

Grace Lutheran Church

239 E North St
Hastings MI 49058



Website: www.grace-hastings.org
Facebook: Grace Lutheran Church-ELCA Hastings, MI

Phone: (269) 945-9414
(269) 945-2645

Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
April 14, 2024

Third Sunday of Easter

April 14, 2024

The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.

Welcome

Gathering Music

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Arise in body or Spirit.

Easter Good News

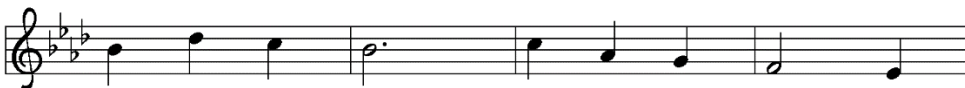
- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!
C **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**
- A** This is the day that the Lord has made;
C **we will rejoice and be glad in it!**
- P** The Lord is my strength and my song.
C **The Lord has become my salvation.**
- A** Open to me the gates of righteousness;
C **I will go through them and praise the Lord.**
- P** I shall not die, but live,
C **and declare the works of the Lord.**
- A** This is the day that the Lord has made;
C **we will rejoice and be glad in it!**



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!
 2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter
 3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;
 4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent:
 5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!
 tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;
 life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;
 death put a - sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright.
 gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!
 break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:
 heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,
 Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!
 riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
 Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.
 gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.
 Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.
 sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!



Refrain
 Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

Easter Greeting

☐ Holy people of God, given new life through the resurrected Christ, and enlightened by the Spirit: grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.

☑ **And also with you.**



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.



2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



God; to make all things new.

Prayer of the Day

- Ⓐ Let us pray . . . Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children.
- ☑ **Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

First Reading

Acts 3:12-19

After healing a man unable to walk, Peter preaches to the people, describing how God's promises to Israel have been fulfilled in Jesus. Through the proclamation of Christ's death and resurrection, God is offering them forgiveness and restoration in Jesus' name.

- ℣ A reading from **Acts**:

¹²[Peter] addressed the people, “You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk?¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. ¹⁴But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

¹⁷“And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.”

- ℣ The word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: 4




Refrain



¹Answer me when I call, O God, defender¹ of my cause;
you set me free when I was in distress; have mercy on me and¹ hear my prayer.

²**You mortals, how long will you dishon-¹ or my glory;
how long will you love illusions and seek¹ after lies?"**


³Know that the LORD does wonders¹ for the faithful;
the LORD will hear me¹ when I call.

⁴**Tremble, then, and¹ do not sin;
speak to your heart in silence up-¹ on your bed.** 

⁵Offer the appointed¹ sacrifices,
and put your trust¹ in the LORD.

⁶**Many are saying, "Who will show us¹ any good?"
Let the light of your face shine upon¹ us, O LORD.**

⁷You have put gladness¹ in my heart,
more than when grain and¹ wine abound.

⁸**In peace, I will lie¹ down and sleep;
for you alone, O LORD, make me¹ rest secure.** 

God has loved us in order to make us children of God. Though we do not yet know the full details of our future existence, we trust that God will reveal it just as God revealed Jesus to take away our sins.

L A reading from **1 John:**

¹See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

⁴Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

L The word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Congregation:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, - Lord to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life: Al - le - lu - ia!

In this account of an appearance after his resurrection, Jesus opens the minds of the disciples to understand him as Messiah. Jesus convinces them that he has been raised and sends them on a mission to proclaim the message of repentance and forgiveness.

- ☐ The Resurrection Gospel according to **Luke**.
- ☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

^{36b}Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things.”

- ☐ The Gospel of the Risen Christ.
- ☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children’s Message

All children [including infants] and youth who desire to come forward for the children’s sermon are welcomed and encouraged to do so. Parents/caregivers are welcome to accompany their child during the children’s message.

Message

Silence for reflection. After reflection,



1 A - round you, O Lord Je - sus, your own you gath - er still
 2 We hear your in - vi - ta - tion, and heed, O Lord, your call;
 3 We are your own for - ev - er; un - til our fi - nal breath



to share the feast you give us with grace our lives to fill.
 your word of con - so - la - tion is spo - ken here to all.
 we will be true and nev - er— in joy, in grief, in death—



You say to us so lov - ing - ly, "Take, eat! This is my
 It draws us to your lov - ing heart; it brings to us your
 de - part from you, for you are still a - mong your peo - ple



bod - y! Take, drink! This is my blood!"
 bless - ing, which nev - er will de - part.
 dwell - ing, as you have said you will.

Prayers

*We pray the prayer response after each petition. You will hear, **Hear us, O God.** The assembly prays, **You give us new life.***

A Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence

A O God our holy one, you feed our deepest hungers. As we share the holy meal that is the body and blood of Jesus given for us, lead us to share all that we have, and find, in generosity, abundant life. Watch over and direct *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants Chrissy and David, our synod companion Harbor of Grace Lutheran Church, Muskegon; Pleasant View Church, Dowling; Emmanuel Episcopal of Hastings (A Priest has accepted their call); Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* Hear us, O God.

C **You give us new life.**

A O God our creator, you bring forth all life on earth. Calm storms, bring water to parched places, and protect the climate, that this planet would sustain life in all its variety. Hear us, O God.

C **You give us new life.**

A O God our savior, you offer wisdom and guidance beyond all human knowledge. Instruct lawmakers, judges, and elected officials to make decisions grounded in your justice and care for all people. Be with those who safeguard the world, including *Parker Stancil (Freedlund), Cody and Myrina Crawford (Clements), Cynthia Rudesill (Hansen), Joel Taggart (Varkula), Julia Ehredt (Schreiner, Halstead), and Seth Domke (Domke).* Hear us, O God.

C **You give us new life.**

A O God our elder, you care for all your children. Encourage those who are in times of transition, facing the loss of old ways and routines and anticipating change. Guide those who journey in grief, hope, pain, and uncertainty *especially Pastor Michael Anton, Veronica Baarson, Bob Bolton, Frank Bolton, Diana Brown, Walter Brown, Chris Bush, Cherie Clements, Pat DePew, Allison Domke (pregnancy), Bob and Bonnie Ehredt, Lisa Golnek, Easton Greenfield, Caitlyn Habben (pregnancy), Lorraine Handsbarger, Diane Hawkins, Jamie Heise (pregnancy), Virginia Henion, Dennis Loewenstein, Larry Maupin, Bill Miller and family, Martha Misak, Virginia Moomey, James Neiderheiser, Jan Northrup, Lisa Nurenberg, Corinna Palmer, Rick Palmer, Sharon Palmer, Shirley Peterson, Annette Poholski, Patty Renne, Jennifer Rohr, Mike Shoemaker, Ron Smith, Al Throop, George Ulrich Jr., Jeanette Ulrich, and Brenda Watson.* Hear us, O God.

C **You give us new life.**

A O God our center, you bring all people together in you. Help us to remember our identity and purpose in our ministry. Move us to love our neighbors as ourselves and to share in beloved community. Hear us, O God.

C **You give us new life.**

A O God our resting place, your Son Jesus promised that we are held in your love forever. We remember our beloved who have died.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

As we remember and share their love, comfort those who mourn. Hear us, O God.

C **You give us new life.**

P Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

C **Amen.**

Sharing the Peace of God

P The peace of risen Christ be with you.

C **And also with you.**

(We share the peace of Christ with one another.)

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Offering Prayer

- Let us pray . . . Be known to us, O Lord, as you were made known to the disciples.
- Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

- The Lord be with you.
- And also with you.
- Lift up your hearts.
- We lift them to the Lord.

☐ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

☑ **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

☐ It is our duty and delight, that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, through Jesus Christ who calls us to follow the way of humble service and love, and so, with the church on earth all creation and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Table Prayer

☐ It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should always and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through Jesus Christ, who by his death on the cross and glorious resurrection broke the bonds of sin and death and gave life to all creation.

☑ **By dying on the cross, Jesus has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.**

☐ In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

☑ **Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.**

☐ Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

☑ **This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.**

☐ With thanksgiving we take this bread and this cup and proclaim the mystery of faith.

☑ **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

☐ Pour your Holy Spirit upon us as we share this meal in the body and blood of our Lord.

☑ **Make us one with Christ and with all who share this feast. Unite us in faith, encourage us with hope, inspire us to love, that we may serve as your faithful people until we feast at your table in glory.**

Lord's Prayer

☐ Gathered by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught:

☑ **Our Father in heaven, holy be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

- ☐ Holy things for holy people.
- ☑ **One is holy, one is Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God.**

☐ Taste and see that the Lord is good.

☑ **Thanks be to God!**

Please Sit.

Communion Songs:

Lamb of God




Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world: have mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us,
mer-cy on us.

Additional Verses:

**You break the chains of hatred and fear:
You are the way of justice and peace:
You are the way of mercy and love:
You are the bread of life for us all:
You pour your Holy Spirit on us:**

Final time:



Lamb of God, you
take a-way the sin of the world: grant us peace,
grant us peace, grant us peace.



1 As we gath-er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
 2 Turn our wor-ship in - to wit-ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
 3 Gra-cious Spir - it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
 send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.
 where tri - um-phant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
 Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for - give as you for - gave;
 There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.
 may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
 as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound-ing joy.



1 With high de - light let us u - nite in
 2 True God, he first from death has burst forth
 3 Let prais - es ring; give thanks, and bring to



songs of great ju - bi - la - tion. You pure in heart, all
 in - to life, all sub - du - ing. His en - e - my now
 Christ our Lord ad - o - ra - tion. His hon - or speed by



bear your part, sing Je - sus Christ, our sal - va - tion. To
 van - quished see; his death has been death's un - do - ing. "And
 word and deed to ev - 'ry land, ev - 'ry na - tion. So



set us free for - ev - er, he is ris'n and sends to
 yours shall be like vic - to - ry o'er death and grave," says
 shall his love give us a - bove, from mis - er - y and



all earth's ends good news to save ev - 'ry na - tion.
 he, who gave his life for us, life re - new - ing.
 death set free, all joy and full con - so - la - tion.

Prayer after Communion

- Ⓐ Let us pray . . . Living God, you have greeted us in our brokenness and nourished us with the body of Christ, broken for us.
- Ⓑ **Risen to new life with you, send us now to bear your healing love into the wounded world, in the name of our risen Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Please be seated.

Mission Minutes

Arise in body or spirit.

Blessing

☐ Alleluia! Christ is risen.

☑ **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

☐ The blessing of the Lord God Almighty, the blessing of + Christ, the Lamb who was slain, and the blessing of the Holy Spirit of truth be among you and remain with you always.

☑ **Amen.**

Sending Song

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

ELW 674



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:
2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,
3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!

Refrain



Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

Dismissal

☐ Alleluia! Christ is risen.

☑ **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

☐ You are the body of Christ raised up for the world. Go in peace. Share the good news.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

From Fear to Faith

Fight, flight, or freeze: that's how our bodies tend to react when we perceive danger. Our heart rate increases, our breathing speeds up, and even our vision changes to take in our surroundings quickly so we can protect ourselves. When Jesus appeared to the disciples on the evening of his resurrection, they seemed to be in the middle of a fight, flight, or freeze response. Their Lord had been crucified. They didn't know what to do next. When Jesus suddenly stood among them, they froze in shock and fear. Jesus overcame the disciples' fright by showing his hands and feet and by eating a piece of fish. As they looked at the scars and watched him eat, the truth of his resurrection dawned on them. The disciples' inclination to fight, flee, or freeze melted away.

Once Jesus had brought the disciples back to a calm resting state, he opened their minds to understand how he had accomplished God's plan to save the world. Jesus told the disciples that now that he was risen, it was their turn to tell his story in Jerusalem and to the ends of the earth. Joy started to flicker in the disciples' hearts as Jesus freed them from fear. He gave them a purpose: to be his witnesses. They were to free others by sharing the good news that Jesus had died and risen again to forgive their sins and give the gift of eternal life to all who believe.

In our world today, many voices spread fear. It's easy to focus on those voices, feel overwhelmed, and freeze. But Jesus came to free us *from* fear and to free us *for* faith. Receiving the bread and wine of his supper reminds us that Jesus lived, died, and rose again for our salvation. We don't have to be afraid of anything. Holy communion strengthens us to be his witnesses and to do his work in the world so others can be set free by the good news of Jesus' love.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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8:00 am

Assisting Minister – Mark Anton

Lector – Tim Schoessel

Cantor – Cindy Olson

Musician – Cindy Olson

Pastor – Mike Kemper

10:45 am

Assisting Minister – Traci Wales

Lector – Bill Freedlund

Cantor – Vickey Argo

Musician – Cindy Olson

Pastor – Mike Kemper

Fellowship – Jeanette Markwart

We hope you find what we have found - a loving Jesus who welcomes all. No matter your background or faith tradition, you will find that Grace Lutheran Church is a place that is full of love, care, and support. We are pleased that you are here among us to worship the risen Christ who breathes new life into us.

Stewardship Information

Please use this QR Code to access online giving.



Attendance: 33
Weekly Giving: \$1,545.00

Views: 574
Budget Amount: \$4,366.17

Grace Projects Goal \$25,252.00
Received To Date - \$ 1,575.00
Total Needed \$23,677.00

Given this week toward Grace Projects: \$5.00

We welcome Pastor Mike Kemper as preacher and presider today. We are blessed with many pastors that are filling in as Pastor Scheck is taking time away seeking God’s peace, healing, and transformation. We are thankful for God’s Holy Spirit who sustains Grace Lutheran Church during this time of refreshment, renewal, and trust in God’s guidance during this time.

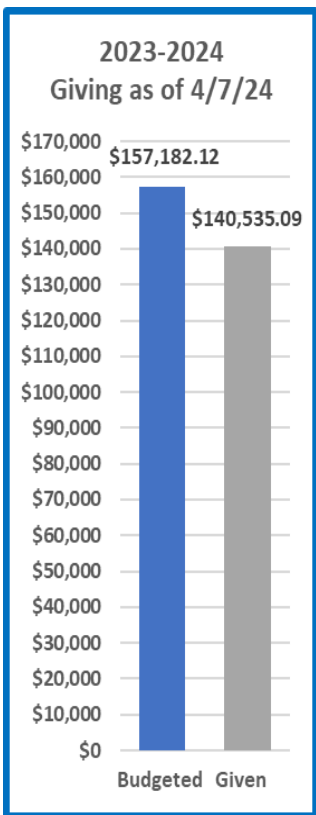
Change of Address The family of Doris Allerdig sends thanks for the Easter flowers and to let us know of a new address. Notes and cards can be sent to...

Doris Allerdig
c/o Mallard Pond – Room #15
1821 N Easter Street
Hastings, MI 49058

Noisy Offering will be collected today to benefit Barry County Cares. You may place coins and other money into the silver bowl located in the front during the singing of the offertory song. Noisy Offering is taken every second Sunday.

Adult Forum please join us at 9:30 with Joe Longcor leading the study.

Please Note the office will be closed on Thursday, April 25th.



The nursery is available weekly during the 10:45 worship service. Aurora Collins is the Nursery Attendant. She would love to have some little ones visit her. Please spread the word that Grace provides childcare during this worship service.

Women of Faith meet Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m. All ladies are welcome. A reminder that if Hastings Schools are closed due to inclement weather we will not meet. Thank you.

Spring Flower Sale \$6.00 each. Orders due Wednesday, May 6th, with pick-up on **Saturday, May 11th from 9:00 a.m. until NOON.** Order forms are available in the bulletin and May GraceGram. We thank Erin Franks and Shayna Gibbons for facilitating this sale.

First Aid and CPR Training Saturday, April 27 from 12:30 until 7:00 there will be a full course of adult, child and infant CPR, AED, and First Aid training for \$90. On Monday, April 29 from 2:30 until 5:30 there will be a CPR renewal/challenge class for \$60. On Sunday, April 28 from 3:15 until 5:00 there will be a FREE basic CPR and AED awareness class. For more information on any of these opportunities, please see the flyer in the Gathering Area, or contact Kim Domke at 269.908.0024 or kdomke08@gmail.com.

Turkeyville Dinner Theater *Oklahoma* is now scheduled for Friday, May 17th for those who have purchased tickets. This is a date change from Saturday, the 18th. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Bill Freedlund.

The 20th Annual Thornapple Jazz Festival is happening here at Grace on Friday, April 26 from 9:00-3:00. The schedule for the day's events at Grace is posted on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area. There are additional events scheduled in other locations around Hastings. Please see www.tacjazzfestival.org for more information.



Hand2Hand Program provides food over the weekend to students at Hastings schools. We are collecting donations of Yoo-Hoo Chocolate Milk, pudding cups, Slim Jims, granola bars, individual size instant oatmeal, ramen noodles, and ready-to-eat mac and cheese. They are in additional need of microwave popcorn, individual apple sauce cups, and Knorr Alfredo Pasta. This month's donations are **due Sunday, April 28th**. Thank you for your continued support.