

**Social Ministry: Food Pantry Collections**

Total for March donated to MSM
349 lbs. + 50 lbs. sugar



**NOW COLLECTING:**

- Mac and Cheese
- Pasta Sauce
- Easter baskets and individually wrapped Easter candy (every child needs an Easter basket!)
- Always – canned goods
- Socks and Underwear

Drop donations in collection boxes in the Narthex and by the mailboxes. Look for the label "One Can Do More"



<p><b>Main Street Mission</b>  <b>40 day Lent Challenge</b>          40 items – 40 days          Donate one item each day of Lent.</p>
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**Council Action Report (March 2019)**

- Minutes from the February 9, 2019 Council meeting were unanimously approved.
- A motion was made to approve a love offering for the Andrew & Kristen Furr family March 17 and March 24, 2019. The motion passed.
- A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. The motion passed.
- A motion was made based on the recommendation of the Finance Committee to reduce the hold amount on the Building Fund line from \$25,000 to the equivalent of three months' worth of payments to the FLC loan. The motion passed.

- A motion was made to table the job description of a Director of Youth and Family Ministries and send it to the Finance Committee and Stewardship Committee to review. The motion failed, 6-5.
- A motion to table the motion to approve the job description until next month with Finance. The motion passed 6-5.
- A motion was made for the Christian Education Committee to explore the Director of Youth and Family Ministries position with the congregation. The motion passed.
- A motion was made to send Lenten offerings to the Raymer family. The motion passed.
- A motion was made to collect a love offering for Kim Weddington on March 31 and April 7, 2019. The motion passed.



**NATIONAL QUILTING DAY**

National Quilting Day is held the third Saturday in March in order to celebrate quilts and the people who make them.

Quilters at Grace included 15 participants with three of those participants being new friends from the local community. Ten quilts were tacked, squares for four quilts were cut, and one quilt top was sewn. The goal this year is 125 quilts to be made for Lutheran World Relief.

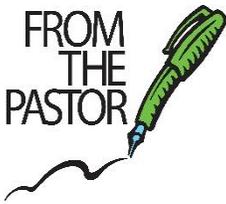
**PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT**

Recently the Property Committee dealt with two unexpected maintenance issues on the Grace Lutheran campus. First was the sump pump in the elevator foundation area failed, causing it to flood. It has since been replaced with the required explosion proof pump, at a cost of \$550.00. Rerouting the discharge from the pump will soon be done as well.

At the same time the HVAC unit, which covers the front basement area of the church, was in need of major repairs. After getting some

quotes and much discussion, it was decided that the repair cost was impractical for a 15 year old unit. The unit has now been replaced with a new one at a cost of \$3400.

While these things must be addressed from time to time, the Committee remains focused on looking for ways to reduce church building costs. In this light, they have recently taken advantage of a Duke Power program. At no cost, Duke has replaced several campus thermostats with programmable devices. While they will allow for controlled temperatures based on usage times, they can also be monitored remotely through a phone app. Another advantage to this system, is that while you can override them manually for specific circumstances, after a designated period of time they revert back to their programmed settings. The hope is that we will save on energy costs primarily during the air condition season.



#### SPRING INTO LIFE!

“In the light of a king's face there is life, and his favor is like the clouds that bring the spring rain.” Proverbs 16:15

As I write this, it is March 20<sup>th</sup>, the first day of Spring. The flowers that have been blooming were bitten harshly by the early morning frost today. Yet, the signs of new life continue to fill the landscape. The grass, once brown and lifeless, is now turning lush and green again. The melodious songs of the birds are filling the air once again. Calves are skipping through the pastures. The trees are filled with blossoms. The faint cry from the balcony of a new grandchild brings a smile to the face.

Over the past several months, we have witnessed our fair share of gloomy clouds and rain-lots of rain. But now we see the radiant light of the sun and the new life that glorious rain has help produce. Spring has come. The long, dark days of winter are behind us for a brief time. The long, hot days of summer loom on the horizon. For now, though, let us revel in new life. Let us celebrate life!

Life is the one miracle from God that we can all celebrate, no matter the season in which we find ourselves. Yet, springtime captures that celebration in so many vibrant and euphonious

ways. For in and through it, we see life erupting in wonder and beauty of God's creation.

It is such a blessing for us, for us who live in the northern hemisphere, that Easter comes in springtime. In this season of life, as new life is witnessed all around us and the daylight shines longer each day, the promise of life everlasting shines like the sun. Just as new life bursts forth after the cold, dark winter, life bursts forth from the cold, dark prison of death. Christ is alive! Let Christians Sing! Our Lenten journey leads to the fountain of life. He who died for our Sin has been raised. Death is not the end. Its cold, cruel darkness shall not encompass us forever; for it could not hold the Word of life and light. Death is not the final pronouncement. A new declaration has been made-LIFE! Eternal life! Resurrection life!

In the glorious light of our King's face, Jesus our Lord and King, there is life. We see His favor as it comes to us like the wonderful waters of life-giving rain. His radiance fills our hearts with joy and causes our mouths to open wide with melodies of praise and thanksgiving; praise and thanksgiving for death that brings forgiveness and healing and resurrection that brings life-everlasting.

Now is definitely a time to celebrate life. It is a time to be renewed in our own lives, as we witness the new life that is all around us. It is the time to rejoice-to be filled with joy again and again because Jesus lives. As we make our way to the Festival of the Resurrection of our Lord and the Eastertide that follows, may our hearts be filled with the love of God, the praise of God be on our tongues and flowing from our lips, and the life that is bursting forth all around us fill us with joy and celebration of the One who has conquered death and opened the gate of life forevermore-Jesus Christ, our Lord. Alleluia! Amen!

Happy Easter! Pastor Jerome

#### Holy Week Schedule:

**April 14:** Palm/Passion Sunday

**Thursday April 18:** Maundy Thurs. Service 7pm

**Friday April 19:** Good Friday Service 7pm.

**Sunday April 21:** Easter Sunrise Service 6:45am  
starting in the cemetery

**Easter Breakfast 8 am in FLC**

**Sunday School at 9:30am and Festival of the Resurrection of our Lord at 10:30am.**

### HERE ARE A FEW TIPS:

- Keep regular times for going to bed and getting up.
- Relax for an hour before going to bed.
- Avoid going to bed on a full or empty stomach.
- If you are not asleep after 20 minutes, go to another room until you once again feel tired.
- Many poor sleepers spend too much time in bed.
- Keep distracting things out of the bedroom.
- Get some sunlight during the day.
- Most adults need 7-9 hours of sleep a day.
- A late afternoon or evening nap may make it hard to sleep at night.



**IT'S VBS TIME!**  
(June 30-July 3)  
6-8pm  
Ages 2yrs.-5<sup>th</sup> grade  
Grace Lutheran  
Family Life Center  
5:15pm- Supper  
**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Pre-Register: [HTTP://TINYURL.COM/Y3AWBYVP](http://TINYURL.COM/Y3AWBYVP)

Interested in joining the VBS team? Think you'd enjoy leading the kids from space station to space station? Do you enjoy decorating? Want to help set up tables? Love singing or crafting with kids? Not sure how you can help? See Leslie Sechler or Kim Cloninger. We would love to have your help!

### ITEMS NEEDED FOR VBS DÉCOR:

Cardboard boxes, toilet paper rolls, paper towel rolls/wrapping paper rolls, plastic table cloths (black, blue, orange, yellow, red, white, silver) black lights and/or individual black light bulbs, neon poster board paper, white & black foam poster board, Alien (toy/stuffed animal/inflatable), silver/shiny foil & black streamers, Googly eyes (stick on), glow sticks.

Please place all items in Sunday School classroom across from nursery with a note that says "For VBS-décor".

We are taking a trip to Mars & Beyond! Please contact Cassandra Klutzz with any décor questions or décor/items that you may have. Thanks!



The Youth of Grace will be sponsoring the Kids of Grace Easter Egg Hunt on April 14<sup>th</sup> following the service. Put it on your calendar and plan to join us for lunch and Easter fun!

## RAYMER REFLECTIONS

Article submitted by Emily Weddington

In the last days of February, Whitaker Raymer, the 8-year-old son of missionaries Justin and Kristen Raymer, became ill. After a few days of no improvement, the family traveled six hours to the closest hospital in Tanzania, where they are living and serving with the Alagwa people. Then, for more specialized medical treatment, Whitaker was admitted to an isolation room at Kijabe Africa Inland Church Hospital in Kenya, an additional six hours from their home. After several tests, Whitaker was diagnosed with high grade lymphoma and plans were made for the family to travel by air ambulance back to the United States so Whitaker could start treatment at Duke University Medical Center. Upon arriving at Duke, Whitaker underwent additional tests to discern the exact type of cancer and formulate a treatment plan. The tests found that Whitaker has B Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL). Kristen shared the following details about his diagnosis:

"It's the most common type of childhood leukemia. It's completely treatable. It's curable. We'll go through three phases of treatment. Phase One is an intensive month of treatment which will start with 8-10 days in the hospital and involve 5 different medications. This is standard

procedure for B Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia and the treatment would be the same anywhere in the country (and lots of places around the world). After 8-10 days our medical team will evaluate and let us know if we are able to head back to Rowan County and transition to once or twice a week trips for treatment. After we finish that phase we'll move into Phase Two and come in for treatment every week/every other week for 6 months. Once we've completed 6 months our medical team will evaluate and we'll move into Phase Three which requires clinic visits and evaluation up to 3 years."

You can follow Whitaker's health journey on the following website:  
<https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/whitakermoses/journal>.

In addition to Whitaker's health, the family is facing additional challenges. Many of these challenges come from the uniqueness of the life they were leading before receiving the diagnosis. The family was not able to return to their home in Tanzania before traveling. The abruptness of this departure and the inability to say good-bye to the community they love has been difficult. Whitaker and Fiona miss their friends and Justin and Kristen worry about the families for whom they had become a refuge. Typically, children living abroad as missionaries undergo extensive preparation to help them acclimate to life back in the states. This was not possible for them, adding the additional stress of huge changes with such little notice. Then, there are the basic material needs. The family left North Carolina with the intention of being gone for several years before returning. While they did leave a few things in storage, they are now having to rebuild a temporary life back here.

#### Ways you can help:

Continue to pray for this precious family. Specific prayer requests include those for Whitaker's health, Fiona's transition, strength for Justin and Kristen, and wisdom for the medical team. Also, please continue to pray for the Alagwa people, that God will continue to work with and through them.

If you would like to send a card to Whitaker, Fiona, Justin or Kristen, please place them in Emily Weddington's box at church and she will get them to the family.

In closing, there are still many unknowns for the weeks and months ahead. Below is a message from AIM (African Inland Mission) Headquarters about the financial needs of the family:

"While the Raymer's are on medical leave, AIM would ask that you continue in your prayer & financial support of them. AIM covers a variety of benefits they need no matter where they live, and they need their salary to live on knowing that the US cost of living is higher than in Tanzania. Although they have medical insurance, there will be higher costs due to being back in the US for the needed treatment. Besides continuing support for them, there are other ways you can invest in the various needs that will arise. If you would like to give a gift to them that is tax deductible and can be used for medical costs, travel to & from hospital, rent as needed, etc., you can do that through AIM and give specifically to their HOME ASSIGNMENT account. There is a small administrative percentage that comes off but the rest goes directly into their account. And of course you are free to help them out anyway you like. Thank you for your investment in this family. They have left their mark in the lives & hearts of the Alagwa and it is our hope and prayer they will be able to return some day."



#### CEMETERY DUES

It is time to pay the \$5.00 annual cemetery maintenance fee. Each voting member should pay the \$5.00 maintenance fee. Please mark your envelope or use a brown envelope marked Cemetery Dues.



Have you ever wondered why your back hurts when you get out of bed in the morning or what can I do to prevent hurting my back when I

work in the yard? Then come to the Lutheran Men in Mission breakfast at 8am on Sunday, April 7. Our guest will be Ms. Joy Jost, PT, DPT, Cert. MDT, a Certified McKenzie Therapist with Novant Health Rehab Center Spine in Salisbury. Ms. Jost will discuss how to minimize our back pains and how stretching exercises will help our lives.

And if you would like to become part of an exercise program, you can join the Yoga Class that meets here at Grace in the FLC on Thursday evenings at 6:30pm. For more information you can see Leslie Sechler or Kristie Miller.

**SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**



**2019 GRACE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS**

- TAKE AN APPLICATION PACKET.
- FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY.
- DEADLINE IS MAY 5, 2019.
- SCHOLARSHIP AWARD DATE IS JUNE 2, 2019.

The Scholarship Committee announces the following scholarships and dates for the 2019 application and award process.

**Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church Scholarship**

For graduating high school seniors enrolled in college for the 2019 fall semester.

**Crawford and Eva Sloop Scholarship**  
**William F. and Cornie Menius Allman Memorial Scholarship** – The earned interest from both scholarships supports scholarships for current undergraduate college students enrolled in college for the 2019 fall semester.

**Important Dates**

**April 14-28, 2019** - Beginning April 14 and continuing through April 28 the scholarship application will be online and on the bulletin board next to the nursery. Announcements will also be online and in the bulletin.

**May 5, 2019** Application due date. Committee will review applicants received.

**June 2, 2019** – Scholarship Award Sunday.



The Spring Gathering for the Rowan Conference of the Women of the ELCA will be held at Lutheran Chapel Church in China Grove on

Saturday, April 6, 2019 beginning at 9:30am. The program: “Called to be Women in Mission” presented by Terri Brown. Registration is \$8.00. Please let Terri Brown know if you plan to attend. The Spring Regular offering goes to: Days for Girls, 2019 Pennies Offering goes to: Vigilante Trust. Checks for all Gathering Offerings should be made payable to NC Women of the ELCA.

**EXAM KIT DONATIONS** – We will be putting together exam bags for our college students who are in their undergraduate studies. Please help out by donating items – various snacks, water, water flavoring packets, sticky notes, pens/highlighters, fun stress relief items, and an encouraging note, etc. Items can be placed in the box beneath mailboxes through April 14. Please give the names of college students to Angela Lippard ASAP. Thanks.

**MISSION SUPPORT 2018**

To the members of Grace from the NC Synod of the ELCA in grateful appreciation for giving \$23,190.50 for Mission Support beyond the congregation for synodical and church-wide ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.