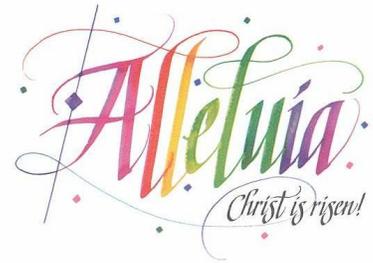




# Grace to You

April, 2018, newsletter for  
Grace Episcopal Church  
119 West Humbird Street  
P.O. Box 477  
Rice Lake, WI 5486



[gracetou@chibardun.net](mailto:gracetou@chibardun.net)

[www.gracechurch-ricelake.org](http://www.gracechurch-ricelake.org)

The Very Rev. H. Scott Kirby,  
Priest in Charge

715 234-4226

715 434-1040 Church Circuit number



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## *The Presiding Bishop's* **Easter 2018 Message**

Hello on Palm Sunday from St George's Cathedral in Jerusalem.

There is a passage in the 27th Chapter of Matthew's gospel where religious leaders, political leaders come together once again after Jesus has been crucified and executed, after he had been buried in the tomb. Once again they come together to seal the tomb, to make sure not even a rumor of his resurrection will happen. And this is what some of them say:

Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may go and steal him away and tell the people he has been raised from the dead. And the last deception will be the worse than the first.

It is easy to overlook, and sometimes convenient to forget, that Jesus was executed, Jesus was crucified by an unholy alliance of religion, politics, and economic self-interest.

Politics represented in Pontius Pilate, governor of the Roman Empire, representative of that very empire and all of its power.

King Herod, who heard Jesus at one of the trials, representative of the Herodian and economic self-interest at the time.

The Chief Priest, representative of religious aristocracies who had a vested interest in the status quo.

These three powers came together – economic, religious and political – to crucify the one who taught love the lord your God, love your neighbor, and actually live that way.

The truth is the message of Jesus was unsettling to the world then as it is unsettling to the world now.

And yet that very message is the only source of hope in life for the way of the cross, the way of unselfish living, the way of sacrificial living, seeking the good, the welfare of the other before one's own unenlightened self-interest. That way of the cross is the way of love. That is the nature of love. And that way is the only hope for the entire human family.

The reality is the way of Jesus was a threat to the way that the world is, and hope for the way the world can and will be.

But on that third day after the crucifixion, when by the titanic power of God, by the power of the love of God, Jesus was raised from the dead. God sent a message and declared that death does not have the last word. Hatred does not have the last word. Violence does not have the last word. Bigotry does not have the last word. Sin, evil do not have the last word. The last word is God, and God is love.

On our pilgrimage here, we stopped and spent two days in Jordan. In Amman, Jordan, we were able to spend some sacred and blessed and painful time with Iraqi Christians. These are Christians, many of whom are Anglican, who have fled their country in

Iraq because of war and violence and hatred and desecration. They have given up everything, refusing to renounce their faith in Jesus Christ. And there in Jordan, with the help of the Anglican Church there and many other relief agencies, they are at least safe, hoping to find safe and permanent homes in other countries.

In the course of our conversations, and listening to them, at one point I found myself quoting a hymn, a song that many folk have heard around Easter, certainly in our country. And I didn't expect a response. You probably know how it goes – it says, "because he lives," referring to Jesus and his resurrection, "because he lives, I can face tomorrow." When I quoted that song, those who have lost their homes, people who have lost everything except life itself, those who have lost loved ones, actually responded to the words of that song. When I said, "Because He lives I can face tomorrow." When I said Jesus is alive, He's been raised from the dead, I saw them lift up their heads and respond with the words amen, hallelujah.

My brothers and sisters, evil could not stop him. Death could not stop him. Violence could not stop him. For the love of God, the heart of God, the reality of God is stronger than anything else. And Jesus really rose from the dead on that first resurrection morning.

God love you. God bless you. And, may this Easter season be the first day of the rest of our lives.

Amen.

**The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry**  
**Presiding Bishop and Primate**  
**The Episcopal Church**

# Alleluia!

# Christ is Risen!

## From our Bishop Jay Lambert:

Ellen Allison and Deb Lorenze were in Haiti March 8-15 as part of the Diocese of Milwaukee Haiti Project serving St. Marc's Church, School, and Clinic in Jeanette, Haiti. Ellen and Deb are both Registered Nurses who, along with others, have rebuilt the Clinic from what was non-functional into something that reflects the high quality of the school. The place is clean, medications are inventoried, people are seen and cared for, and there is now an excellent physician in charge. The Diocese of Eau Claire was entrusted by the Haiti Project to turn the Clinic around. I went with our nurses to Jeanette in January of 2016. The Clinic was rat infested and not worthy of being called a medical facility. The change in two years is remarkable! More improvements are planned. A major goal that is now funded is to lay ceramic tile over the current concrete floors. This will help the Clinic in terms of cleanliness and be more attractive. The goal for Deb, Ellen, and many other Eau Claire medical people is to work with local nurses to enable them to keep up this good work. They are making strides in this direction. Congratulations to our superb medical team!

*Editor's note: We hope to have the team back in Rice Lake to give us another first-hand report.*





### Prayer Requests May Be

- Telephoned to Mary Thompson at 715 234-7126
- Emailed to marthomp45@gmail.com
- Submitted on our website [www.gracechurch-ricelake.org](http://www.gracechurch-ricelake.org)

### April



- 3 Sheila Drolson
- 6 Tom Yeakley
- 9 Bambridge Peterson
- 15 Nancy Plourde
- 17 Wayne North
- 22 Andrew Fowler
- 22 Taylor Beranek
- 24 Andy Leair
- 25 Marv Thompson
- 28 *Bev & Steve Salisbury*
- 29 Dakota Leair
- 29 Olivia Lick
- 30 Rob Funck

### Your Vestry

- Paul Chase, Sr. Warden
- Marv Thompson, Jr. Warden
- LaVonne Thompson, Clerk
- Tom Yeakley, Treasurer
- Janelle Gruetzmacher (2019)
- Suzanne Funck (2019)
- Greta Franti (2020)
- Eileen Yeakley (2020)
- Lynn Fowler (2021)
- Steve Harback (2021)



# CHURCH OF FELONS

The Captivating True Story of Addiction, Loss, and Redemption.

A harrowing tale of four recovering addicts seeking redemption for their crimes in the unforgiving heart of addiction country

An award-winning documentary about addiction, loss and redemption in northwestern Wisconsin, will be shown at the Rice Lake High School Auditorium on Friday, April 27 at 6:30 p.m. It will be followed by a question and answer discussion, featuring the movie's director and some of the men highlighted in the film. Major sponsors of this film event include the Rice Lake Ministerial Association, the Barron County's Sheriff Department, Red Cedar Church, the Rice Lake Area School District and Washburn County Health and Human Services. Tickets are \$5 and are available at Marketplace.

Wisconsin is the most addicted state in America. There's no minimum drinking age. DUI offenders get a slap on the wrist – until tragedy strikes. Those who survive are branded as felons for the rest of their lives.

Church of Felons follows four recovering addicts in a rural Wisconsin church who agree to reveal hidden truths about their criminal pasts. When they speak the unspeakable, the shockwaves reverberate from their own families through the entire Polk County judicial system.

This film questions our perception of addiction and crime in America. With twists at the end you'll never expect, you may soon begin questioning what you believe.

This small town has a history of drug and alcohol abuse, and a justice system strictly bent on protecting victims. Now that they've cleaned up, it's time to right their wrongs, and ask for a second chance. From meth manufacturing and distribution, to alcohol-fueled arson rampages, to vehicular homicide, these felons are begging for grace....

Are these felons lost to a life of condemnation? Can Wisconsin turn itself around?



# April Ministry Schedule

<b>The Service</b>	<b>April 1 Easter Day 10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>April 8 2 Easter Holy Eucharist</b>	<b>April 15 3 Easter Morning Prayer</b>	<b>April 22 4 Easter Holy Eucharist</b>	<b>April 29 5 Easter Morning Prayer</b>	<b>May 6 6 Easter Morning Prayer</b>
<b>Celebrant</b>	The Very Rev. H. Scott Kirby	The Very Rev. H. Scott Kirby	Lynn Fowler, Worship Leader	The Very Rev. H. Scott Kirby	Mary Marsh, Worship Leader	Paul Chase, Worship Leader
<b>Organist</b>	Heidi Olson	Heidi Olson	Heidi Olson		Heidi Olson	Heidi Olson
<b>Crucifer</b>	Paul Chase	Joe Burnap	X	Craig Fowler	X	X
<b>Thurifer</b>	Jon Olson	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Lector</b>	Jim Pelish	Stephanie Drost	Paul Chase	Lynn Fowler	Suzanne Funck	Mary Marsh
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Lynn & Craig Fowler	Bev Burnap & Mary Marsh	X	Jon Olson & Nancy Pelish	X	X
<b>Ushers</b>	Marv & Mary Thompson	Ty & Janelle Gruetzmacher	Bev & Joe Burnap	Paul Chase & Greta Franti	Craig & Lynn Fowler	Jim & Nancy Pelish
<b>Counters</b>	Marv Thompson Jim Pelish Joe Burnap	Ty Gruetzmacher Mary Ellen Filkins	Joe Burnap Jim Pelish	Lynn Fowler Nancy Bender	Nancy Bender Marv Thompson	Jim Pelish Craig Fowler
<b>Coffee Hour Hosts</b>	ECW	Janelle Gruetzmacher	Nancy Pelish	Greta Franti	Mary Thompson	Lynn Fowler

**If you are unable to serve as scheduled, please try to find your own substitute.**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 7:30 p.m. Crystal Meth Anonymous in the basement room	<b>2</b> 6:00 p.m. AA 8:00 p.m. NA Both meetings in the basement room	<b>3</b> 7:00 p.m. AA in the basement room	<b>4</b> 5:30 p.m. AA 8:00 p.m. NA All meetings in the basement room	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 12:00 Noon AA 8:00 p.m. NA All meetings in the basement room	<b>7</b> 8:00 p.m. NA in the basement room
<b>8</b> <b>6:00 p.m. Klondike Rustlers 4-H in the Great Room</b> 7:30 p.m. Crystal Meth Anonymous in the basement room	<b>9</b> <b>7:00 p.m. PEO in the Great Room</b> 6:00 p.m. AA 8:00 p.m. NA Both meetings in the basement room	<b>10</b> <b>4:30-6:30 p.m. YANA Breast Cancer Support group in Great Room</b> 7:00 p.m. AA in the basement room	<b>11</b> 5:30 p.m. AA 8:00 p.m. NA All meetings in the basement room	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 12:00 Noon AA 8:00 p.m. NA All meetings in the basement room	<b>14</b> 8:00 p.m. NA in the basement room
<b>15</b> 7:30 p.m. Crystal Meth Anonymous in the basement room	<b>16</b> 6:00 p.m. AA 8:00 p.m. NA Both meetings in the basement room	<b>17</b> 7:00 p.m. AA in the basement room	<b>18</b> 5:30 p.m. AA 8:00 p.m. NA All meetings in the basement room	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 12:00 Noon AA 8:00 p.m. NA All meetings in the basement room	<b>21</b> 8:00 p.m. NA in the basement room
<b>22</b> 7:30 p.m. Crystal Meth Anonymous in the basement room	<b>23</b> 6:00 p.m. AA 8:00 p.m. NA Both meetings in the basement room	<b>24</b> 7:00 p.m. AA in the basement room	<b>25</b> 5:30 p.m. AA 8:00 p.m. NA All meetings in the basement room	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 12:00 Noon AA 8:00 p.m. NA All meetings in the basement room	<b>28</b> 8:00 p.m. NA in the basement room
<b>29</b> 7:30 p.m. Crystal Meth Anonymous in the basement room	<b>30</b> 6:00 p.m. AA 8:00 p.m. NA Both meetings in the basement room					