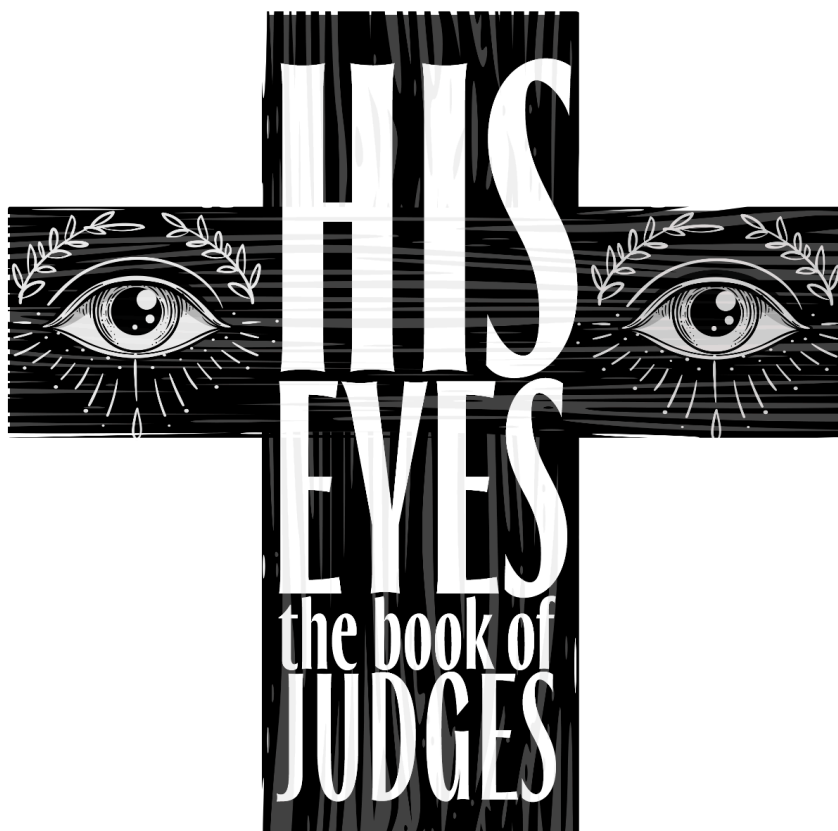


# Sunday Service

April 21, 2024 - 8:30 AM & 10:15 AM

Livestream at 10:15 AM



## Grace Lutheran Church

555 SW Cashmere Blvd.

Port St. Lucie, FL 34986-2034

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[www.GraceLutheranPSL.com](http://www.GraceLutheranPSL.com)

**Pastor Cris Escher**

Email: [cris@gracelutheranpsl.com](mailto:cris@gracelutheranpsl.com)

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# Welcome...

We are so happy that you are here with us today. Our desire is to be like another home for you. If you are new to Grace or to the area and are looking for a church home, we hope you will consider joining our family here at Grace. A Fellowship Time is held after each Worship Service, and we invite you to stay for a few minutes so we can get acquainted.

To our many members and friends worshiping at home, whether near or far, we are so happy that you are sharing this worship with us from your homes. [www.GraceLutheranPSL.com](http://www.GraceLutheranPSL.com)

## Kids at Grace

By the entrance into the sanctuary, busy bags are available for children to use. During the 10:15 service, before the sermon, Ms. Coli will take children (3 and older) to the other building for an engaging lesson about our hope in Jesus. Children are returned to their families right after the prayers. There is also a quiet room outside the sanctuary with toys and the live stream, if families need a place for younger children throughout the service.

## Holy Communion

This meal is weird and wonderful: weird because we actually believe that the bread and wine are the Body and Blood of Jesus the Christ; wonderful because Jesus is with us. We take this meal very seriously here at Grace. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out and allow us to answer your questions. **Children** who have not been instructed in the meaning of the Sacrament may come to the Lord's Table with their parents for a blessing but are asked to fold their arms across their chests to indicate they are to receive a blessing.

**THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE COMMUNION:** After the closing hymn, Pastor Cris will pronounce the sending and then for those who wish to share in the celebration of communion shall remain. ***For those who have an intolerance to wine, grape juice is lighter colored on the tray, center.*** Those who find it difficult to walk to the altar can be communed at your seat. Please inform the usher of your need. After Pastor Cris has given your group the blessing at the altar, you may place your cup in the basket and depart from the Sanctuary down the center aisle, and enjoy fellowship in the hall.

## His Eyes: The Book of Judges

In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes, but they are never far from His eyes.

## Judge Deborah

When Israel strays, a ruthless warlord named Sisera emerges, leaving a trail of terror. But hope flickers in the unlikely places: God raises up a prophetess named Deborah and a seemingly ordinary woman, Jael, who, together, hold the key to a surprising, victory-clinching act.

## ---- THE OPENING HYMN

### “Christ is Our Cornerstone” (LW 290 Vs. 1-4)

- 1. Christ is our cornerstone, on Him alone we build;  
With His true saints alone the courts of heav’n are filled.  
On His great love our hopes we place of present grace and joys above.*
- 2. Oh, then, with hymns of praise these hallowed courts shall ring;  
Our voices we will raise the Three in One to sing  
And thus proclaim in joyful song, both loud and long, that glorious name.*
- 3. Here, gracious God, do now and evermore draw near;  
Accept each faithful vow, and ev’ry sup-pliant hear.  
In co-pious show’r on all who pray each holy day Your blessing pour.*
- 4. Here may we gain from heav’n the grace which we implore,  
And may that grace, once giv’n, be with us evermore  
Until that day when all the blest to endless rest are called away.*

## --- Opening

*Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Hebrews 4:13*

## --- THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**(Take a moment of silent reflection upon our need for God’s forgiveness)**

Pastor: *O Almighty God,*

**PEOPLE: GOD, OUR LOVING FATHER,**

**WE CONFESS THAT WE ARE OFTEN IMPATIENT AND RUSH TO CRITICIZE.**

**WE TAKE OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS FOR GRANTED.**

**WE ARE OFTEN UNGRATEFUL AND NOT GRACIOUS.**

**WE OFTEN EXPECT CHURCH TO MIRROR OUR OWN BIASES.**

**WE FORGET TO ASK FOR OUR CHURCH TO MIRROR YOU.**

**WE OFTEN USE YOUR SCRIPTURES TO SUPPORT OUR OPINIONS.**

**WE FORGET THAT THEY ARE A LAMP TO OUR FEET AND A LIGHT TO OUR PATH.**

**OUR HOPE IS CENTERED ON OURSELVES AND NOT ON YOU.**

**RENEW US, LORD, THAT WE MAY DELIGHT IN YOUR WILL**

**AND WALK IN YOUR WAYS, TO THE GLORY OF YOUR HOLY NAME. AMEN.**

*Pastor: The story of Jesus is about life and forgiveness.... You are God’s beloved; you are a child of the resurrection. Live in the hope of new life. God loves you, and God is the restorer of hope. Your sins are forgiven, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. AMEN*

## --THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

*Pastor: Let us pray.*

*Almighty and eternal God, you have brought back from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep, to call us into His flock through His word. Send us your Holy Spirit, so that we may hear the voice of the good Shepherd and faithfully follow Him. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen*

## --THE HYMN OF PRAISE

**"This is the Feast"** (LW pg 161)

***This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.***

***Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,***

***Whose blood set us free to be people of God.***

***This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.***

***Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and Honor, blessing, and glory are His.***

***This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.***

***Sing with all the people of God, And join in the hymn of all creation:***

***Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and Lamb forever. Amen.***

***This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.***

***For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.***

***This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, al-le-lu-ia.***

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## THE FIRST LESSON Judges 4:1-8

After Ehud's death, Israel's rebellion brings a brutal Canaanite leader, but a prophetess and a reluctant warrior receive a surprising strategy from God.

Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, now that Ehud was dead. So the Lord sold them into the hands of Jabin, king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. Sisera, the commander of his army, was based in Harosheth Haggoyim. Because he had nine

hundred chariots fitted with iron and had cruelly oppressed the Israelites for twenty years, they cried to the Lord for help.

Now Deborah, a prophet, the wife of Lappidoth, was leading Israel at that time. She held court under the Palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites went up to her to have their disputes decided. She sent for Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali and said to him, "The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you: 'Go, take with you ten thousand men of Naphtali and

Zebulun and lead them up to Mount Tabor. I will lead Sisera, the commander of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his troops to the Kishon River and give him into your hands."

Barak said to her, "If you go with me, I will go; but if you don't go with me, I won't go."

*Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.*

**PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD**

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## THE SECOND LESSON

### Hebrews 4:1-13

By God's word, everything finds a rhythm, a place. It fills, empowers, enlivens, and redeems us. But it also divides, destroys, pierces, and exposes our disobedience and unfaithfulness.

Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it. For we also have had the good news proclaimed to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because they did not share the faith of those who obeyed. Now we who have believed enter that rest, just as God has said,

"So I declared on oath in my anger,

'They shall never enter my rest.'"

And yet his works have been finished since the creation of the world. For somewhere he has spoken about the seventh day in these words: "On the seventh day God rested from all his works." And again in the passage above he says, "They shall never enter my rest."

Therefore since it still remains for some to enter that rest, and since those who formerly had the good news proclaimed

to them did not go in because of their disobedience, God again set a certain day, calling it "Today." This he did when a long time later he spoke through David, as in the passage already quoted:

"Today, if you hear his voice,  
do not harden your hearts."

For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken later about another day. There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from their works, just as God did from his. Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will perish by following their example of disobedience.

**For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.**

*Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.*

**PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD**

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# THE HOLY GOSPEL

## Matthew 16:1-12

Jesus rebukes the Pharisees and Sadducees for obsessing over flashy miracles while missing the real signs.

The Pharisees and Sadducees came to Jesus and tested him by asking him to show them a sign from heaven.

He replied, "When evening comes, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red,' and in the morning, 'Today it will be stormy, for the sky is red and overcast.' You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times. A wicked and adulterous generation looks for a sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah." Jesus then left them and went away.

When they went across the lake, the disciples forgot to take bread. "Be careful," Jesus said to them. "Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees."

They discussed this among themselves and said, "It is because we didn't bring any bread."

Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked, "You of little faith, why are you talking among yourselves about having no bread? Do you still not understand? Don't you remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered? Or the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered? How is it you don't understand that I was not talking to you about bread? But be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees." Then they understood that he was not telling them to guard against the yeast used in bread, but against the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

**PEOPLE: PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST**

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--- (10:15 Service) **CONFIRMATION** - Kyler Evan Case

--- **PROFESSION**

**THE APOSTLES CREED**

--**THE OFFERTORY**

**"Create in me a clean heart"** (LW pg 143)

***Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit with-in me.***

***Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.***

***Restore unto me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with Your free Spirit.***

## --- THE SERMON

His Eyes: The Book of Judges - Judge Deborah

## --- HYMN OF DAY

### "Amazing Grace, My Chains are Gone"

(CCLI # 4768151, Chris Tomlin, John Newton, Louie Giglio)

**1. *Amazing grace! How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost but now am found,  
Was blind but now I see!***

**2. *The Lord has promised good to me,  
His word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures.***

#### **Refrain**

***My chains are gone, I've been set free  
My God, my Savior has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy reigns  
Unending love, Amazing grace***

**3. *Through many dangers, toils, and snares  
I have already come;  
His grace has brought me safe so far,  
His grace will see me home. (Refrain 2x)***

**4. *Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail  
And mortal life shall cease,  
Amazing grace shall then prevail  
In heaven's joy and peace  
In heaven's joy and peace  
You are, my joy and peace***

## --- PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

(after each petition)

*Pastor: Lord, in your mercy,*

**PEOPLE: HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

## --- THE LORD'S PRAYER

## ----- THE BLESSING

*Pastor: May the Lord bless you and keep you.  
May the Lord look upon you with grace and redemption.  
May the Lord always walk before you and give you peace*

**PEOPLE: AMEN**

## ----THE CLOSING HYMN

### “What a Friend We Have in Jesus” (LW 516 Vs 1-3)

1. What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!  
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; oh, what needless pain we bear.  
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!
2. Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged, take it to the Lord in prayer!  
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness, take it to the Lord in prayer.
3. Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still or refuge, take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
In his arms he'll take and shield you, you will find a solace there.

## ----- SENDING

*Pastor: Have peace knowing we are all with you.  
Serve others knowing God walks before you.*

Those who wish to share in the celebration of Holy Communion may be seated.

## --- THE ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION

**Pastor:** May the Lord be with you!

**PEOPLE: AND ALSO WITH YOU.**

**Pastor:** Lift up your hearts.

**PEOPLE: WE LIFT THEM UP TO THE LORD.**





Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**PEOPLE: IT IS RIGHT TO GIVE OUR THANKS AND PRAISE.**

Pastor: The tree of life in the midst of the garden was the tree of our defeat. Christ was lifted up on the tree of victory; and where life was lost, there life has been restored. And so we praise you ..

**PEOPLE: HOLY, HOLY, HOLY LORD, GOD OF POWER AND MIGHT, HEAVEN AND EARTH ARE FULL OF YOUR GLORY. HOSANNA, HOSANNA, HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST. BLESSED IS HE THAT COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD. HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST**

## ---- THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

After the pastor has consecrated the elements you are invited to come to the altar and receive communion. Please use the right or left aisle as you come forward to the altar. After the pastor has pronounced the blessing for your side, you may place your cup in the basket and depart the sanctuary down the center aisle. Go in peace, Serve the Lord.

*(Please remember that as you are leaving the sanctuary, others are still communing, please refrain from talking to others until you are in the Fellowship Hall, Thank You.)*

## --- ADDITIONAL HYMNS (On Projection Screens)

### “Thine Forever God Of Love ”

Copyright: Commissioned through the Michigan District, LCMS

### “Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest”

Copyright: Commissioned through the Michigan District, LCMS

### “Holy Spirit, Light Divine”

Copyright: Commissioned through the Michigan District, LCMS

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**BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK:** JoAnne Furniss & Meghan Lynch 4/23,  
Mrs. Jan Lendak 4/26, Jacob Palmer - 4/27 (3 Years Old)

**THE FLOWERS ADORNING THE ALTAR** are given to the glory of God by the Vik family in memory of David Hall, Lorrie’s father.

**CONFIRMATION TODAY:** Today Kyler Evan Case is participating in the rite of Confirmation.

**FEEDBACK NOISE:** To help avoid feedback noise from the TV’s in the narthex and nursery room we will strive to keep the sanctuary doors closed during the service.

## ---- THIS WEEK AT GRACE

### Today

**April 21, 2024**

Services

8:30 & 10:15 AM

Live-streamed on [www.gracelutheranpsl.com](http://www.gracelutheranpsl.com)

10:15 AM

Korean Church Worship

1:00 PM

### **Rest of the Week**

**April 22 - 27**

12 Step AA Meeting

Monday, 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Olivet School

Tuesday, 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Korean Bible Study

Thursday, 10:30 AM

Grace Bible Study

Thursday, 11:00 AM

AA Meeting

Thursday, 7:15 PM - 9:30 PM

Olivet Testing

Friday, 9:15 AM

Family Fun Night

Friday, 6:00 PM

Korean Church Prayer Gathering

Saturday, 6:00 AM

For complete calendar information, go to [www.gracelutheranpsl.com/calendar](http://www.gracelutheranpsl.com/calendar)

**WHITE ELEPHANT/CINCO DE MAYO & BINGO:** On Saturday, May 4th from 2 - 4 PM, Grace's LWML is sponsoring a special welcome party for all our newest members from last year and this. Everyone is encouraged to come and have a festive time while both new and old members can get to know each other better.

**FAMILY GAME NIGHT:** THIS Friday, April 26th at 6PM, join us for fun and games and maybe a few snacks. Bring your favorite game, or play one of ours!

**KING TUT EXHIBIT:** Tuesday, April 30th at 10:30AM, we are meeting at the front of the Elliott Museum to explore the King Tut Exhibit. Lunch after. BOGO Coupon in Entertainment book. Cost is \$16.(If 10 or more guests we receive a free tour guide, so please sign up in the Narthex)

**OFFICE HOURS:** The "Church Office" is open in the ACC Complex from 9:00 AM through 12:00 (Noon) daily, Monday - Friday. The office is overseen on Monday by Diane Heinz, Tuesday - Thursday by Kevin Garbers and Friday Vance Ablott. Please feel free to stop by or call anytime during those hours. Office phone is 772 - 871 - 6599 After hours you can contact Kevin at 772-971-9200 or Pastor Cris at 770 - 328 - 5078.

**GIVING:** We are here to provide "Grace and Peace in a Confusing and Trying Time" to those in our church and community. Thank you for your past and continual prayers and financial support to Grace and your community. Thanks for your Support: [GraceLutheranPSL.com/give](http://GraceLutheranPSL.com/give)

**THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY:** THIS Thursday at 11:00 AM. Come here to the church or watch the Live Streamed for those at home as we study the book of Matthew.

**COMMUNION WARE INPUT:** Our present communion ware is showing its age and our Altar Guild would like your input on their replacement suggestion. The new service suggestion is on display at the back of the church today and through the week, and will also be displayed on the altar next Sunday between services (9:40 - 10:00) after April 28th a final decision will be made.



**THRIVENT FINANCIAL MEMBER?** This month Grace received another \$184.00 from Thivent members. So far this year Grace Lutheran has received \$968 from Thrivent Choice! Thank You! All "Choice Dollars" that are received go to paying down our mortgage on the new building.

**COMMUNION:** If you, or someone you know, would like to celebrate Holy Communion but prefer a small group or are unable to attend Sunday service, Pastor Cris is happy to celebrate the meal in a small group with you. **Please call the church at (772) 871-6599**, and Pastor Cris would be happy to set aside a time for you to come in and receive communion and partake of this wonderful meal.

**FROM THE ALZHEIMER'S COMMUNITY CARE CENTER!** There is a wish list of needs to assist in the operation of this center to help provide care for our clients. If you could help, it would be greatly appreciated. **Wish list:** Oatmeal Cookies - 04/30, Coconut Cream Pie - 05/08, Fruit Cocktail Cups - 05/13. (Store Bought Items Only) (Dates listed indicate a special celebration on that day)

These items are needed regularly: Seasonal Crafts/Decorations, Balloons, Wild Bird Feed, Gift cards to Walmart for crafts, Assorted Bingo Prizes, Assorted Sugar Free Chocolate and Decaf Coffee. Thank you for your support!

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**4/21**    ***Worship assistants:*** 8:30 - Vance A. & 10:15 - Ed B.  
***Scripture Readers:*** 8:30 - Piper N. & 10:15 - Coli E.

**4/28**    ***Worship assistants:*** 8:30 Kevin G. / 10:15 Frank M.  
***Scripture Readers:*** 8:30 Jay H./ 10:15 Heather P.

***Readings: Judges 6:11-24, Romans 11:17-24, Matthew 19:3-12 (NIV)***

**QUESTIONS FOR THE WEEK:** *His Eyes: The Book of Judges - Judge Deborah*

1. Describe a time when someone surprised you by doing a great thing when you didn't expect much from them.
2. Read Judges 4 and 5. How does God deliver His people in an unlikely way?
3. We can see that God is working through the weak and unexpected. Can you think of a time in your own life when you felt weak or unqualified, yet God used you in a surprising way? How can we be more open to seeing God working in unexpected ways?
4. We see that God's victory is already secure through Jesus. How can this concept change the way we approach challenges and relationships in our lives?

# PRAYERS ON BEHALF OF...

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*Susan Becker (Port St. Lucie Rehabilitation and Healthcare)*  
*Gerald (Jerry) Davis (Harbor Place, Senior Living Community)*  
*Diane Fox (Port St. Lucie Rehabilitation and Healthcare)*  
*Debra Lemke (A Touch of Class Adult Care)*  
*Norm Neuberger (Palms of St. Lucie West)*

Al & Doris Vollmann  
Richard & Marie Harms  
Joe Gannon  
Thomas & Marilyn Piotrowicz  
Claren Kerstner

Jenny Brendlinger  
Ron Phelps  
Karen Albano  
Marita Albano  
Janet Kutschinski

## Friends and Family

*Evelyn Scott (Surgery, Pastor Scott's mother)*  
*Sarah Dowell Garcia and Fred Reynolds (cancer, friends of Lois Danzo)*  
*Valerie Race (very sick, Gloria's niece in NY)*  
*William Lemke (nephew of Victoria Thomason Diagnosed with bladder and pancreatitis cancer)*  
*Deborah Thompson (Mike Palmer's mother, is very ill)*

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**Friday, April 26th at 6:00 PM!**  
**Board games, laughter, and cookies? Ditch the screens and join us for a family game night packed with fun and delicious snacks! Unplug and reconnect - game night awaits!**



**April 30th - Tuesday 10:30 AM**  
**We are meeting at the front entrance of the Elliott Museum at 10:30 AM.**  
**We will be getting lunch afterwards.**  
**Cost: \$18 or \$16 for Seniors**  
**BOGO Coupon in Entertainment Book**  
(Please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex)  
(10 or more guests we receive a free tour guide)