer: <http://tinyurl.com/S24FMVolunteer>
- Donate items for the White Elephant Table or individually wrapped baked goods

Questions? Contact Brandon Breitsprecher

## 2024 Congregational Council



David Cooper  
President



Brandon Breitsprecher  
Vice President



Beth Woodard  
Secretary



Walt Anderson



Tom Casey



Debbie Dougherty



Faith Longworth



Bob Masters



Fred Schleede

### From the Council

Greetings to all Grace members from your Church Council.

Spring seems to be right around the corner, although it didn't seem like we hardly had any winter this year as well. That means that the Spring Flea Market is coming up soon. Saturday, April 13th is when we plan on having the Spring Flea Market this year with Brandon Breitsprecher coordinating it. The proceeds will be split between HER Shelter and a new HVAC unit for the education wing.

HER stands for Help and Emergency Response, Inc. which provides leadership, advocacy, and resources to survivors and communities affected by Domestic Violence, Sexual Violence, Stalking, and Human Trafficking.

One of the HVAC units for the education wing is not working properly and won't keep temperature. The unit is over 20 years old and so we are looking into options for purchasing a new unit. The Growing in Grace Fund should cover the cost. Once

Council has chosen from the various quotes, we will hold a Special Congregational Meeting to approve the expense.

If you have anything you would like to talk to a Council Member about, please do not hesitate to reach out.

God's Blessings,  
David Cooper  
2024 Council President

### **THANK YOU for your generous financial support of God's mission!**

In **January 2024**, Grace Lutheran received **\$16,501.38** in giving to the General Fund. Because of your generosity, we were able to:

- Support Pastor Leslie in taking some vacation time
- Support Pastor Leslie in being away for Continuing Education
- Have a supply preacher/presider when Pastor Leslie is off since she is now only three-quarter time
- Hold a quilt raffle to raise money for the Book Ministry
- Collect food for the Food Pantry through the Souper Bowl of Caring (to name just a few) with **\$16,894.34** of expenses and generous gifts of time and talent.

**The balance (as of January 31, 2024) is \$46,497.22.**

## WE ARE HIRING

### NURSERY ATTENDANT

- SUNDAY MORNINGS
- AVERAGE 3 HOURS/WEEK
- \$15/HOUR



TO APPLY,  
EMAIL RESUME AND COVER LETTER TO  
[PASTORLESLIE@GRACELUTHERANCHESAPEAKE.ORG](mailto:PASTORLESLIE@GRACELUTHERANCHESAPEAKE.ORG)

Grace  
happens





# CAROLINE FURNACE

Camp & Retreat

[www.CarolineFurnace.org](http://www.CarolineFurnace.org)

<b>Summer 2024: Theme to be announced!</b>					
	Entering Grades 1-3	Entering Grades 4-6	Entering Grades 7-9 and 9-12	16 & 17 Years Old	Other
<b>Week One June 16-21</b>	Explorer	Classic	Classic		Confirmation Camp
<b>Week Two June 23-28</b>	Explorer + (2nd - 3rd Grade)	H2O Adventure	Shenandoah River	LIT! Phase 1	
		Classic	Classic		
<b>Week Three June 30-July 5</b>	Off-Site Programming			LIT! Phase 1	
<b>Week Four July 7 - 12</b>		Enviromental	H2O Adventure	LIT! Phase 2	Volunteer Work Week
		Acoustic	Acoustic		
<b>2 Week Camp July 7 - 19</b>		Elementary Adventure	High Adventure		
<b>Week Five July 14 - 19</b>	Explorer	Air Adventure	Classic	LIT! Phase 2	Youth Group Service & Fun
<b>Week Six July 21 - 26</b>	Explorer	Culinary	Air Adventure	LIT! Phase 2	
		Horse			
<b>Week Seven July 28 - Aug 2</b>		Hammock	Horse Camp	LIT! Phase 2	
		Classic			
<b>Week Eight Aug 4 -9</b>	Explorer	Outdoor Living	Night Hammock	LIT! Phase 2	Family Camp
					Adult Camp

Confirmation Camp and Youth Group Service and Fun: Contact your pastor or youth leader.  
 Half Week Options available for: Work Week, Family Camp, Adult Camp and Explorer Camp Weeks  
 Questions? Contact Monica Springman: [Monica@carolinefurnace.org](mailto:Monica@carolinefurnace.org)



**Order Easter Lilies**

to help adorn the Sanctuary for Easter Sunday.  
*You will be able to pick up the plants you ordered  
the week after Easter Sunday.*

**Each plant is \$13.**

Please return this order form & payment (cash or check payable to "Grace Lutheran Church" with "Easter Lilies" in memo) to the office  
**by Monday, March 11th.**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone # and Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Numbers of Plants** \_\_\_\_\_ **x \$13 per plant = \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dedication(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# ★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

- Mar 14 Mike Ownby
- Mar 14 Bethany Solomon
- Mar 15 Gretchen Stoll
- Mar 18 Suzanne Bergsten
- Mar 18 Amy Fantaskey-Peterson
- Mar 20 Kurt Longsworth
- Mar 24 Tracy Ownby
- Mar 27 Diana Haberkorn
- Mar 30 Matthew Weed



- Mar 6 Cori Morton

To add/correct any birthdays or anniversaries. Please email [Secretary@GraceLutheranChesapeake.org](mailto:Secretary@GraceLutheranChesapeake.org)



**PASTORAL CARE**

Please contact Pastor Leslie if you are in need of a pastoral care, hospital, or Communion visit.

# PRAYER LIST

## We Pray for Our Members

- |                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Walt Anderson     | Faith Longsworth   |
| Elaine Babb       | Charlotte Maurer   |
| Peggy Barry       | David Pritchard    |
| Suzanne Bergsten  | Monique Schroeder  |
| Jan Howell        | The Shalibo Family |
| Leonora Jones     | Rose Mary Sidam    |
| Jack Justice      | Steve Urps         |
| Sharon Justice    | Ted Van Horn       |
| Betty Keefer      | Annabelle Wolfe    |
| The Kilian Family |                    |

## We Pray for Our Friends

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Bill Babb         | Bill Manke        |
| Richard Howell    | Nano Masters      |
| Sarita Howell     | Katie Milliner    |
| Nicholas Boyle    | Patricia Petro    |
| Laura Braugh      | Stephan Pleli     |
| Jody Bryant       | Tommy Reeck       |
| Madison Garriott  | Lisa Sanders      |
| Jenell Gordon     | Nick Sims         |
| Lettie Groshel    | Larry Smith       |
| Rose Headings     | Jo Sommerfeld     |
| Brian Hubert      | Samantha Strother |
| Chris Jones       | Carolyn Swank     |
| Henry Kappes Jr   | Tim Theis         |
| Murray Leffers Jr | Deb Thompson      |

- The Military & their Families
- Our Food Pantry Clients
- ELCA Missionaries & YAGM students
- All who mourn

**In a effort to keep the prayer list up to date, please update Pastor Leslie monthly regarding your friends/family on the list.**



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>3</b> 9am Sunday School 10am Worship 11:30am Fellowship Hour	<b>4</b> 9am Food Pantry 1:30pm Bible Study (Zoom) 7pm Bell Choir	<b>5</b> 10am Threaders	<b>6</b> 6:30pm Soup Supper 7:15pm Midweek Worship (Hybrid)	<b>7</b> Office CLOSED 8pm AA	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 10am GS Troop 490
<b>10</b> 9am Sunday School 10am Worship 11:30am Craft Group	<b>11</b> 9am Food Pantry 1:30pm Bible Study (Zoom) 7pm Bell Choir	<b>12</b> 10am Threaders 7pm Council (Zoom)	<b>13</b> 6:30pm Soup Supper 7:15pm Midweek Worship (Hybrid)	<b>14</b> Office CLOSED 8pm AA	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 10am GS Troop 490
<b>17</b> 9am Sunday School 10am Worship	<b>18</b> 9am Food Pantry 1:30pm Bible Study (Zoom) 7pm Bell Choir	<b>19</b> 10am Threaders 7pm Good Mourning	<b>20</b> Noon Ladies Lunch 6:30pm Soup Supper 7:15pm Midweek Worship (Hybrid)	<b>21</b> Office CLOSED 8pm AA	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 8am Property Clean Up
<b>24</b> <b>Palm/Passion Sunday</b> 9am Sunday School 10am Worship	<b>25</b> 9am Food Pantry 1:30pm Bible Study (Zoom) 7pm Bell Choir	<b>26</b> 10am Threaders 6:30pm American Sewing Guild	<b>27</b> NO Soup Supper or Midweek Worship	<b>28</b> Office CLOSED <b>7pm Maundy Thursday Worship</b> 8pm AA	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> <b>Easter Sunday</b> 9am Easter Potluck 9:30am Egg Hunt 10am Worship	<b>7pm Good Friday Worship</b>					

# March 2024