Newsletter - April 2017

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Holy Week

As a child Holy Week was, without a doubt, the most memorable week of the year in the church. It is a week that is full of drama and powerful imagery and ancient traditions that capture the imagination and move the heart. The actions, words and even colors of the church help to tell the great story of our Lord's suffering, death and resurrection. It is a week of incredible opportunities to receive the blessings of our Lord. Here is a short explanation to the journey we will be taking together from the 9th to the 16th of April.

Palm Sunday – 9:00am

This year our service will begin outside the sanctuary with a palm procession recalling our Lord's triumphant entry into Jerusalem. The use of palms dates to Jesus' own lifetime as symbols of hope, life, and victory. Yet this Sunday also bears another name, Passion Sunday, because on this day the complete account of our Lord's passion is read as the gospel reading, pointing the events that unfold throughout the week.

Maundy Thursday – 7:00pm

The name comes from the Latin phrase in John 13:34. In this section of Scripture, Jesus gives His disciples a new commandment: mandatum novum. Maundy is a form of the Latin word for "command." Associated with this command is our Lord's action of washing his disciples' feet. For Lutherans this service is a time to focus on our Lord's institution of the Sacrament of the Altar. Here are Grace we will begin with a more intimate form of confession and absolution where the members come to the rail to be individually absolved of their sins. At the conclusion of the service the altars is stripped of all its adornments as the choir sings Psalm 22 to recall our Lord's humility.

Good Friday – 7:00pm

This is the most solemn of all days in the Christian Church. The cross is draped in black cloth and the lights are slowly dimmed throughout the service. A number of ancient elements are presented including the full reading of the passion narrative from John's Gospel, the Bidding Prayer, and the Reproaches. The service ends in silence and darkness.

The Easter Vigil – 8:00pm

The Easter Vigil is an ancient and revered tradition of the Church. It contains four distinct services; the Service of Light, the Service of Readings, the Service of Holy Baptism, and the Service of Holy Communion. This service has been called the quintessential Lutheran Service for here Word and Sacrament shine in all their glory. It is a celebration that begins outside with the lighting of the Paschal candle but ends in songs of praise and light as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord saying, "Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!"

It is my fervent hope and prayer that you will join us in this rich and powerful week of holy reflection as we prepare for the glorious celebration of Easter morning!

Pastor Koch

April 2017 Prayer Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
JESUS LIVES						**1** Pray for America and its Leaders
2 I will sing of the Mercies of the Lord forever Ps 71:23	**3** Pray for Pastor Koch and his Ministry and Family	**4** Lord Jesus, Thank You for Promises and for strengthening my faith. POP	**5** I Trust in You O Lord – my times are in your hands PS 14:1	**6** Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath! Fret not thyself, it tendeth only to evil doing Ps 37:8	**7** Pray for Teachers and Students of Better Together"	**8** Pray for Sister Gladys Markow
9 Praise the one who breaks the darkness – Praise the one who makes us one LSB 849	**10** Pray for our children and grandchildren to know You Lord as their Savior	**11** Pray this day to be Blessed and to be a Blessing to others	**12** Pray for Pastor Page and his Ministry and Family	**15** MAUNDY THURSDAY Prepare ourselves for Communion	**14** GOOD FRIDAY Pray Lord – help us to live out our Faith and share our Lords Love	**15** Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One
16 EASTER Thank You Dearest Jesus – Your body and Your blood once slain for me LSB 628:3	**17** My faithful Lord, You fail me never; Your promise surely will endure LSB 590:3	**18** Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your Truth Ps 86:11	**19** Pray for Sister Gretta Jeske	**20** Pray for Sister Mary Bek	**21** Pray for Teachers and Students of Better Together"	**22** Vicar Matt Knauss and Michelle, Aiden, Gavin and Ashlyn
23 With the Lord begin your task, Jesus will direct it, For his aid and counsel ask, Jesus will perfect it	**24** Lord Jesus, help us to live boldly and tell others about You today ODB	**25** Pray for Sister Marion Spencer	**26** Lord – Help me to love my family as You love me	**27** The Lord is My Helper, I will not Fear, What can man do to me Heb 13:6	**28** Pray for Pastor Holmes and His Ministry and Family	**29** Sing Praises to the Lord O you his saints Ps 30:4
30 Praise God from Whom All Blessings flow				ODB Our Daily Bread	LSB Lutheran Service Book	POP Portals of Prayer

Prayer requests may be submitted to John & Bev Beck 525-6704 or 2roxie23@gmail.com.) Pray the request each day as the Lord leads you.

Youth of Grace

Upcoming Events...

- **Spring Cleaning**
- **Filling eggs for the Easter egg hunt!**

April 2017

While we are in the midst of the Lenten season, our regular meetings are on hold since we have vespers services on Wednesday evenings. We will resume our regular meetings on April 26! Also, per tradition, we will have a pizza party/egg stuffing party the week of Easter!

NEW

- Wednesday nights are now potluck dinner starting at 5:30pm and Vespers at 7pm.
- Spring Cleaning
- Egg stuffing - the week of Easter

The Youth of Grace consists of students from 6th grade through 12th grade! On a normal week we meet on Wednesday nights for dinner at 5:45pm, and then meet as a youth group from 6:30pm-7:30pm. At our meetings we hang out, play games, and attempt to see what in the world the Bible has to say about being a teen in 2016! Join us for food, fun, and fellowship!

Important

Interested in learning more about YOG???
Please contact Alyssa at 562-355-9091 or apoelstra@msn.com

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

SPRING Sunday School

Sundays

at 10:45 am

Babies through High School and Adults

Join us for fun Bible stories, crafts, games, songs, and more!
Join Pastor Koch for a study on Leviticus!

Easter is for CELEBRATION!

April 16th

9:00am Worship

Easter Brunch & Easter Egg Hunt *to follow!*

KNIGHTS & ROSES

*The goal of **KNIGHTS AND ROSES** is to encourage disciples of Jesus Christ; to nourish children's faith and hope in His Grace, to equip them with the full armor of God as they live in our world as His chosen people. Bible memory, games, team challenges, and service projects will begin to shape their life in faith at this young age. (Kindergarten – Elementary)*

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS: 4/26, 5/3, 5/10, 5/17, 5/24

5:45pm **Family Dinner for everyone!**
6:30pm **Knights & Roses**
6:30pm **Adult Bible Study: NARNIA**
6:30pm **Youth Group**

April 2017 Newsletter

As part of the LWML, we strive to conduct not only "business" at our monthly meetings, but also education and devotions during our time together each month during our "meetings". You have seen different topics addressed in our newsletter page, from serious topics to enlightening information. The following is the story of Noah and the flood, told as you have probably never heard it before…enjoy! The next regular LWML meeting will be held April 4 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 15, our Bible Verse to share is REMEMBER and we will be assembling Easter Table Centerpieces. Mites will be collected.

NOAH AND YESSAH (not her real name)

A Story for God's Children of All Ages

By Tim Wesemann © 2012 Used with permission.

One day, as Noah minded God's business, God told him the two of them would take a cruise together! The God who reigned over all creation told Noah it would rain and rain, until water flooded the earth and carried away its sinful people. God told Noah to build an ark to keep himself and his family safe.

Noah didn't know-a what to do. But God told Noah exactly how to build this very big boat. Noah wished he had taken an ark-itecture class in school! He also should have taken an animal obedience class, because God would soon be flooding the ark with animals!

Noah's wife, his sons, and their wives helped build the floating zoo. (Since the Bible doesn't tell us the name of Noah's wife, let's *pretend* it is Yessah. Noah and Yessah! I like the sound of that!)

Noah's neighbors didn't believe God would send a flood. They made fun of the ark-itects. "Whatever floats your boat, Noah!" one neighbor said, while watering his lawn.

When it was finished, God led the animals to Noah's ark from all directions. First came Mr. Deer and his dear deer wife, Doe.

The kangaroos came on a leap of faith, hopping to find safety from the upcoming flood. When they met Noah, they knew they had not jumped to the wrong conclusion about God's will for their lives.

Mosquitoes sneaked onto the ark without Noah or Yessah seeing them. (Noah's family didn't realize they would be the mosquito's food supply during the float trip!)

The ants requested a room on the opposite end of the ark from the anteaters.

The elephants asked for a king-sized bed and an extra-large room so they would have a place for their trunks. But the owls didn't give a hoot where they stayed.

Noah built a special room for the skunks. That idea made scents to everyone.

(over)

Noah found one otter waiting in line, but where was . . . oh, there's the otter one!

God kept his promise, just like he always does. It rained cats and dogs for forty days and nights. (That's 960 hours or 57,600 minutes of rain!) Noah and his family trusted God all that while, through thunder, lightning, and the elephants' snoring. When the rain stopped, Noah had to wait patiently (something very hard for him), because it took even longer than forty days for the water to soak into the earth.

Noah and his family tried to help the animals pass the time. Sometimes they would sing their favorite songs, "Noah, Row the Boat Ashore" and "Row, Row, Row Your Ark."

They tried playing "Pin the Tail on the Donkey," but the donkeys weren't too thrilled about that!

Except for the bats, the animals liked playing baseball. No one wanted to be on the rattlesnakes' team because they kept striking out. Whatever game they played, the cheetahs wanted to keep score.

At meal times, the pigs tried to hog all the food while the chameleons couldn't decide what to eat. They kept changing their minds (along with their colors).

One day while Noah and Yessah (not her real name) again minded God's business, the ark landed on a mountain peak peeking out from the water. Noah sent a raven and a dove, a couple of birdbrains (that's not mean—they're birds with brains!), to check for dry land. But there was water, water everywhere, so the doves flew back to the ark.

Noah and Yessah (not her real name) turned on the flood lights, sat back, and put their trust in God, who would save them at just the right time. God always keeps his promises!

At just the right time another dove dove back into the floating zoo with an olive branch in its beak! "Yip-yip-yippie!" came the dog's bark on the ark. The water was going down, and the trees were showing up! The next dove Noah sent out didn't come back. It was time to leave the ark!

The elephants packed their trunks. The camels led the mammals, and the reptiles were led by the crocodiles with the big smiles. The animals went galloping, walking, flying, slithering, and hopping in every direction. Noah, Yessah (not her real name), and their family went running to their God who reigns over all. They built an altar and worshiped him.

God said to Noah, "Never again will I destroy all the living creatures. I will give a sign in the sky to remind you and me that I will never do this again." God made beautiful colors bend in the sky and called it a rainbow.

From that day on, whenever Noah saw a rainbow (or a donkey with eight tails), he smiled at the thought of God, who saves and who reigns over all creation. Noah knew that when God reigns, he also pours out blessings, flooding his creation with love.

March 2017

PRAYER GUIDE FOR LWML MISSION GRANTS

Lutheran Youth Corps

PRAYER #1

Heavenly Father, You have led the church in providing means and resources to assist parents in raising their children to know You as the one true God. Please bless this initiative aimed at providing young adults the opportunity to serve You in needed areas and communities. May those chosen to participate come to know and understand their vocational callings and how this vocation will allow them to continue to share Your love through the many facets of the lifetime You have prepared for them here on earth. These things we boldly ask in our Savior's name. Amen.

PRAYER #2

Lord, You have called us all to be Your witnesses. Many of our young adults desire to serve through our synod. Thank You for the foresight of those who began this initiative to provide this opportunity for them. We ask Your continued guidance for the staff and participants and may they remain steadfast in proclaiming Your goodness and favor. In all things, Lord, keep them mindful that all is possible through You, and all is to Your glory and honor alone. Amen.

PRAYER #3

Dear Lord, What blessed opportunities the Lutheran Youth Mercy Corp will provide young adults who may still be seeking their place in the professional world by enabling them to focus on their own spiritual growth as they serve others through acts of mercy. We have been blessed with a generation of young people who have come to understand and know the joy of serving others and the impact this service will have on those less fortunate. More importantly, they are willing and ready to share the good news of salvation with those with whom they come into contact. Thank You for giving us these willing and able workers, and we ask Your blessings on their service. Amen.

PRAYER #4

Lord God, We ask Your blessings on the young adults who are so willingly giving of their time and talents to serve others. We also ask for Your protection as they commit to serve in areas that may hold unknown dangers. Keep their bodies strong, their minds clear and their hearts ready for what is in store. It will not be easy Lord, for there are many unknowns in front of them, but with Your full armor, the adversaries will not prevail. Your glory and honor will indeed be declared. These things we ask in the name of Your Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

www.lwml.org/missions

PLEASE FOLD OR CUT THIS GUIDE ON THE DOTTED LINE, AND KEEP PRAYER GUIDE IN YOUR BIBLES FOR DAILY MISSION SUPPORT REMINDERS.

MISSION GRANT STORY

Lutheran Youth Corps $25,000

"There is an ever-growing number of LCMS college students and young adults joining the Peace Corps and AmeriCorps. They say 'We would do it with the church, but there is nothing for us to do.'" This quote comes from the executive director's office of LCMS Office of National Mission. Hearing the desire of Lutheran youth wishing to serve with LCMS guidance, the Lutheran Mercy Youth Corp initiative was born.

Youth attending the National Youth Gathering of the LCMS have voiced a desire to be of service to the church in a deeper level. Many young adults wish to utilize the time between high school and college or college and the start of full time employment serving in their communities. Lutheran Mercy Youth Corp will provide these students with the opportunity to live and serve in urban or underserved communities. This experience will engage the youth and connect them to ongoing opportunities to be Christ's witnesses in acts of mercy for the world. The program will also expand the young people's understanding of life's vocation and the important part service to others and sharing the Gospel plays in fulfilling their vocational call. For the young adults who have yet to settle on a vocation, this provides time for life experiences and possible connections with various employment opportunities.

The time frame for their service will range from three months to one year. Prior to departure, students will receive training which will include theological foundation, relational training and other areas specific to the work they will be asked to perform. Once ready for service and assigned, the students will reside in an intentional community of their peers with a professional church worker serving as a proctor. They will be connected to a local congregation for Word and Sacrament and daily devotions to enable them in remaining faithful to the commitment. More information is available at: *www.lcms.org/young-adult-corps*.

LWML
www.lwml.org

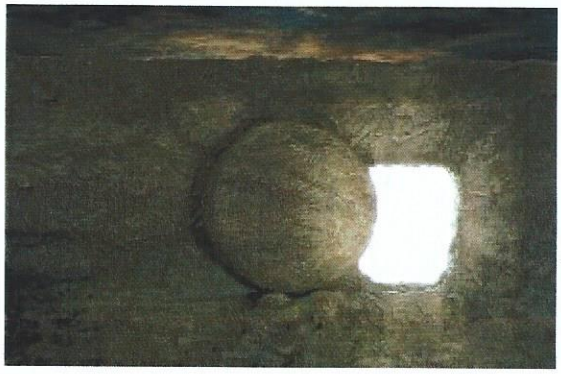
MAY 2, 2017

Annual Women of Grace

Appreciation Dinner 6:30

Guest: Cindy Koch

I am the Way, the Truth and the Life



Watch the bulletin for more information

GRACE LUTHERAN LWML PROGRAM GUIDE 2017

"When the **bow** is in the **clouds,** I will see it and **remember** the **everlasting covenant** between God and every **living creature** of all **flesh** that is on the earth." Genesis 9:16

Feb 7 – Bible Verse **BOW**	**Program:** LWML 2017 Prayer Service
Mar 7 – Bible Verse **CLOUD/S**	**Program:** Coloring Book Marks/Cards
Apr 4 – Bible Verse **REMEMBER**	**Program:** Easter Table Centerpieces **(Mites)**
May 2 – **LWML Dinner @ 6:30 p.m.**	**Guest: Cindy Koch – I am the Way, the Truth and the Life**
Jun 6 – Bible Verse **EVERLASTING**	**Program:** Christmas Shoebox Project **(Mites)**
Sep 5 – Bible Verse **LIVING**	**Program:** Bible Study
Oct 3 – Bible Verse **CONVENANT**	**Program:** Cookbook Exchange
Nov 7 – Bible Verse **CREATURE/S**	**Program:** Cookies for Mites
Dec 5 – **Christmas Party – watch for information**	
Jan 2 – Bible Verse **FLESH**	**Program:** 2018 LWML Prayer Service

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League meets the first Tuesday of each month, with the exception of July and August. We meet at 7 p.m. in Room 15. Each woman of the congregation, 18 and older, is a member of the LWML, and we invite you to join us as we Serve the Lord with Gladness. Your LWML officers for 2017 are President, Pam Mayer, VP of Inspiration, Teri White, VP Education, Maryellen Jeske, VP of Service, Judy Heard, Secretary, Billie Hayes and Treasurer, Cynthia Burell.

On April 12, Grace welcomed new members

Brian Sherman
Laura Johnson-Sherman
Constanzie Salem Johnson-Ackerman
Greg Montano

On April 19 we welcomed from Our Redeemer

Barbara Addington
Sydnee Mortensen
Trixie Scantlin
Mikki Coburn
Andrew (Doc) Nielson
Bert & Renee Rapp

Knauss House Newsletter

A Family on Vicarage...

Where Has the Time Gone?

Here it is in March and I realize that this is the first Newsletter that I am writing for 2017! The days go by too fast. Vicarage has been going well. Each day there is something new to learn about leadership, working in the ministry, helping, serving, loving, and so much more. There have been ample opportunities to preach. (*In fact that's what's on my mind as I write this since I preach tonight!*)

Aiden has begun a martial arts class which is a bit of a mix of styles. This class look to offer him some opportunities in mental discipline, attention focus, and physical control. His favorite part? He gets to learn moves like a ninja.

Ashlyn just turned 5 this month. My little girl is getting way too big. She just finished up a gymnastics class and is moving into a ballet class at the community center. She's always had the toe-point thing down!

Gavin is continuing on in gymnastics, while also running twice a week. All his running at school could be added up to be nearly half way through his second marathon. Crazy little runner!

Time to be Family.

Spring Break is upon us and we are headed to the Grand Canyon. Ash calls it the "Big Hole". Fair enough! I look forward to some days away with those dear to me. I look forward to days in God's creation, seeing the wonder and beauty that He has made for us to enjoy. I look forward to all that is given by our good and gracious God. I look forward to life and love through Jesus Christ.

Peace in Christ- Matt & Michelle / Aiden, Gavin, & Ashlyn

Serving Others

Altar Circle

All in the group take turns washing communion cups. They also help take care of altar area & paraments. Contact Marilyn Bailey. 659-1326

Gardening/Yardwork

Wed. morning gardening workout. Water, mow, trim, the usual. Contact Jim Bailey 659-1326

Sunday School Teacher

Teaching or craft openings available. It is only a 3 month commitment at a time. See Cindy Koch.

Quilting Group

Easy to do fun with fabric. Sewing, cutting, pinning or tying. Wed 9a-12p. Come when you can leave when you must. Judy Heard 647-0289.

Sweepers

We need a few more sweepers. Sweep up leaves and trash. Make church ready for Sunday. Call Lyle Hotzler 341-9820 or Judy Heard

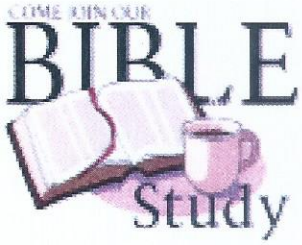
Sunday Fellowship

Bring goodies for Sunday after service. Bring whatever you like. Simple or special. See Pam Mayer to sign-up

Contact Billie Hayes to post something. 407-2533 Lots of people make it a fun.

Five Top Reasons to be in Bible Study

1. You need the Truth
2. Your faith will grow stronger.
3. Know what you believe (and why)
4. You need Christian community
5. You need encouragement



There's a Bible Study Group for You!

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY listen for the ringing of the "Bell". Study is in Room 8. The class is study "Leviticus".

YOUTH OF GRACE (YOG) For YOG activities check the YOG page and calendar. For additional information, contact Steve & Alyssa Poelstra or Brian & Brooke Milton.

TUESDAY MORNING WOMEN'S STUDY meets at 9:30 a.m. in Room 15. They have started a new study, for more information speak to Marlene or Sigrid. All ladies of the congregation are invited to join this study. If you have questions you can speak to Marlene Rose or Sigrid Likins.

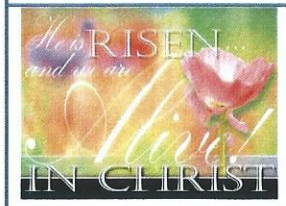
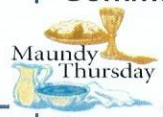
KNIGHTS & ROSES – The Knights and Roses and Pastor's Commonplaces will resume beginning April 26.

<u>Lent Devotions for Kids</u> : Wednesday nights at approximately 6:30

MEN OF GRACE (MOG) a study/support group for men, 18 years or age and older, meet on Saturday mornings in Room 15. There is fellowship, with fresh coffee and donuts at 7:30 a.m. and Bible study from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. On the last Saturday of each month breakfast is served prior to Bible Study. Questions, contact Paul Dols or John Beck.

Women's Saturday Bible Study. Proverbs *Beautiful Wisdom* at 11 a.m. in room 8. The regulars invite <u>all</u> women to join us as we *continue are journey with Wisdom.*

April 2017 Grace Lutheran Church, 6190 Telephone Road, Ventura, CA 93003

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Project Understanding Canned Meats and Green Beans or Peas	**College Heights School using field every Tuesday and Thursday 12:30 – 5:30**	Hispanic Mission Goods Collected the Second Sunday of each month			**1 MOG 7:30 am** Proverbs 11 a.m. **Chapel:** L. Hotzler **Sweep**: J. Taylor
2 **Worship 9 am** Communion Sunday School and Bible Studies 10:45 am **Fellowship:**	3 Chess Club meets at 7pm in room 8 **MOG** walks at 7:15 @ Ventura Water Park E. Parking Lot	**4 Women's Bible Study 9:30 am** **LWML 7 pm – Bible Verse Remember** Program: Bible Study	5 Quilters 9:30 **Lent Pot Luck 5:30 Worship 7 pm**	6 **Better Together Ext Classes 9-3** **Choir 7 p.m.**	7 **Better Together 9 a.m. – 6 p.m**	**8 MOG 7:30 am** Proverbs 11 a.m. **General Cleaning Everyone Needed** **Sweep**: B. Burke
9 **Worship 9 am** Communion Sunday School and Bible Studies 10:45 am **Seminary Student** **Fellowship:**	10 Chess Club meets at 7pm in room 8 **MOG** walks at 7:15 @ Ventura Water Park E. Parking Lot	11 Women's Bible Study 9:30 am Rm 15 **Elders 7:15**	12 Quilters 9:30 am	13 **Ext Classes 9-3 Maundy Thur. 7 p.m. Holy Communnion** 	14 **Good Friday 7p.m. No Communion**	**15 MOG 7:30 am** Proverbs 11 a.m. **Chapel**: B. Beck **Sweep**: J. Bailey **Easter Vigil 8:00 pm Communion**
16 **Worship 9 am** **Communion** **Easter Breakfast** **Easter Egg Hunt**	17 Chess Club meets at 7pm in room 8 **MOG** walks at 7:15 @ Ventura Water Park E. Parking Lot	18 Women's Bible Study 9:30 am **Voters 7:30**	19 Quilters 9:30 **JOY Group** 12 noon Taco Bar Meat & Tortillas provided **Bring Taco mixings**	20 **Better Together Ext Classes 9-3** **Choir 7 p.m.**	21 **Better Together 9 a.m. – 6 p.m**	**22 MOG 7:30 am** Proverbs 11 a.m. **Chapel**: B. Krause **Sweep**: S. Poelstra
23 **Worship 9 am** Communion Sunday School and Bible Studies 10:45 am **Fellowship:** 30 **Worship 9 am** Communion Sunday School and Bible Studies 10:45 am **Fellowship:**	24 Chess Club Rm 8 **MOG** Walking Group Dining @ **Andria's 6:18 pm.**	25 Women's Bible Study 9:30 am **Ev/Planning 7:00**	26 Quilters 9:30 **Knights & Roses Commonplaces 5:45 pm Room 8 YOG 6:30**	27 **Better Together Ext Classes 9-3** **Choir 7 p.m.**	28 **Newsletter Articles due today by noon.**	29 **MOG 7:30 am** Proverbs 11 a.m. **Chapel**: B. Smith **Sweep**: B. Sherman