



# GRACE NOTES

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, 46 WOODLAND STREET, HARTFORD, CT 06105 860-527-7792

## Holy Week and Easter at Grace

### Maundy Thursday

April 1, 7:30 p.m.

Laying on of Hands for Forgiveness;  
Foot washing; Holy Communion;  
Stripping of the Altar

### Good Friday

April 2, 12 noon - 3 p.m.

Asylum Hill Procession of the Cross

April 2, 7:30 p.m.

Service of Darkness and Light  
Passion According to St. John  
Adoration of the Cross

### Easter Saturday Vigil

April 3, 7:30 p.m.

Shared service at Trinity Episcopal Church,  
120 Sigourney Street, Hartford.  
Gathering around the Pillar of Fire  
Ancient Stories of Faith  
Proclamation of the Resurrection of Christ  
Holy Communion

### Easter Sunday

April 4, 6:29 a.m.

Elizabeth Park: Prospect Avenue Overlook  
Ecumenical Sunrise Service

April 4, 9:30 a.m.

The Resurrection of Our Lord  
Festival Eucharist

***You are Invited to an Easter Breakfast***

***Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup>***

***8:00a.m.-9:15a.m.***

***Menu Includes:***

***Scrambled eggs, French toast, Hot Cross Buns  
Assorted Fruits and Beverages***

***Prepared and Served by the Brown Family and Assistants***

***Clean up by anyone able to stay following worship***

## April

Volume 2010

Issue 4

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

## Love is come again

### *Note from Pastor*

*Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,  
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;  
Love lives again, that with the dead has been;  
Love is come again like wheat arising green.*

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Hymn 379 John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872-1958

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The truth is, I just plum love daylight savings time! I know cows don't understand about it, so farmers aren't fond of it. Parents who have taught their infants to sleep until 6:30 are having to wake up at 5:30 in the morning. But now that we've changed our clocks and gotten to the other side of the spring equinox, the daylight hours are stretching longer than the nighttime hours and - let's confess it - my disposition is definitely improving.

There wasn't much snow this year, but there was enough wintry stuff so that there were twigs and branches all over our yard by the end of winter. But robins showed up early to let us know spring was coming, and now crocuses and blades of grass are popping up all over.

It can't be an accident that Passover, and therefore Easter, is a springtime celebration. Those of us who are suckers for all the clichés are in our element. No more heavy coats, gloves, scarves, hats, or boots. We can fling the door open and just go outside. Spring clothes! Pastel colors! Easter eggs! Jelly beans! Even Spring Cleaning seems like a good idea. Let the fresh air in! Life is new, and love is come again.

In the past few weeks the people of Grace had to say farewell to three beloved women. It was a wintry time. Each one, Gerry Holmeen, Heddy Reiher, and Gertrude Bensch, left a terrible vacant place when they left us. We still look around and half expect to see them - Gerry with her son to whom she was so valiantly dedicated,

Heddy in the front pew beaming in German at her grandsons, Gertrude up there with the bell choir concentrating with all her might and good cheer.

They were so different from each other - very distinctive personalities, each one - but they shared one major similarity. They each had an unshakable faith in the promise of Easter. They have gone before us and in the springtime light they are gazing upon the beauty of the Lord. Now, when we praise the name of God at the Easter Eucharist "with all the hosts of heaven," we know that these three are among those hosts. We are singing the unending hymn with them!

Love is come again. May the Lord our God bring you deep joy as we greet our risen Savior.

*Pastor Steege*

*By the grace of God, we are a Lutheran congregation,  
diverse in worship, Christ-centered in fellowship,  
committed to prayer, deepening of faith,  
and the stewardship of the gospel and God's world.*

## Good Morning! Easter Sunrise Service

Did you notice that something new has been added to our Easter schedule of worship this year?

Well, of course, a sunrise service at Easter is not exactly new – the tradition is ancient!

But it's new to Grace in the five years I've been here. Our friend Pastor Bryan Hooper of United Methodist Church, on the corner of Farmington and Whitney, called one day in early March. He said his church, along with Asylum Hill Congregational Church,

Immanuel Congregational Church, and St. John Episcopal church, and a couple of others, have been holding a sunrise service on Easter morning for several years. It is held at the Elizabeth Park overlook, which faces east from Prospect Avenue.

I remarked that it must be very beautiful.

He said it is, and he was sure that Grace Lutheran Church would want to be

one of the participating congregations.

So that is how we have come to add this service to our calendar. The Worship Committee has officially endorsed our participation, and I hope quite a few of you will come and join us for such a beautiful beginning to Easter Sunday. The service begins at sunrise – 6:29 a.m. – and lasts about 45 minutes, so there will be plenty of time to get to Grace for our Easter breakfast!

## The Lutheran Course

*Saints and Sinners welcome!*

**Wednesdays, April 14 – May 26, 7:00 – 9:00pm**

Are you new to the Lutheran faith? Are you curious about what makes Lutherans Lutheran? Or, on the other hand, is it quite a while since your confirmation – long enough so you've kind of forgotten how to tell the difference between the Law and the Gospel, or what Baptism is really about, or how to receive communion, or how to share your faith with someone? Do

you know why Luther was so fond of paradoxes? Last offered at Grace in 2007, **The Lutheran Course** is perfect for inquirers, new members looking for an introduction, and current Lutherans hoping for a refresher course. Using the winning combination of sound theology and offbeat humor as *The Lutheran Handbook*, the Lutheran

Course takes adult learners through the fundamentals of Lutheranism in seven sessions. Each evening begins with refreshments (a/k/a "Table Talk" followed by a DVD presentation by a top-notch theologian. Group discussions work through the ideas with humor and shared insight. Sound good? Please call the Church Office, 527-7792, and let us know you're coming!

**Please remember, worship begins at 9:30am each  
and every Sunday. The psalmist says,  
"I was glad when they said unto me,  
'Let us go into the house of the Lord.'"  
Join us for worship each Sunday.**

## Building Fund Campaign Momentum Continues

On Commitment Sunday, February 21, congregation members who were present for worship astonished one another by pledging a total of \$89,146.80 toward the *Build Us Up, Lord* program goal of \$150,000! More pledges have come in during the following weeks. By March 14, three weeks later, pledges had passed a milestone to reach \$101,646.80 and counting.

During the campaign weeks in January and February, Grace was able to hand checks to representatives of five ministries of the ELCA, completing our tithe from gifts received in 2009.

Beginning March 7, members began to honor their new pledges, and additional gifts have come in. The costs of the ELCA Key Leader program have been paid in full from these gifts. Soon we should be able to complete our steeple

and pay for it, including repaying the loan from our endowment funds that were needed to begin that project.

The steeple repair and installation of adequate lightning protection is the first



of several planned projects. Next up are the repair of our parking lot and the steps to the front doors. At the same time, our historic pipe organ urgently needs restoration. Also, the team from Grace that participated in an energy audit project will be proposing a number of conservation

measures that would improve our lighting and water heating and save substantially in the long run. All of these projects will enable us to leave the legacy of a beautiful and safe center for worship and service, ready for the future ministry of Grace on Asylum Hill.

We give thanks to God for the stirring response to the *Build Us Up, Lord* program! If you have not received a pledge card, or would like offering envelopes for this program, please be sure to call the office, 860-527-7792, and let us know.

### CELEBRATE WITH US APRIL 11!

On Sunday, April 11, a **special celebration** will honor of our passing the \$100,000 pledge landmark. Be sure to be there!

## Mediation Skills Institute to be held at Grace

Grace Lutheran Church is honored to have been selected as a host site for a *Mediation Skills Training Institute for Church Leaders* May 3-7, 2010. The institute is designed to equip church leaders with the skills necessary to deal effectively with interpersonal, congregational, and other forms of group conflict. It also

includes a component on congregational intervention and consultation, placed within the context of family systems theory. For registration information, call Lombard Mennonite Peace Center at 630-627-0507 or visit the website - [www.LMPeaceCenter.org](http://www.LMPeaceCenter.org).

Assistance will be needed to provide hospitality during the week. The Peace Center will provide snacks and two lunches, but volunteers will be needed to help serve them, as well as to welcome people at the doors, provide directions in the building, etc. Please notify Pastor Steege if you will be available to help.

## Foodshare's Walk Against Hunger

This spring, I would like to form a team of members of Grace to walk in the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Foodshare Walk Against Hunger to raise awareness and funds to help hungry people in Greater Hartford.

Hunger is in our community and is a more serious problem than you may think:

- There are more than 100,000 "food insecure" people living in our region. Food insecurity means not knowing where your next meal will be come from.
- 40% of our hungry neighbors are children.
- The hungry include working poor families and senior citizens forced to choose between essentials like rent, utilities, and medicine... or buying groceries.
- This year, nearly 350 local hunger-fighting programs--food pantries, community soup kitchens, shelters, kids cafes and others--will rely on Foodshare.

Foodshare's Walk Against Hunger is the largest event of its kind in central Connecticut that benefits local families and children in need of food. Will you join? It will be a lot of fun and together we will make a difference.

Here are the details...

**Date:** Sunday, May 2, 2010

**Time:** 1:00 pm check-in / 2:00pm Walk starts

**Place:** The Hartford Financial Services Group - 690 Asylum Avenue, Hartford

Please let me know if you are willing to take part. I will send you all the materials and information you need to start raising money today! My goal is to recruit 6 team members and for each team member to raise at least \$100. For more info, you can also visit [www.foodshare.org](http://www.foodshare.org).

Together, let's take a step against hunger!

Jody Wynn Rodiger  
860/951-6394  
[jwrodiger@yahoo.com](mailto:jwrodiger@yahoo.com)

## Call for artistic/written images of Trinity for synod assembly

The Trinitarian Task Force of the New England Synod is gathering Trinitarian images from adults, children and young people to share or display at the Synod Assembly June 3-5 at the Sturbridge Host and Conference Center, Sturbridge, Mass. Sought are prayers and poems, articles from scientists about the

fundamentally relational nature of reality, a quilted Trinitarian banner (a green one for summer or any-color used at baptisms) and art (in any medium) to share at the assembly. "The Lutheran," the monthly magazine of the ELCA, may publish photos of some of what is shared at assembly. For inspiration, look

at the 47 images of Trinity (mostly written, some visual) available on the "40 Days 3 Persons 1 God" page at [www.nesynod.org](http://www.nesynod.org). The page contains suggestions to get kids drawing Trinitarian pictures. Questions? Contact Elaine Ramshaw at 203-481-2150 or [elaine.ramshaw@gmail.com](mailto:elaine.ramshaw@gmail.com).

## Grace to take part in Hartford's Annual Spring Cleanup - The 2010 Great American Cleanup

Plans are proceeding for Hartford's annual spring cleanup. Knox Parks Foundation will collaborate with the City of Hartford and Telemundo Hartford/Springfield to organize the cleanups this spring. The 2010 Cleanups will be held on four consecutive Saturdays: April 17, April 24, May 1 and May 8. Community groups, schools, churches, block watches, neighborhood associations, businesses and residents volunteer every year to participate in these spring cleanups.

**Barbara Ruhe** is organizing our **high-schoolers** and other

volunteers to register a team from Grace to clean up our end of Niles Street, from Woodland to Marshall on **April 17**. Projects include litter and debris cleanup, graffiti removal, painting, and planting of flowers and greenery. The City and Knox Parks Foundation will provide bags, brooms, gloves, rakes and other sponsor-donated materials to registered groups.

This year's initiative will once again be a part of the Keep America Beautiful 2010 Great American Cleanup that takes place in more than 14,000 communities nationwide, with

the support of more than 2 million volunteers. The Great American Cleanup is our nation's largest community improvement program.

Mayor Eddie A. Perez says, "Volunteering for the Keep America Beautiful campaign is a way we can all do our part to keep our great city clean. When we all work together we achieve our best results. This is a positive experience for families, organizations and our city!"

Please get in touch with Barbara if you would like to help out!

## Pastor Santmire is keynote speaker at Philadelphia Seminary convocation

**The Rev. Dr. Paul Santmire**, former pastor at Grace, will be the keynote speaker at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia's Alumni Spring 2010 Convocation April 26-28.

Addressing the theme "Ecology and Theology: A Promising Paradigm for the Life of the Church," Pastor Santmire, who graduated from the seminary in 1960, will explore an "emergent theological paradigm and its promise for church renewal, even as that paradigm also

equips the church to be in an advantageous position to address the ecological currents of these times.

Dr. Santmire '60 served pastorally for over forty years in academic, inner-city, and metropolitan settings. Along the way, he also made significant scholarly contributions, mainly in the arena of ecological theology. His 1970 work, *Brother Earth: Nature, God, and Ecology in a Time of Crisis* (Thomas Nelson) was among the first of its kind. In 1985 he published a

study in historical theology, *The Travail of Nature: the Ambiguous Ecological Promise of Christian Theology* (Fortress), in 2000 an introduction to ecological theology, *Nature Reborn: the Ecological and Cosmic Promise of Christian Theology* (Fortress), and in 2008 reflections in liturgical theology, *Ritualizing Nature: Renewing Christian Liturgy in a Time of Crisis* (Fortress). He received the seminary's Distinguished Alumnus/ae Award in 2004.

## Thank you Notes

Tom Schauer of **Calumet Lutheran Ministries** sent a lovely thank-you note the portion that went to Calumet of our tithe of the gifts received by the building fund campaign in 2009. We published that letter in the March issue of Grace Notes. Here are excerpts from four more letters we have received.

"On behalf of President Krey, faculty, staff and students at the **Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia**, we thank you for your contribution of \$106.90 to the **Brossman Center**, which helps our students prepare to go out into the world to proclaim the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ to the world. At this time of financial stress, your continuing generosity and support are truly appreciated...."

*The Rev. Ellen Anderson,  
Director of Alumni/ae and  
Church Relations*

"On behalf of the New England Synod, I want to express our gratitude to you and the people of Grace Lutheran Church for the gift we received today. Your check of \$106.90 will be deposited into the **New England Synod Mission Development Fund**, which supports new ministries throughout the synod. We are most grateful for the commitment this gift demonstrates - the commitment to mutual ministry through the synod and the various ministry partners your tithe will be supporting. It is a joy to hear of this kind of dedication from your congregation...."

*Pastor Alice Kerr Laird,  
Associate to the Bishop.*

"Thank you for your generous gift of \$106.90 to **Lutheran Social Services for Home Care in Connecticut**. I am grateful for your partnership in our mission and ministry, which serves and cares for over 5,000 people every day throughout New England...."

On behalf of all the staff and clients of Lutheran Social Service of New England, I want you to know how much your prayers and your support mean in the advancement of our mutual ministry of human care."

*Heather L. Feltman, CEO*

"Thank you for your gift of \$105.90 on January 24, 2010 to **ELCA World Hunger**. We'll put your gift to work right away to make a life-saving difference for neighbors in need. When our neighbors are hurting, the people of the ELCA respond faithfully. We are supporting feeding centers for severely malnourished children in war-torn Democratic Republic of Congo. We are stocking the shelves of food pantries across the United States. We are helping survivors of war and disaster to rebuild their lives. We are helping famer plan the seeds of a future free from hunger...."

*The Rev. Daniel Rift,  
Director, ELCA World Hunger  
and Disaster Appeal*

### Parish Directories Available

The new 2010 Parish Directory is hot off the press. Pick up yours from the table in the narthex, or call Cathy Tomlinson, Parish Administrator, 860-527-7792, if you would like one mailed to you.

## We Remember with Thanksgiving

**Gertrude (Lehninger) Bensch**, 89, of Hartford, beloved wife of the late Oscar J. Bensch, died peacefully on Tuesday, March 2, 2010 at Hartford Hospital surrounded by her loving family. Born in Bridgeport, daughter of the late Albert and Wally (Heymer) Leninger she lived in Hartford most of her life. Prior to her retirement she was employed by the State of Connecticut, Municipal Retirement Division. She was an active member of Grace Lutheran Church and enjoyed

participating in the Bell Choir and the Grace Notes publishing group. She was an avid Yankees and UConn Women's Basketball fan, enjoyed doing crossword puzzles and spending summers camping at Hammonasset Beach State Park.

Gertrude is survived by a son Bill Bensch and his wife Anne of Collegeville, PA; two daughters, Sandy Glieco and her husband Mike of South Windsor, Bobbie Schultz and

her husband Rick of Exeter, NH; five grandchildren, Mike Bensch, Sarah Dougherty, Seth Hoffman, Lisa Varshney and Jennifer Glieco. A brother, Albert Lehninger predeceased her. Her funeral was Friday, March 5, at Grace Lutheran Church.



## New tuition-free school seeking students

*Grace Academy*, an **all girls, tuition-free** private middle school, will open this fall in Hartford. The academy provides a quality, faith-based education that allows girls to excel academically, develop a strong sense of personal responsibility, and become leaders in their families and community. An intentionally

small school with small class sizes, and an extended day and extended year program, its goal is to graduate young women who are prepared and supported for high school and college. Grace Academy has no relationship with Grace Lutheran Church. It is a member of the highly successful *NativityMiguel*

school system; a network of 64 inner-city schools with a proven record of educating underserved students for higher education. Grace Academy is accepting applications for incoming 5th and 6th graders. Learn more by calling (860) 819-0702.

## People of Grace

We received word too late for the new Parish Directory that **Lisa and Natalie Dugan** have a new address. Here it is:

Lisa Dugan  
Natalie Dugan  
929 Burnside Avenue - Apt. C-6  
East Hartford CT 06118  
860/816-0411

And **congratulations to Natalie**, who has completed all of her high school work successfully and graduated this winter!

## Spring Into Wellness & Zumba Master Class

### *Why should you Choose The Living Well Centre?*

The Living Well Centre is a place where people committed to community change accomplish that goal by improving their individual health and wellness. At the Living Well Centre you meet a diverse network of community leaders, helping professionals, human service providers, parents, artists, fitness buffs, activists, people of faith and

caring citizens who believe they must “be the change they want to see in the world.”

The Conference of Churches’ Living Well Centre is at 224 Farmington Avenue in the former headquarters of the Greater Hartford Arts Council, Hartford Ballet and CT Opera

The Living Well Centre features a variety of health and wellness disciplines for you to add to your weekly agenda of living well and better serving the people in the community. Drop in fees and advanced registration are available. Call 860.247.0017 ext. 10 to register or to learn more.

*“change yourself. change the community”*

## Dear Friends of LSS,

I wanted to write to you to tell you the story of Alfreda Couitt. Years ago, Alfreda’s daughter, Bonnie Gales, and the rest of her siblings made a promise that they’d never place their mother in a nursing home.

Unfortunately, in 2005, that promise became harder and harder to keep as Alfreda began facing some of the many challenges that come with older age – dementia, depression, and osteoarthritis, to name a few.

Bonnie, Bob and their mother, Alfreda, grateful for the In-Home care services provided by their friends at LSS New England.

For the past five years, Alfreda has been enrolled in Choices for Independence, a program

LSS administers through Medicaid. It enables Alfreda to live at home while Bonnie’s brother, Bob, draws a salary in his new position as his mom’s full-time caregiver. While everyone appreciates Bob’s sacrifice, he is quick to mention that he’s not doing it alone. “Janice, LSS’s Regional Care Coordinator, comes in all the time asking, ‘Is there something we can do? Is there anything you need?’ We wouldn’t get that help anywhere else. LSS is always there to answer questions and to assist us if we need help.”

In-home care is the fastest-growing of the services we offer. Over 500 adults who are older, disabled or chronically ill take advantage of our programs so they can

live safely and comfortably at home.

Lutheran Social Services combines compassion with operational excellence to extend a variety of life-changing services to people in need.

Your partnership makes it possible for us to extend Christ’s love to the economically disadvantaged, at-risk adolescents and families, Haitian refugees, the elderly...

In Service Together,

*Heather L. Feltman, CEO  
Lutheran Social Services of  
New England*



Grace Lutheran Church  
46 Woodland Street  
Hartford, CT 06105

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ADDRESS LABEL

## Church Staff Directory

The Rev. Eva Reque Steege, Pastor  
(Emergency Phone 860-882-7715)  
Dale Eberhardt, Organist  
Catherine Tomlinson, Parish Administrator  
Marilyn Flaherty, Financial Assistant  
Onita Chambers, Parish Assistant  
Miriam Miller, Sexton

Mavis Smith, President  
Emma Coleman-Carr, Vice President  
Bruce Klotz, Secretary  
Gertrude Kanwischer, Treasurer  
Barbara Calogero, Assistant Treasurer  
Sally Nolen, Grace Notes Editor

### ***PLEASE NOTE:***

*The submission deadline for the May 2010 edition of Grace Notes is April 15th. Please forward information to Sally Nolen ([sallynolen@live.com](mailto:sallynolen@live.com)) by this date. Thank you.*

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

