



VOICE OF GRACE

Grace Lutheran Church, Atlanta

Easter 2018

EASTER GREETING

By: Pastor Adam Ellsworth

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

The words of the Easter proclamation might be the most joyful phrase ever spoken. These words come to our ears, and with them comes the greatest of promises and the greatest of hopes. While they might be a very simple set of words, I can think of no other phrase to boldly and easily proclaim the good news that calls us together as a people who look to Jesus, no other phrase that states so clearly the gospel that defines what it means to be a Christian.



It is these words that define the hope we share as the Church. Because Christ is risen from the dead, it is our certain hope that we will also be risen from the dead, and it is our certain hope that God has brought victory over death not only to His Son but also to you and me who hear the good news and believe. Christ risen from the dead means that we can trust in every promise that He has given to us, the promise that our guilt has been removed by His atonement on the cross, the promise that just as He was resurrected from the dead, so we and all who trust in Christ Jesus, He will also raise up on the last day when He returns.

Today, we gather to celebrate the Lord and Giver of Life. We celebrate because our God has sent the Holy Spirit that He might stir up faith in the Easter proclamation that Christ is risen. We celebrate because already everlasting life is our treasured possession because God our Father has poured out His love for us in His Son Jesus Christ. This day, we celebrate because all the powers of evil stand defeated, because our sins are no more, because death and the grave have been undone, and now life everlasting is our promised hope. This day, we celebrate in joy because He is risen indeed!

Alleluia!

A PRAYER FOR EASTER

O almighty and eternal God, who through the death of Your Son has destroyed sin and death, and by His rising to life again restored innocence and everlasting life, that being delivered from the power of the devil, I might live under You in Your kingdom, grant that I may be forever comforted by true faith in the resurrection of Your dear Son. Do not let the thought of death fill my heart with terror, but give me the blessed assurance that, just as You raised Christ from the dead, I will not remain in the grave but will rise again at the end of days. And when, by Your grace, I have finished my course, let Christ's resurrection be for me a sure pledge that an inheritance that does not fade is reserved for me in heaven. While I live, guide me with Your holy counsel, and when I die, give me the crown of life, that with all the holy angels and the elect I may praise and glorify You, world without end. Amen.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Life is full of twists and turns. And although we may never know what's around the bend, God knows it all—the thrills *and* the spills! We would cherish the opportunity to have your child experience Vacation Bible School (VBS) with us this year. At the root of it, we put the effort into VBS because it shares the Gospel with our children, their friends, and our community.

Every year at Vacation Bible Schools across the country, there are children who are exposed to the Good News of Jesus for the very first time, kids who then end up bringing their parents to church and are baptized into the Christian faith. The outreach into our community this year will, God willing, see children attending who might never have heard this message before, and that is an exciting thought!

The theme and stories change every year, but the Good News of Christ and his love for us is always front and center. Children who attend leave knowing that we are sinners, that we can't save ourselves, that we have someone who took our place on the cross, and that eternity is waiting.

As parents, we are tasked with teaching the faith diligently to our children, and VBS is a perfect opportunity to come alongside others in our church as we teach the faith to all our children. In addition, VBS is exciting, fun and hands-on. Everything is done at age-appropriate levels. Songs that proclaim the Gospel will be hidden in your child's heart for years!

This year's VBS theme is Splash Canyon, where participants will explore God's promise that he is with us on life's wild ride. VBS meets daily during the week of June 18–22 from 2–5pm. We will explore God's word to us through the Bible stories of Baby Moses, the Israelites entering the Promised Land, God healing Naaman in the Jordan River, God saving Paul from the sea, and Jesus' baptism. We will explore these themes through storytelling, memory verses, original and familiar music, science activities, games, and even through our snacks!

Participation is open to any child age 3 through fifth grade. Older children wishing to participate may do so as volunteers. We can always use more volunteers, either during VBS or during set-up and take-down.

For more information, please contact Danielle Durgin at (404) 642-3450 or Liesl Beaton at (901) 803-1090.

PIETY BY THE PINT

Our next Piety by the Pint event will be at Torched Hop Brewing (249 Ponce De Leon Ave NE) on Thursday, April 26 at 7pm.

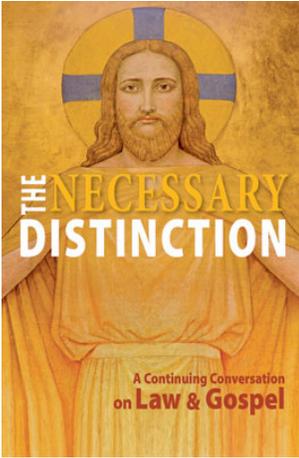
Our service project for this month's Piety by the Pint is collecting soccer balls for the team heading to Guatemala in June. So, bring a soccer ball or two, and join us as we spend some time in Christian conversation, fellowship, and service.

APRIL 14 EVENTS

We have a couple of fun events scheduled for Saturday, April 14.

First, we have a Men's Breakfast at 7:30am at the Original Pancake House (2321 Cheshire Bridge Rd NE). Then, all are invited to meet at Sweetwater Creek State Park (1750 Mt. Vernon Rd, Lithia Springs) at 10:30am for a picnic/hike. We will walk the trails and then gather to share a meal together. Please bring your own lunch.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY



Wednesday Night Bible Study is back after Easter! Join us on April 11 at 6pm for dinner followed by Bible Study. We will be reading and discussing *The Necessary Distinction*. From Concordia Publishing House (CPH): “*The distinction between law and gospel is an often overlooked necessity when comprehending Scripture.*”

In 13 essays, the book works through the implications of this distinction for preaching, pastoral care, liturgy, mission, and Christian living. Each book is \$20 and can be ordered through the CPH website. All are invited to join. Babysitting is provided.

If you'd like to volunteer to bring dinner, please sign up here: <https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/20f0d44aeaa29a46-wednesday1>

YARD SALE

This is Grace's second year offering VBS to our community. We offer participation both within our church and within our neighborhoods free of charge to participants. We want to offer as few impediments to participation as possible.

We believe that getting the Good News of the gospel to children is one of the highest callings of our church, and VBS is an excellent opportunity to answer this call. Fortunately, the LCMS's publishing arm produces engaging, clear, and creative materials to structure our VBS. These materials are not free, so we are calling on you, our congregation, as well with other members of our neighborhoods to help in fundraising.



Our largest fundraiser this year will be a community-wide yard sale. For \$25, you may rent a 10x10 foot space with a table from which you can sell all your treasures that need to find new homes. Other than the \$25 fee, you may keep all of your earnings—we won't take a single cent!

The date is Saturday, April 7 from 9am–4pm. We would like to have everyone loaded in and ready to go at 9am, but don't feel obligated to stay any longer than you would like. You may bring a sun tent or pavilion for shade or shower protection. We already have a fair number of participants from the neighborhood, but we are really hoping to have a good representation from Grace as well!

Please reach out to Danielle Durgin to reserve a space: atmacguyver2010@gmail.com or (404) 642-3450.

Save the Date: May 6

On Sunday, May 6, Grace will be hosting “Compassion Sunday” in support of Compassion International, a child-advocacy ministry that pairs compassionate people with those who are suffering from poverty. We ask that you prayerfully consider joining us on “Compassion Sunday” and sponsoring a child in need. **If you would like more information about this event or Compassion International, please contact Liesl Beaton at (901) 803-1090.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Community Yard Sale, April 7, 9am-4pm

Grace will be hosting a community yard sale to raise funds for this summer's Vacation Bible School, which we offer for free to all students. See inside this packet for more info.

Second Sunday Lunch, April 8

Join us after the service for fellowship and lunch. Location TBD.

Wednesday Night Supper and Bible Study, April 11, 6pm

Wednesday Night Bible Study is back after Easter! Dinner is at 6pm, and Bible Study is at 7pm. See inside this packet for more info.

Men's Breakfast, April 14, 7:30am

We will be joining together for men's fellowship at the Original Pancake House (2321 Cheshire Bridge Rd NE).

Hike and Picnic Lunch, April 14, 10:30am

All are invited to meet at Sweetwater Creek State Park (1750 Mt. Vernon Rd, Lithia Springs) for a hike and picnic. We will walk the trails and then gather to share a meal together. Please bring your own picnic lunch.

Fellowship Committee Meeting, April 15

The Fellowship Committee will be meeting after the service to plan events for the next six months (May - October). Anyone is welcome to attend and help with ideas and plan events!

Wednesday Night Supper and Bible Study, April 18 and 25, 6pm

Piety by the Pint, April 26, 7pm

Join us for brewed beverages and fine fellowship at Torched Hop Brewing Company (249 Ponce de Leon Ave). See inside this packet for more info.

Wednesday Night Supper and Bible Study, May 2, 6pm

First Sunday Oatmeal Breakfast, May 6, 9:45am

Wednesday Night Supper and Bible Study, May 9, 6pm

Second Sunday Lunch, May 13

Join us after the service for fellowship and lunch. Location TBD.

SERVICE ASSISTANTS

- » **4/1:** Lucien Lane (Worship Assistant), Kelley Wiedenmann and Blaire Wilson (Altar Care)
- » **4/8:** Don Collins (Worship Assistant), Jeff and Diane Raymond (Altar Care)
- » **4/15:** Jose Beaton (Worship Assistant), Sheila O'Kane and David Anwanwan (Altar Care)
- » **4/22:** Chad Wilson (Worship Assistant), John and Arlene Kateen (Altar Care)
- » **4/29:** Lucien Lane (Worship Assistant), Kelley Wiedenmann and Blaire Wilson (Altar Care)

IN OUR PRAYERS

- » **Our homebound member:** Marjorie Hunecke
- » **Continued healing:** Karleen Smith, Arlene Kateen, and Jan Ellison
- » **Expectant mothers:** Beth Ellsworth, Danielle Durgin, Laura Gollin
- » **For our mission partners:** Rev. Joseph Song, Stepping Stone, and Lutheran Services of Georgia

WEEKLY WORSHIP

- » **Children's Sunday School, Sundays 9:45am**
- » **Adult Bible Study, Sundays 9:45am**
- » **Young Adult Class, Sundays 9:45am**
- » **Worship Service, Sundays 11am**

WEEK AT GRACE

- » **Mondays: Nicotine Anonymous, 7pm**
- » **Tuesdays: Yoga Exercise Class, 6pm**
- » **Wednesdays: Supper and Bible Study, 6pm**
- » **Thursdays: Alcoholics Anonymous, 7pm**
- » **Saturdays: Yoga Exercise Class, 10am**

CONTACT US

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