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|  | APRIL 2025 |
| **A purple hands with a cross  Description automatically generated** | AMAZING GRACE  CONNECTIONS  **Faith > Family > Community** |

**Grace Lutheran Church of Lily Lake**

**5N600 Hanson Rd, St. Charles, IL 60175**

**Pastor David Mercurio**

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| **Worship every Sunday**  **At 9:30 am with Communion**  .   * April 6 – Worship, Sunday School * April 13 – Passion/Palm Sunday Worship * April 17 – Maundy Thursday Worship, 7pm * April 18 – Community Worship at Grace, 7pm * April 20 – Easter Worship, breakfast from 8:30am – 11:30am * April 27 – Worship, Sunday School   May Sunday School dates are the 4th and 18th. |

**During the rest of lent we may have soft music only (instead of singing) while we are taking communion. This provides us a time for meditation, prayer, thankfulness, remembrance of those that have gone before us and led us to Christ, thanking Jesus for giving us this means of forgiveness, or maybe for simply feeling the presence of Jesus throughout the sanctuary.**

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| * LENTEN BIBLE STUDY ON THE BOOK OF REVELATION continues:   Thursdays, April 3 and 10, noon soup luncheon  Or Saturdays, April 5 and 12, coffee/treats |

FYI – There are no flowers on the altar during Lent: this signifies the austerity and reflection of the season and also as a time for repentance.

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| **Close-up of a palm tree leaf HOLY WEEK**  [This Photo](http://gardening.stackexchange.com/questions/11047/what-is-the-flower-just-above-the-grooms-left-breast) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/)  Holy week begins on PALM/PASSION SUNDAY, April 13th. It commemorates Jesus entry into Jerusalem where he was greeted by crowds waving palm branches, a symbolic act of welcome and honor.  It is also known also as PASSION SUNDAY because it marks the beginning of HOLY WEEK, a period of reflection on Jesus’ suffering and death.  The TRIDIUM is the three days of MAUNDY THURSDAY, GOOD FRIDAY and the Easter Virgil on HOLY SATURDAY.  MAUNDY THURSDAY commemorates the washing of feet and the Last Supper of Jesus Christ with the Apostles when he established the sacrament of Holy Communion. They were celebrating the festival of Passover. It emphasizes humility, service, and the commandment to love one another.  GOOD FRIDAY commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus and his death at Calvary. Good Friday is a solemn day of mourning. Jesus’s death on the cross was a crucial act of love and sacrifice for the salvation of humanity, leading to the promise of resurrection and eternal life.  HOLY SATURDAY is a the day of somber reflection and waiting, commemorating Christ’s death and burial, the day Christ’s body lay in the tomb with anticipation of his resurrection.  EASTER SUNDAY marks the resurrection of Jesus when we rejoice and celebrate his rising, offering us hope and salvation.  A cross on a hill with sun rays  AI-generated content may be incorrect. |

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| A person wearing glasses  Description automatically generated with low confidence  ***From PASTOR DAVID, April 2025***  As I write this letter, we are in the throes of Lent, and it is a battle. We are  bombarded daily with images of man’s inhumanity to man, society’s outrage, its vitriol, an unimaginable display of lewdness, a complete lack of shame, and a worldwide dystopian dysfunction, all orchestrated by the evil one himself.  As Paul wrote in his letter to the Ephesians: “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood  but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.  That is why I chose the Book of Revelation for this year’s Lenten study series. Revelation is a literary form of resistance against imperialism, empire, domination, and exploitation. The symbols of the beasts are designed to unveil and reveal the true face of empires as monstrous, violent, and deceitful. So, what’s a Christian to do? That’s what Lent is all about. It’s a time of reflection. As we fast from worldly appetites (as you identify yours), our minds are refocused away from our current mortality and toward our future immortality. When life beats us up, as it is frequently want to do, remember that this current state in which we exist is but a blink of an eye relative to God’s timeline, and whatever troubles you might be going through will soon pass away. We have the hope and the expectation that something better awaits us. The victory of the cross assures us of this.  Blessings to you, David  ***Pastor’s Hours: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays plus Sundays and as needed and by appointment when requested.*** |

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| **SPECIAL THANKS to all who have shared their time and talents with Grace , including but not limited to:**   * Pastor’s leadership at and all who are providing soup and goodies and set up for the Lenten Bible Study. * George and choir members for getting ready for the special services during Lent and Holy Week. * George, Helen and all who prepare and deliver lunches to Lazarus House on the fifth Sunday of each month. * Rebecca Circle for all the ways you support Grace’s ministries. * Cara Turner-Kusch for all the photos she takes weekly. * Kathy Hooey for checking church messages twice a day and relaying them as needed.   And to many more of you who give generously of your time! |

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| *FINANCIAL MATTERS – APRIL 2025*  Financial Matters – April 2025   * Presently the Building Maintenance Fund balance is $15,445. Warmer temperatures   are approaching and several projects are being reviewed for repairs: pavilion south wall  leakage, asbestos removal in parish house. We thank those members who have gifted  memorial funds towards these efforts.   * We are looking for a used, in very good condition, zero turn lawn mower for back-up to   our present mower to help mow our 5 acres. Please contact a Vision Team member if  you have questions or ideas.   * If you wish to donate to this fund, please notate “Building Maintenance Fund”, to   ensure the donation will be designated to this specific account.   * Grace has been blessed with a most gracious gift from Norm Nelson’s trust – $39,500.The Vision Team has voted to invest in another CD at this time, capturing 4%.   Brief recap of February financials:  February 2025 Year-to-Date ’25 Year-to-Date 2024  INCOME $ 56,208\*\* $ 81,068 $ 30,415  EXPENSES $ 19,230 $ 35,624 $ 29,276  NET +/- $ 36,978 $ 45,444 $ 1,139  \*\* $39,513 Norm Nelson gift  Pray for blessings upon Grace as we continue our mission and work to expand our ministries at  Grace in 2025 ~ In Peace, Tricia Painter, Treasurer |

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| **VISION TEAM REPORT**  **Meeting was held on APRIL 16th**   * Minutes from April 16th Vision Team meeting and treasurer’s report were approved. * Grace is in need of a new zero turn riding lawn mower. Please contact Dallas if you have any leads or to donate to this need. * Approved purchasing a CD at American Eagle Bank with money that was generously donated to Grace. * Discussed the need to correct the erosion on the east side of the building and what materials to use. * Discussed replacing the rotting wall on the pavilion. |

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| RUMMAGE SALE  We are getting ready for our Spring Rummage Sale on May 16 (9am-4pm) and May 17 (9am-2pm) ~ Please mark your calendars an spread the word.  We kindly ask that you hold your donations until May, as we are trying not to clutter up entryways, doorways, walkways, etc. With Holy Week, Easter service and breakfast approaching and ongoing Parents Day Out, Line Dancing and Scouts, we are not able to have extra items “in the way.” If you have items that can be stored in the garage (nothing with cloth or fabric please) or stored in critter-proof containers, please contact Linda Smykowski to coordinate drop off (708-309-3444). If you have a clothing donation, please contact Cathy Whiteside (630-605-1096). \*\*She collects clothing year-round; please let her know if you can help throughout the next 2 months.  Also, when considering your donations, please ask yourself, “*would I purchase this?, does it work/operate correctly, are the cords or all pieces intact? Doesn’t smell like smoke and free of pet hair? Is it fairly clean, etc.?” If not, please understand if we say “no thank you.” We don’t have the volunteers or time to go through it all. As a reminder, we cannot accept TV cabinets, older TVs, and large furniture pieces. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.*  MAY DROP-OFF and VOLUNTEER TIMES:  Tues, May 13 – various times – please watch weekly announcements  Weds, May 14 – donations accepted 10am - 4 pm; volunteer sale set-up hours anytime 10am – 5pm  Thurs, May 15 – Donations accepted 10am – 3pm; volunteer sale set-up hours anytime 10am – 5 pm  Friday, May 16 – Volunteers needed all day of the sale, 9am – 4pm  Saturday, May 17 – Volunteers needed all day of the sale, 9am – 2 pm & sale clean up 2 pm- ???  Any further questions, please contact Tricia Painter, 708-624-0400 (leave message/text) |

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| [This Photo](http://ijboudreaux.com/) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-ND](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nd/3.0/)  ***Parents day out***  ***A new ministry at grace***  We’re more than halfway through the year of Parents Day Out and boy are we having a fun time!  Every week we have a new Bible lesson. This year‘s theme is thanking God for our many blessings! We also play many games and songs that are secretly teaching letters – numbers - colors and shapes.  PDO is so fortunate to be able to utilize the big open space behind our church to go sledding, take mini hikes and play tag. **Registration begins March 3rd for the 2025-2026 school year.** Please tell anyone you know with a 3 to 5 year-old child to check out our website at Graceoflilylake.org/PDO. You can also contact Janice Muncie directly at 630-854-1066. |

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| ***A group of colorful people  Description automatically generated***  ***REBECCA CIRCLE***  We had a very well attended meeting in March and thank Cheryl Nelson and Margaret Swanson for the delicious afternoon dessert!  And for the special wisdom of Margaret's devotions.  We made a few outreach decisions and put lots of discussion into possibilities.  We voted to fund the foodstuffs needed to make 30 lunches for Lazarus House in St. Charles, a project that Grace does five times each year.  And to sponsor a luncheon in June with a special program.  Please watch for much more information on this.  We will once again be sponsoring the sale of Easter flowers (Easter Lilies, Hyacinths, Daffodils, Tulips and Pansies).  Order forms will be in the pew racks as of this Sunday, March 30th and can also be found around the church.  We are in need of knitters and crocheters (is that a word?) to help us restore our prayer shawl ministry.  See Twyla Strom or Kathy Hooey for more information on this.  We have a Rebecca Circle prayer chain and we pray for those who ask.  So if you have a request, please call Kathy Hooey and she will get her prayer team on it!  Our next meeting is Tuesday, April 15th at 1pm in the Fellowship Hall.  Nancy Corbige and Kay Kinsel will be our hostesses.  Please join us as we plan, pray and fellowship! |

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| ***EVENTS NOT TO BE MISSED***  ***(also see Sunday worship information above)***  **LINE DANCING continues on THURSDAYS:**   * **April 3, 10, and 24; no class on the 17th as we will have a Maundy Thursday worship service.** * **May 1 and 8.**   **REBECCA CIRCLE MEETING: April 15th at 1 pm in Fellowship Hall**  **LIFELINE HEALTH SCREENING on April 25th.  Please call 800-690-8627 to register. Call Cathy Whitside if you have questions about the program.**  **SPAGHETTI DINNER, May 3 in Fellowship Hall. Please sign up to help/donate.**  **ANNUAL SYNOD ASSEMBLY - Friday and Saturday, May 30-31. Theme is: Go Therefore! Meetings will be at the Q Center in St. Charles. Dottie and Paul Mantsch will be representing us.** |

**MISCELLANOUS INFORMATION**

* **If you can knit or crochet, we need you to help make more prayer shawls as we are running low. We have the yarn so please contact Helen Gruber if you can help. If you know of someone needing a PRAYER SHAWL, please let Twyla Strom know.**
* **The Finance Team is looking for volunteers to sign up as counters (counting our weekly offerings after worship). Please see Linda Smykowski or Tricia Painter for further details.**
* **The Worship Team is seeking volunteers to help run our power point during worship which brings the bulletin onto the TV screens in the sanctuary. Especially for the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. See Tricia Painter.**
* **Our new website sign on is graceoflilylake.org (not .com)**

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| ***SPECIAL MINISTRY INFORMATION:***  **Bridge to Life Group’s Jesus Closet (homeless in Elgin)**: Items needed are backpacks, blankets, gym shoes, t-shirts, jeans, coats and socks***.***Please mark donated items to the attention of Cathy Whiteside (630/605-1096).  Thank you for all the donations.  Clothing and miscellaneous items for the migrants in Chicago are being collected by Cathy Whiteside (630/605-1096) to be given to Pastor Anna-Kari Johnson for distribution in Chicago. Thank you to all who have donated in the past. Left overs from our Spring Rummage Sale were already passed on to this ministry in June. |

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| **Cartoon character running on a black background  Description automatically generated *ROAD RUNNERS 2025 TRIP***  ***The 2025 Road Runners Trip will include Dubuque/Cedar Rapids,IA to mid IA. So,* mark your calendar *for the 2025 Roadrunner Trip to Iowa on September 22-27, 2025. See Suzanne Girsch for more information.*** |

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| **NOISY OFFERING**  Every Sunday we collect a “noisy offering” when you wish to empty your change purse or pockets. We are currently collecting for maintenance items. Thank you. |

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| **CONTACTS:**  For emergencies, please contact the church office at 630-365-6751.  For prayer requests or other needs please call Kathy Hooey at 630-341-2293 or leave a message at the church office at 630-365-6751. Messages are checked daily at noon & 5 pm. |

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| **Information for the May newsletter will be due by April 25th– please send items to Marty Bradley at** [**masbradley50@gmail.com**](mailto:masbradley50@gmail.com)**. Thank you** |

