

Grace Lutheran Church
is a caring community
of disciples, proclaiming
the good news of
Jesus Christ.

Grace Notes

March, 2022

“When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name.” Glory to our God, Father and Son and Holy Spirit! All we have is from our God. And our God shares all He has with you and me. We don’t offer fruit in baskets at the Temple. All is in the hands of our God. What do we have to offer? Not even ourselves... for you are a daughter and a son of our God and Father. Even that is a gift to us. We are God’s children, so the Spirit sings in praise of our Father with our voices and our hearts. So we have nothing... but our lives are a gift from the Son and Spirit to our Father. Thanks be to God. Amen!

Lent begins this week with Ash Wednesday. Through the season of Lent, I encourage you all to open your heart to the Spirit. Let Her power fill your heart to change you into a new creation. That is what this season of Lent is about: repentance and change, healing and growing.

Throughout Lent, we will have a number of opportunities for you to explore your spiritual life. Mondays and Fridays we have online daily prayer together. Wednesdays we have Morning Prayer in the sanctuary as well as a Women’s Bible Study in the mornings in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a Prayer Workshop, the monthly Befrienders’ meeting, a Good Friday prayer vigil and more. Look for an opportunity to grow your spiritual life this Lent.

“My eyes will flow without ceasing,/ without respite,/ until the Lord from heaven/
looks down and sees.” (Lamentations 3:54)

Our committees add a lot to the life of our church. They reach out to the community around us, feed us at PorkFest, create fun for our youth and our adults, teach our kids at Sunday School, plan Confirmation, gather clothes for people in need, and so much more. See the information sign-up sheet in the Narthex and find out about a committee that calls to you!

Grace’s Faithful Innovations team is learning to listen to the Spirit and to see our God in the details of our lives. Talk to us about your own spiritual experiences. Help us learn to see where God is in our church and in your life. We want to hear your story: Katie Bridgers, Cheryl Stimac, Janet Kokko, Inga Johnson, Chris DeForge, Katie Tormala, and Pastor Micah.

Holden Evening Prayer begins Wednesday March 9th. Join us for our soup supper at 530pm. Holden Evening Prayer follows afterward at 6pm. It is a holy, friend-filled, and a tasty way to observe Lent.

My sermons are posted online at www.gracesouthrange.com/sermons/ and on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/user/cavalerima>. If you want a copy of the service and the sermon, let Katie know and she will add you to our mailing list.

Do you have dreams for our church? Have you had an idea you wish you could try out on our congregation? Talk to me. Grace is your church. Let’s make it what you need it to be.

As always, I am here for you. Catch me on Zoom, call me at home or shoot me an email. We will get through this together... I look forward to talking with you.

Be good to each other. Call each other. We are family.

With faith and hope and love,

Pastor Micah

“Churches are Changing—Sometimes for the Better”

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted all aspects of our lives. Our churches and our lives of faith most certainly have been affected. One is tempted to view the pandemic as only having negative impacts. There is no denying the death toll and ubiquitous stress are not positive outcomes. But one can legitimately see the work of God in the midst of it all.

Many Christian congregations (estimated at 175,000 congregations nationwide) have stepped up to “be the church” for not only their own people but for the larger community. More than one half of American Christian congregations have started a new ministry or expanded an existing ministry during the pandemic. And, on average, these congregations have expanded three or more outreach activities. One fifth of congregations had ministries related to the pandemic—vaccine clinics, mask making, etc.

Additional evidence of adaptability is shown by the survey result of now 86% of churches being willing to change to meet new challenges as opposed to only 73% just prior to the pandemic.

The Hartford Institute for Religion Research summarized recent research by saying, “The level of new and intensified social outreach and community ministry undertaken by the nation’s churches is monumental.”

- Do you see God at work in new and faithful ways in your congregation these last two years?
- Is your congregation offering online streaming services?
- Is your congregation now asking questions about how to reach out to those folks who are viewing online worship services?
- Did your congregation host a vaccine clinic?
- Did your congregation engage in a study and reflection on systemic problems in our society?
- Did your congregation host a food pantry or feeding program?

It seems to me that when we are under great stress, we are naturally drawn to the deeper existential questions. What is the purpose and meaning of my life? And the parallel existential questions of Christian communities: What is the purpose of my congregation?

Most congregations in the ELCA worship on average 100 or fewer people a week. Most congregations in all denominations tend to be rather small. But small can be beautiful. Small can be powerful. Small can allow you to pivot more quickly. Small can still be very significant.

The metaphor of the “remnant” is part of the Old Testament narrative. When the faith community was fractured and broken up because of many factors including disobedience as well as outside forces, a small and faithful remnant remained. God wasn’t through bringing life out of death dealing situations.

The prophet Ezekiel was asked by God, “Shall these dry bones live?” (Ezekiel 37)

You and your congregation might feel pretty stressed and dried up. God is still God. God is not through with us. The Sovereign God has power to add sinew and life to bones that seem useless and dead.

As one church member from our synod said, “We’re still here.”

(Note: Much of the information for this article was taken from a new report by the Hartford Institute for Religion Research, “Congregational Response to the Pandemic: Extraordinary Social Outreach in a Time of Crisis” as cited in an online article by Adelle Banks in Ministry Watch, December 22, 2021.)

Pastor Jim Duehring
Assistant to the Bishop/DEM

Grace Lutheran Faithful Innovations group is talking about God in our everyday lives, how to listen to each other and what we might learn about God in the process. We are asking our congregation to think about their spiritual lives. Please know there are no right or wrong answers. It is all about your experience. You may turn in your questions to Janet Kokko, Katie Tormala, Inga Johnson, Cheryl Stimac, Chris DeForge or Katie Bridgers, who are part of this committee. One of us may contact you, or you may contact us. We are looking forward to a visit with you!

1. Talk about a time when you grew spiritually in a significant way. What was happening in that period of your life?

2. What do you think God might have been trying to teach you or show you during that time in your life?

3. Where do you experience God's presence most often now?

**If you would like to know more about any these committees,
please sign up in the narthex.**

Mutual Ministry Committee which shall: act as liaison between pastor(s), staff and congregation; and serve as personnel committee for paid staff including maintaining current job descriptions, assisting in screening job candidates, conducting exit interviews, and conducting periodic performance appraisals of the pastor(s) and all staff.

Long-Range Vision and Resource Team which shall: meet with the Congregation Council each November to review, evaluate and update the congregation vision and establish plans for the next three to five years; conduct regular meetings to plan, establish the structure, implement the visions goals; maintain job descriptions for the volunteer staff; make recommendations to the Congregation Council as needed for structural, policy, and constitutional changes connected to implementation of vision;

Worship and Music Committee which shall: give leadership, counsel, and guidance in all matters pertaining to worship and church music within the congregation; and can work mutually with the pastor to select liturgies and worship music and special worship services.

Stewardship Committee which shall: meet regularly to promote regular giving of monetary resources, time, and volunteer efforts by the congregation members to Grace Lutheran Church, the Northern Great Lakes Synod, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and their missions.

Hospitality Committee which shall: meet regularly to plan and implement activities that nurtures current members and welcomes and invites new members to worship at Grace Lutheran.

Christian Education Committee which shall: meet regularly to plan and coordinate the curricula and lessons to be used in the Sunday School, Confirmation Classes, and Vacation Bible School and offer assistance for adult education.

Evangelism Committee which shall: reach out to surrounding communities spreading the good news of Jesus Christ.

Memorial Committee which shall: ensure memorials are distributed in an appropriate way according to the families wishes and memorial policy and will keep an account of all memorial funds for use according to memorial policy

Kiitos Paljon

Thank you, to all those who volunteer on Sunday mornings to read during our worship service.

Notes from the office

Would you like to start receiving a weekly devotion from the church office on Mondays? Please send Katie your name and email address.

Newsletter items are due in the office the last week of the month.

Please save your Econo receipts and return them to a box in the library. Grace receives 1% of the total receipts.

If we do not have your birthday or anniversary, please

Birthdays

Janet Kokko 7

Dave Aro 7

Connor Raffaelli 17

Sherri Lystila 21

Sue Slinde 22

Heather Aro 23

Chris Bohjanen 25

Sam Jenkins 25

Jaden Janke 28

Anniversaries

Sam & Joleen Jenkins
20th

Lent 2022 Bible Study Guide is available to all. Please see Katie or pick one up in the narthex.

Weekly Activities at Grace

Mondays

Prayer Service 5:00pm

Wednesdays ~

Prayer Service 10:00am

Cup of Grace at 10:15am

Bible Study at 11:00am

Bible Study at 7:00pm

Thursdays ~

Games at Grace 12:30pm

Fridays ~

Prayer Service at 9:00am

Friday Conversation at 12:30pm

(* By Zoom *)

Walk in Ashes

On Ash Wednesday all are welcome to stop in from 9:00am to 12:00pm to receive their imposition of ashes.

Ash Wednesday Worship
6:00pm



Remember
you are dust,
and to dust
you shall
return

ASH WEDNESDAY

February Council Highlights

For the year 2022: Chris will continue as President; Janet will continue as Vice President and Inga will be our new Secretary. Katie will stay as our Financial Secretary and Laurie will stay as Treasurer.

Janet made a motion for Chris to write a "One party listing" with Ron Stewart and Hillary Virtanen at \$159,900 for the parsonage sale with a plan to put an expiration date after she gets a chance to talk to them. Bill seconded with all in favor. A seller's disclosure will also be needed.

Our COVID-19 plan will remain the same. Everyone please continue to remain diligent.

*Bring love
wherever you go.*

*Shine light
wherever it's dark.*

*Leave blessings
wherever you've been.*

*Be kind
wherever you are.*

Donations Needed

Grace Lutheran is in need of the following for the nursery:

Rocking Chair
Pack-n-Play or Crib

March Worship Text

Sunday, March 6

Luke 4:1-13

The temptation of Jesus in the wilderness for forty days.

Sunday, March 13

Luke 13:31-35

I have desired to gather Jerusalem as a hen gathers her brood.

Sunday, March 20

Luke 13:1-9

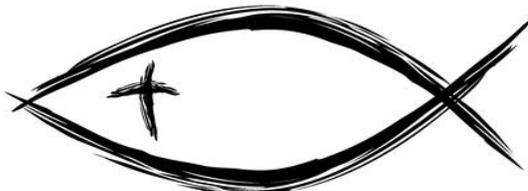
Unless you repent, you will perish; parable of the fig tree.

Sunday, March 27

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

The parable of the prodigal father and the repentant son.

ASH WEDNESDAY
First Day of Lent



Soup Supper and Lenten Services

Ash Wednesday Service

6:00pm March 2nd

Soup Supper at 5:30pm and Lenten Service at 6:00pm

Wednesday, March 9th Wednesday, March 16th

Wednesday, March 23rd Wednesday, March 30th

Wednesday, April 6th

Signup sheet to make soup, bring milk or bread can be found in the narthex.

Maundy Thursday (April 14th) Service will be at 6:00pm

Good Friday (April 15th) Service will be at 1:00pm.

There will be an all-day prayer vigil at Grace Lutheran on Good Friday.

Watch for information to come about the Good Friday Prayer Vigil.

Worship Servants for March 2022

	Sunday March 6	Sunday March 13	Sunday March 20	Sunday March 27	
Ushers	Tim & Evelyn Lawless	Paul Bridgers	Bill Hendrickson	Tom Stimac	
Counters	Inga Johnson Katie Bridgers	Roseann Terry Marianne B	Bill & Denise Hendrickson	Cheryl Stimac Janet Kokko	
Communion	Confirmation Student	Confirmation Student	Confirmation Student	Confirmation Student	
Reader	Confirmation Student	Confirmation Student	Confirmation Student	Confirmation Student	

Prayer Chain

Are you or do you know someone who is in need of prayers? Please let Cheryl, Carolyn or Katie know if you have any prayer requests.

Would you like to be a part of our prayer chain? Please let Katie know and you will receive the prayer chain email weekly.

*Grow
in Christ!*



*Thanks, Long Range Vision
and
Resource Team!*

Lutheran Dictionary

by: Walter Lieder
Concordia Publishing House
Saint Louis, Missouri

Cantate: From Latin, “sing ye,” opening words of the Introit. The fourth Sunday after Easter.

New Testament: That portion of the Holy Scriptures written by the divinely inspired Apostles and Evangelists. It comprises 27 books; Matthew to Revelation.



We are in need of help on Sunday mornings for worship servants. Please consider helping out as a communion assistant, reader, usher or a counter.



Our Hearts to Their Homes

Jean Simila at HCMC
Lynn Neal at HCMC
Susan Koskela at home
Helen Sirvio at the Bluffs
Gert Somero at the Bluffs
Delores Paavola at Portage Point
Gladys McCormick at HCMC
Jan Mikkola at Mission Point



Grace Lutheran Congregational Contact Information

Volunteer Coordinators

Acolytes/Bell Ringers	Katie Bridgers	482-2011
Altar Duty	Chris Davis	482-5567
Communion	Chris DeForge	482-8068
Counters	Marianne Bohjanen	482-8459
Funeral Servers	Chris Davis	482-5567
Readers	Cheryl Stimac	281-7909
Fellowship		
Ushers	Katie Bridgers	482-2011
Greeters	Chris Davis	482-5567
Gardening	Janet Kokko	482-2368

Grace Lutheran Council

Micah Cavaleri	281-9558
Chris DeForge	482-8068
President	
Janet Kokko	482-2368
Vice President	
Inga Johnson	370-5161
Secretary	
Heather Aro	482-0341
Bill Hendrickson	370-9690
Amanda Krznarich	482-2011
Katie Bridgers	482-2011
Laurie Aho	482-0817
Treasurer	

Building & Grounds Maintenance

Tom Stimac	281-7910	Joe DeForge	482-8068
Tom Savola	281-5494	Katie Bridgers	482-2011

Jesus speaks...

I want you to live increasingly from your real Center,
where My Love has an eternal grip on you.

I am Christ in you, the hope of Glory.



Sundays

Sunday School 10:00am
Discussion & Coffee with Pastor Micah 10:00am
Choir 10:15am
Worship with Pastor Micah 11:00am

In order to meet
our monthly
expenses, we
need to take in
\$6,810.00.

January giving was
\$7,724.56.

We have various
options for you
to continue
your giving.



Grace
Lutheran is a
member
of the
Evangelical
Lutheran
Church
in America.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 10:00 Prayer 10:15am Coffee 11:00am Bible Study 1:00pm Quilting 4:00pm Confirmation 6:00pm Ash Wednesday Worship	3 12:30pm Games at Gace	4 9:00am Prayer 12:30pm Conversation	5 11:00am to 2:00pm Faithful Innovations
6 10:00am Sunday School 10:00am Discussion 10:15am Choir 11:00am Worship 12:00pm Birthday and Anniversary Fellowship	7 5:00pm Prayer	8	9 10:00 Prayer 10:15am Coffee 11:00am Bible Study 4:00pm Confirmation 5:30pm Soup Supper 6:00pm Lent Worship	10 12:30pm Games at Gace	11 9:00am Prayer 12:30pm Conversation	12
13 10:00am Sunday School 10:00am Discussion 10:15am Choir 11:00am Worship 12:00pm Fellowship	14 12:00pm LCW 5:00pm Prayer	15 6:30pm Council Meeting	16 10:00 Prayer 10:15am Coffee 11:00am Bible Study 1:00pm Quilting 4:00 Confirmation 5:30pm Soup Supper 6:00pm Lent Worship	17 12:30pm Games at Gace 	18 9:00am Prayer 12:30pm Conversation	19
20 10:00am Sunday School 10:00am Discussion 10:15am Choir 11:00am Worship 12:00pm Fellowship	21 5:00pm Prayer	22	23 10:00 Prayer 10:15am Coffee 11:00am Bible Study 4:00 Confirmation 5:30pm Soup Supper 6:00pm Lent Worship	24 12:30pm Games at Gace	25 9:00am Prayer 12:30pm Conversation	26
27 10:00am Sunday School 10:00am Discussion 10:15am Choir 11:00am Worship with Anointing of Oil 12:00pm Potluck	28 5:00pm Prayer	29 7:00pm Befrienders	30 10:00 Prayer 10:15am Coffee 11:00am Bible Study 1:00pm Quilting 4:00 Confirmation 5:30pm Soup Supper 6:00pm Lent Worship	31 12:30pm Games at Gace		

MARCH

