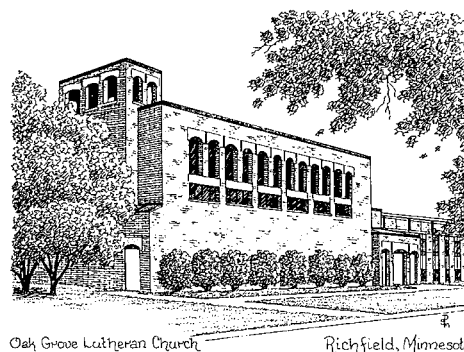


Jesus in HIS Prayers

Wednesdays in Lent

March 9th - April 13th

7:00 PM



Week 1: (Ash Wednesday): Jesus Prays with Us.

Matthew 6:9-13

Week 2: Jesus Prays in Thanksgiving

Matthew 11:25-26

Week 3: Jesus Prays in Anticipation of the End

John 12:27-28

Week 4: Jesus Prays for Us

John 17

Week 5: Jesus Prays the Agony of Gethsemane

Matthew 26:39, 42

Week 6: Jesus Prays from the Cross

The Seven Last Words



March 2011

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March Birthdays

- 1 – Mackenzie Curry, Dorla Dagner
- 2 – Joshua Wilkes
- 3 – Robert Smith
- 4 – Molly Olson-Blomgren, Ryan Risch, Wanda Thompson
- 5 – Amy Bihari, William Hinton
- 7 – Jack Howard
- 8 – Pam Gmitro
- 9 – Lydia Kranz, Thomas Munson, Carol Swenson, Josh Zoellmer
- 10 – Erin Bohler, Lee Dare, Susan Morris
- 11 – Amanda Blomgren, Garfield Hoversten
- 12 – Charles Anderson, Wendy Larson, Anna Swenson
- 13 – Katie Guzman, Gordon Hanson, Michelle Murphy
- 14 – Noah Andrews, Butch Lupkes
- 15 – Jacob Beaudet, Michelle Stuermer
- 17 – Joyce Andreotti, Richard Jefferson, Kaitlyn Longley
- 18 – Corey Olson
- 20 – Holly Blades, Lucille Brandell
- 21 – Bonnie Oien
- 22 – Alison Best, Trevor Kroyer, Kaela Morris, Jeff Nycklemoe
- 23 – Lillian Campbell, Hal Eichler, Kathryn Johnson, Tammy Koppang
- 24 – Linda Dare, Nicole Harms, Philip D. Olson, Anona Swenson, Sarah Swenson
- 25 – Kathryn Jefferson, Lauren Kielty, Terry Polzin
- 26 – Marlene Scarlett
- 27 – Don Mueller, Elizabeth Tammen
- 28 – Lucas Becker, David Clendening, Deanna Hawke
- 29 – Gary Koppang, Ramone Morris, Gary Strom, Lily Svitak, Bonnie Wells
- 31 – Jessica Horner, Evelyn Kriesel, Eleanor Stok, Eric Worringer

Circle Meetings for March

All Circles are Tuesday, March 1, unless noted

Esther – 7:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

Char Anderson, Hostess

Katherine – 1:30 p.m. at Jeannette Bollum's,
6615 Lake Shore Drive #505

Lydia-Ruth – 7 p.m.

Rebecca – 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall
Anona Swenson, Hostess

Sarah Bible Study Group – 1:00 p.m. in the
Fireside Room



Deaths

We extend our sympathies to the following families:

Edith Nelson, who died January 13. Her funeral was held at Oak Grove on January 17. Edith was our oldest Oak Grove member.

Rev. Frank Andersen, who died February 1. His funeral was held at Oak Grove on February 5.

YOU DID IT!

We delivered 225 sets of towels to Bridging and they were THRILLED! They had recently been giving families one set of towels for each two people because they were so short! A big thank you to all of you! You're the best!!

People finishing 7-9th grade, save Monday, June 20th for a Summer Stretch/ELCA Day at Valleyfair!
(More details to come.)

If questions, please talk with Mary Kaye Ashley (612) 532-7083 or Julie Tvete,
jtvete@comcast.net



Make a Real Difference

I realize that on the day of your reading this there may be a new foot of late winter snow on your driveway, but on the day of this writing the temperature is edging above 50°F and the balmy air is putting the hope of spring in our minds. Leaning back in my office chair, it's not hard to imagine an evening soon to arrive, easing back in a comfy chair on the deck, the grill heating up, basking in the delights of winter's end. Then, slap! Darn mosquitoes are here already.

We Minnesotans complain about them—even joke about the bugs being our “state bird”—but, compared to many, our sufferings are slight. I know I consider it taxes well-spent when I see the helicopter of the Mosquito Control District swooping low over the nearby marsh each spring, dropping poison on the wriggling larvae in the water. And it's not just the itching. West Nile virus and La Crosse encephalitis are nasty diseases and nothing to trifle with. Better to get them before they get us.

Which is why we might have a true and deep sympathy for people around the world who suffer greatly from the mosquito-borne disease malaria. The statistics of people die from infected mosquito bites are staggering. Malaria is mostly

fatal to newborns and pregnant women and their unborn children, but older kids, too and adults in their prime die from the disease. The thing is: malaria is treatable and preventable! Our synod is part of the ELCA's Malaria Campaign, and starting in March, Oak Grove is joining in this effort to pray, learn, give and advocate to contain malaria throughout the world.

Part of the good news is that our Sunday School kids are going to help lead us in this effort. As they have taken on service projects in the past during Lent they are making this disease and its prevention their focus this year. Here are two things YOU can do right now:

1) Plan on attending the forum time on Sunday, March 6 to learn more about this project. 2) Start saving your change (paper \$ works, too) for the “noisy offering” on Palm Sunday. Money raised will go to provide sleeping nets to protect families, spray homes with insecticides, provide medications, control environments where mosquitoes breed, and educate people about prevention, diagnosis and treatment. It's more that just a matter of health. It's a matter of justice.

Pastor Tom Zarth

Sundays, between the services. . . *It's not just for kids!*

March 6th

Preventing a Deadly Rampage—Malaria

Mary Simonson Clark, coordinator of Our Malaria Work of the Minneapolis Area Synod is our guest, along with Henry Dolopei of Liberia. They will begin our praying, learning, giving and advocating work during Lent. Come and hear about this deadly disease that takes the life of a child every 45 seconds and about what YOU can do about it.

March 13, 20, 27

Is This The Time? Interpreting the Mystery of Revelation

Presented by Dr. Craig Koester, professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary, this video series and discussion time helps us discover Revelation's message of God's love and hope for the world, shrouded in symbolism, prophecy, conflict and fear. This comes highly recommended!

Notes of Thanks. . .

Thank you to those who participated in Angel Tree this year. Those who purchased gifts were: Jonita Gomez, Robert Athey, Dawn Sankey, Kathryn Stratting, Mark and Kristin Hueg, Amy Tvette, Donna Paakkonen, Nancy Gertner, Carol Swenson, Amanda Tveite, Muriel Panning, Lorraine Doose, Bev Hummel, Polly Wickum and Jerry & Carol Benson. Drivers were Jonita Gomez, Kristin Hueg, Wendy Larson and Brice Eichlersmith. Thanks for delivering the gifts in the name of the parent in prison and in the spirit and love of Jesus.

Thank you to Pastor Zarth and Pastor Becker and to others who visited Pastor Frank Andersen in the nursing home. The beautiful prayer shawl, prayers, cards, gifts and other deeds of kindness were greatly appreciated. God bless you all!

- Elizabeth Andersen and family

To the whole congregation of Oak Grove:

What an outpouring of LOVE to God's poor. The towels you all collected were a Godsend to our families we serve. There is a story of Jesus curing 10 lepers, but only 1 came back to say Thank You. I am that leper and I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Lotsa Love to all,
Fran Heitzman

Bell Choir Schedule

March 9th - Carolers and Junior Bells and Wee Praise

March 16th - Joyful Singers and Grand Chimers and Wee Praise

March 23rd - Carolers and Junior Bells and Wee Praise

March 30th - Joyful Singers and Grand Chimers and Wee Praise

April 6th - Carolers and Junior Bells and Wee Praise

April 13th - Carolers and Joyful Singers together and Wee Praise (No Junior Bells OR Grand Chimers)

April 20th - No kids choirs or bells/chimes

The last date for Grand Chimers is March 30th and the last date for Junior Bells is April 6th.

Spirit Bells will meet each week during Lent from 6:00-6:30.

Faith Bells will meet each week during Lent after the Lenten service for 30 minutes EXCEPT March 9th (Ash Wednesday)

— Kitchen Konnection —

March is upon us and as I begin writing today in mid-February there is definitely a hint of spring in the air. I pray that you enjoyed the glorious weekend that we just had and will continue to enjoy the sunshine and warmer temps that continue to melt away at the tons of dirty white snow that is piled in and on our streets and backyards. Sunshine and puddles...is that a sign of spring for you? My special sign of spring is daffodils. Someday, I will have a garden full in my own backyard! I did plant some Iris bulbs in the fall (from Nancy Buck's silent auction collection). Hopefully, some of the beauty of her garden will now be transplanted in mine. Thank you, Nancy!

March also means the beginning of Lent and the anticipation of Easter Sunday. I look forward to Wednesday evenings in the hope that many of you will join us for dinner before the Lenten Service. It may be cold outside, it may be warmer; we could have more snow, or we could continue to have to walk through puddles. But no matter what the temp is outside, we are always warm within the walls of Oak Grove.

Remember... Wednesday nights are great food for the soul. Please come and be fed not only with food, but with fellowship and the bread of Life, Jesus Christ. *God bless, Margie*

March 2 Burgers and Fries

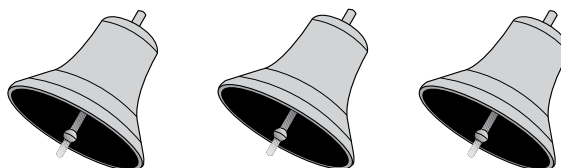
March 9 Fish & Chips (Ash Wednesday)

March 16 Hamburger Gravy & Mashed Potatoes

March 23 Chinese Buffet

March 30 Ham & Au Gratin Potato Casserole
Dinner served 5:45-6:30pm. Everyone welcome!!!
\$4.00 per plate.

All dinners served with salad bar and dessert
So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God. *1 Corinthians 10:31*



The last date for Faith and Spirit bells is Wednesday April 27th—schedule to be announced (This is Statements of Faith night as well)

Both Faith and Spirit Bells will play at Confirmation Sunday May 1st at the 11:00 service.

Children's vocal choir schedule for May to be announced.



Spotlight on Women



As we welcome this late winter/spring month I was able to review the Metro Lutheran Newspaper and found a very refreshing article written by Martha Stortz from Augsburg.edu titled:

The scandal of incarnation

She writes: I was talking to a woman in the YWCA locker room one morning, and she asked what brought me to Minnesota. After I described my work at Augsburg College, she said, “Oh, I’m a very spiritual person, but I’m not at all religious” with some smugness, as if she’d somehow “arrived” at a destination that was way out of my range.

More and more people describe themselves as spiritual but not religious, signaling their distance from organized religion and from its perceived fundamentalisms on both the Right and the Left. These “cultured despisers of religion” deal with the spiritual realm on their own, without either text or community to help them discern the spirits (1 Corinthians 12:10).

I admire them, but there are a lot of “spirits” out there. Not all of them are benign – and some of them are outright dangerous.

There is the Spirit of Macy’s and Juicy Couture, of Vogue and People magazines, of Oprah; there’s the spirit of Dancing with the Stars, that spirit of celebrity and fashion and 15 seconds of fame; then there are the less benign spirits of fear, terrorism, and the fear of terrorism. How will people know they’ve latched onto the “Spirit of the Lord”?

The prophet Isaiah offers some defining characteristics and he is not afraid of repeating himself. First, he tells people who the Spirit of the Lord is: “a spirit of wisdom and understanding,” a spirit of “counsel and might,” a spirit of “knowledge and the fear of the Lord.” Any spirit that does not fit this description should probably be given a wide berth.

Then, he tells people what the Spirit of the Lord does: This spirit will “judge the poor”; this spirit will “decide with equity for the meek of the earth”; and – my very favorite description – this spirit will “strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips ... kill the wicked.” This is not just bad breath; this is fatal breath.

Finally, Isaiah describes in vivid detail and lyrical description what life in the Spirit of God looks like.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
The leopard shall lie down with the kid,
The calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

Who would not long for this Spirit? This side of the rapture, longing is as close as we come. There’s a gap between Isaiah’s idyllic vision and reality, and hope bridges that gap. Now and again, we catch a glimpse of “the world according to God,” but in the main, hope sustains us.

Often, hope gets pegged to concrete outcomes: We hope for that bike for Christmas; we hope for productive talks in the Mideast; we hope for the troops to be home by 2011. Hope for something fixes on outcomes, which change depending on the situation and mood. Hope for something depends on a healthy amount of superglue or duct tape or your favorite fixative to attach it to outcomes.

Desire supplies that adhesion – and desires are not terribly dependable. They alter according to mood or situation; they flit from one thing to another.

Christian hope reaches beyond outcomes. Rather than hope for something Christian hope is uniquely hope in something, more specifically, hope in Someone. We do not so much have this hope, as the product of fierce focus or gritty determination or even deep faith, as this hope has us. Why? Because the one in whom we hope loves us – and loves us fiercely, individually, and in all our messy particularity.

The bonding agent in Christian hope is not desire, but love. And hope doesn’t depend on our love for God, but on God’s love for us. That love is not at all abstract, but lodges in the particulars. It lives in the details, those sometimes gritty, sometimes delightful, always amusing particulars that make us the children of God we really really are... when no one is looking. After all, that is the other edge of the scandal of incarnation. Not only that God took up all the messy details of becoming human, but that God did all for love, so that all of us humans would finally “get” how much we are loved... in all the messy particulars.

Love one another: in all the gritty particulars, unconditionally, and unmerited. We can never “pay back” what we have been given. Instead, we “pay forward” the love we have received.

This is the spirit behind Christian spirituality, the Spirit of God in Christ Jesus. And the assignment is to love one another.

Martha E. Stortz is Bernhard M. Christensen Professor for Religion and Vocation at Augsburg College, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Sincerely,
Dawn Sankey
WELCA Secretary

Milestone Updates

Two-Year-Olds Decorate Prayer Pillowcases

Two families and their toddlers celebrated Oak Grove's Jesus Loves Me Milestone on Sunday, February 6. Prayer pillowcases were decorated by the kids, parents, grandparents and godparents with handprint tracings, bedtime prayers, and colorful drawings. The toddlers then snuggled with their new pillows to read books with prayers about bananas, the sun and new shoes. Being reminded of Jesus' love at the Milestone were Benjamin Simpson with parents JoAnna & Zach, grandmother Kathy Trapp, and Aunt Anna & Uncle Matt Trapp and Lucy Botsford with grandparents Ann & Bots Botsford and aunts Teresa Vik and Joan Liljenquist.



Driving Milestone Scheduled for March 13

Keys to the Car, Life and God Milestone has been rescheduled for Sunday, March 13 at 9:35 a.m. in the Fireside Lounge. The event is geared toward families with teens who will be taking driver's education classes in the near future, who will be testing for their driver's license soon or who have recently earned their driver's license. Please sign up in the church office so there are enough gifts and food for everyone attending. For more information, call Deanne Beaudet at 612.866.3540.

Breaking Bread Communion for the First Time

Does your child ask questions about communion? Is he/she beginning to understand how amazing Jesus' sacrifice is? At Oak Grove, each family decides when its child should do his/her First Communion based on individual readiness in his/her faith walk. If your child and family are considering this important Milestone, sign up in the church office. Pastor Brice Eichlersmith, Pastor Tom Zarth and Deanne Beaudet can be contacted to answer questions. Important dates for those celebrating their First Communion are Sunday, April 10, 5-7 p.m. for dinner and discussion and Thursday, April 21, 7 p.m. for First Communion at the Maundy Thursday Service.

You are Invited to Attend

Ending Racism: Today's Dream
Tomorrow's Reality

Sponsored by the Minneapolis Synod of
the Women of the ELCA
Saturday, March 12, 2011

Oak Grove Lutheran Church
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

For the past 12 years the national organization for the Women of the ELCA has committed to working towards ending racism. Women across the country have been trained to present anti-racism education in their church and communities. The Minneapolis Synod of the Women of the ELCA, also committed to this effort, is hosting this event. Jan Philibert, who attended the training in Kansas city in 2009 will be leading this presentation. Please plan to attend this event and join the Women of the ELCA in the commitment to end racism. You do not have to register for this event. However, in order to plan for the lunch being served please indicate your interest on the form in the church office or email Jan Philibert at nenibe2@hotmail.com.

Council's Corner

The Church's annual meeting was held on Sunday January 30, 2010. For those who were able to attend, you heard that the financial challenges Oak Grove faced in 2010 were resolved, and due to your increased giving and prudent expense control and management by the Church staff, 2010 ended with a net surplus of \$18,000. PRAISE GOD. And the budget for 2011 was approved with a modest surplus.

Also at the annual meeting, the current Council officers had completed their respective terms and a new slate of officers was elected. The results of 2010 could have been so different if not for the strong leadership of the 2010 Council officers. Thanks and recognition for their strong guidance goes to the 2010 officers: Julie Tvette, President; Michele Myroniuk, Vice-President; Carol Tvette, Treasurer; and Kristin Olson, Secretary. Based on their hard work and dedication to Oak Grove, we are in a strong financial position to move forward into 2011.

The new Council members have adopted a theme for 2011: We Have Been Called to Serve.

With that in mind, we look forward to hearing how we can do that for Oak Grove and you. Please contact any Council member if you have comments or questions. Check out the bulletin board in the church entrance for pictures of the new Council.

MRCH 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 Retreat at St. John's 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:30 AM Blood Pressure Checks 9:30 AM Coffee Hour 9:45 AM Education Hour 11:00 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Caribe 2:00 PM Baby Shower 5:00 PM Men's Volleyball	28 12:00 PM Lunch Bunch 6:00 PM Basketball 7:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	1 CIRCLES MEET 9:15 AM Staff Meeting 1:00 PM Sarah Bible Study 6:00 PM Basketball 6:00 PM Girl Scout Meeting 8:30 PM Girl Scouts Basketball	2 9:30 AM Bible Study 5:45 PM Supper 6:00 PM Spirit Bells 6:30 PM Carolers 6:30 PM Junior Bells 6:30 PM Wee Praise 7:00 PM Chorale 7:00 PM Grand Chimers 7:00 PM Joyful Singers 7:30 PM Faith Bells	3 6:00 PM Basketball 6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop 12035 7:30 PM Basketball	4 Loaves and Fishes OFFICE CLOSED 4:00 PM SCRAPBOOKING 5:00 PM Stamp-a-Stack	5 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study 8:30 AM Stamp-a-Stack 9:00 AM Bethlehem BB 9:00 AM Joy Bells 12:00 PM RGSA 2:00 PM Feed My Starving Children
6 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:30 AM Coffee Hour 9:30 AM Oak Tones 9:45 AM Education Hour 9:45 AM Lenten Project Kick-off - Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Caribe 5:00 PM Men's Volleyball	7 6:00 PM Basketball 7:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	8 9:15 AM Staff Meeting 10:00 AM CARE CLUB 6:00 PM Basketball 6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop 11386 7:00 PM Church Council Meeting 8:00 PM Basketball	9 9:30 AM Bible Study 5:45 PM Supper 6:00 PM Spirit Bells 6:30 PM Carolers 6:30 PM Wee Praise 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Chorale 7:00 PM Joyful Singers	10 9:00 AM NSR Training 6:00 PM Basketball 7:30 PM Basketball	11 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop 10564 7:00 PM Square Dancing	12 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM Bethlehem BB 9:00 AM Ending Racism - Today's Dream 9:00 AM Joy Bells 10:00 AM Girl Scout Troop 11386 12:00 PM RGSA
13 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:30 AM Coffee Hour 9:30 AM Oak Tones 9:30 AM Teen Milestone - "Keys to Car, Life & God" 9:45 AM Education Hour 11:00 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Caribe 12:00 PM Court of Honor Reception 2:00 PM Court of Honor Service 5:00 PM Men's Volleyball	14 6:00 PM Basketball 6:00 PM Dahlia Society 7:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	15 9:15 AM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Basketball 6:30 PM Girl Scouts 8:00 PM Basketball	16 9:30 AM Bible Study 5:45 PM Supper 6:00 PM Spirit Bells 6:30 PM Carolers 6:30 PM Junior Bells 6:30 PM Wee Praise 7:00 PM Chorale 7:00 PM Grand Chimers 7:00 PM Joyful Singers 7:00 PM Lent Service 7:30 PM Faith Bells	17 6:00 PM Basketball 6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop 12035 7:30 PM Basketball	18 OFFICE CLOSED	19 7:00 AM CAPSH Home Buyer Education 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM Bethlehem BB 9:00 AM Joy Bells 12:00 PM RGSA
20 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:30 AM Coffee Hour 9:30 AM Oak Tones 9:45 AM Education Hour 11:00 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Caribe 12:00 PM Court of Honor Reception 2:00 PM Court of Honor Service 5:00 PM Men's Volleyball	21 6:00 PM Basketball 7:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	22 9:15 AM Staff Meeting 10:00 AM CARE CLUB 6:00 PM Basketball 8:00 PM Basketball	23 9:30 AM Bible Study 5:45 PM Supper 6:00 PM Spirit Bells 6:30 PM Carolers 6:30 PM Junior Bells 6:30 PM Wee Praise 7:00 PM Chorale 7:00 PM Grand Chimers 7:00 PM Joyful Singers 7:00 PM Lent Service 7:30 PM Faith Bells	24 8:30 AM Housing Committee 6:00 PM Basketball 7:30 PM Basketball	25 OFFICE CLOSED	26 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM Joy Bells 10:00 AM Girl Scout Troop 11386 12:00 PM RGSA
27 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:30 AM Coffee Hour 9:45 AM Education Hour 11:00 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Caribe 5:00 PM Men's Volleyball	28 12:00 PM Lunch Bunch 6:00 PM Basketball 7:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	29 9:15 AM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Basketball 8:00 PM Basketball	30 9:30 AM Bible Study 5:45 PM Supper 6:00 PM Spirit Bells 6:30 PM Carolers 6:30 PM Junior Bells 6:30 PM Wee Praise 7:00 PM Chorale 7:00 PM Grand Chimers 7:00 PM Joyful Singers 7:00 PM Lent Service 7:30 PM Faith Bells	31 8:45 AM Spiritual Formation Room reserved 6:00 PM Basketball 7:30 PM Basketball	1 Loaves and Fishes OFFICE CLOSED 4:00 PM SCRAPBOOKING	2 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM Joy Bells 12:00 PM RGSA



Memorial Easter Garden



Flower	Color	Quantity	Cost
Lily	White	_____	\$6.95
Star Gazer	White/Pink	_____	\$6.95
Tulip	Lavender	_____	\$6.75
	Yellow	_____	\$6.75
	Pink	_____	\$6.75
	White	_____	\$6.75
Mum	Yellow	_____	\$9.95
	Lavender	_____	\$9.95
	White	_____	\$9.95
	Easter Egg (assorted pastels)	_____	\$9.95
Hydrangea	Pink	_____	15.50
	Blue	_____	15.50
		Total	\$_____

Please include your payment with your order. Checks payable to Oak Grove Lutheran marked "Easter Garden." Your order may be left in the offering plate or in the church office. Orders must be received by Monday, April 4th.

Your name as you wish it to appear in the bulletin. _____ Phone _____

In memory or honor of: _____
