



GRACE MESSENGER

January 2022

Grace Lutheran Church, an ELCA Congregation
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Keith Voigts - Church Council President
Office Hours: Pastor Dave 9-12 Tues. - Friday
Staff, Tues. All day, Wed.-Fri. 8-12
Please call to make sure someone is in the office.

Pastor's New Year's Message

Happy New Year!

Many of us will agree that 2021 wasn't much better than 2020 – both were filled with sadness and disappointment. Covid hindered many aspects of our outreach and worship in 2020; 2021 was also a year of outreach hindering by Covid, and we mourned the loss of several of our members and friends. It would be easy to fall into a state of depression and gloom if we looked back over these years. But God is inviting us to put the past behind us and *look ahead into a New Year!*

As I noted in last Sunday's sermon, God is the God of New Beginnings. The first disciples all experienced new beginnings when they were called to follow Jesus. On the Road to Damascus the brilliant Light of Christ shone down upon Saul of Tarsus, and he was given redemption and a new beginning as Paul the Apostle. In the waters of our baptism, we are given new beginnings and new lives as children of God. The Holy Spirit draws us forward into the Hope of tomorrow and the Promise of eternity. *God is giving us a whole New Year to celebrate New Beginnings!*

Thank You!

Doris, Jaye, and I deeply appreciate the generous Christmas gifts and cards with which you blessed us. We are constantly amazed by your expressions of love and support you show us, not just during Christmas, but every day. We give thanks for the privilege of sharing ministry with all of you.

I also want to extend my personal gratitude to Gloria Mays for all her years of service as our Church Secretary. She was always very patient (and courteous) with my forgetfulness, and we worked together very well.

I am also grateful that we were able to hire a competent and courteous new secretary, Julie Nugent. And a huge "Thank You" goes to Candis Raif and Barbara Hughes for filling in and for helping train Julie. Here is another example of new beginnings!

So, once again, "Happy New Year!"

In Christ,

Pastor Dave

The President's Message

If you are like me, you had a rewarding Christmas season, but are a little bit happy to be back in a normal routine. I am so proud of our congregation for once again stepping up to support the people of Kentucky who were so devastated by the unprecedented tornados last month. We are able to send a check for \$5,736.10, to help the members and staff of the Methodist church in Mayfield. We were helped so much after Katrina that it's proper that we give back. I can remember taking advantage of basic necessities sent to us by people all over this country. I distinctly remember that the package from Kentucky arrived at our disaster center in Pass Christian loaded with underwear! Hey, a necessity is a necessity and those garments were very much appreciated!! A former pastor of ours (he married Gwenn and me) always said, "You can't outgive God". It's so true, even if I admit that I haven't brought that comment to its fullest test! Our church is the best. I look forward to seeing you all every Sunday and during the week. Don't stay away!

Keith

Christian Education ~ Lisa Speck

Starting January 9th, Sunday school will begin at 9:00. This is a change in the previous schedule at the beginning of Sunday school for this current school year. We are hoping more families will be willing to show up for classes earlier in the morning while adults can join the Adult Sunday School class already in session. We look forward to the new half of Sunday school this year.



Thank You

OUR MISSION STATEMENT
Christians welcoming and serving
The marks of discipleship are to:

*Pray daily *Worship weekly *Serve your church &
community *Relate to others in a small group

Birthdays in January

2 Susan Cross	21 Doris Parr
3 Kaitlyn Conley	Anthony Peneguy
6 Ingrid Miscavage	22 Don West
7 Cody Garcia	23 Jane Thompson
8 Fiona Hill	Gayla Torguson
13 Brenda Hiles	Kayla Sween
18 Carmela Jones	24 Rilyn & Raymond Speck
Sandra Rhodes	31 George Huddle
20 Ken Dropco	
Jim Seslar	

Anniversaries in January

3 Pete/Kathy Peterson
10 Raymond/Sandie Miller
13 Larry/Kathy Wilson
Russell/Beverly Saglibene
29 Jerry/Mary Luzadder

READERS

2 Daniel Sween
9 Cathy Wilson
16 Keith Voigts
23 Caroline Ruoss
30

ASSISTING MINISTER

2 Judy Hierstein
9 Duane Wilson
16 Kevin Schultz
23 Keith Voigts
30 Mary West

TELLERS

2 Jarrell/Saglibene
9 Schultz/Seslar
16 Puckett/Gaines
23 D. West/Voigts
30 Wilson/Dupont

OUTREACH MINISTRY

***On Thursday, February 17th, I hope to have a breakfast for the seniors at the Long Beach Senior Center at 8:30 AM.
A signup sheet will be posted in the Narthex in February.***

***Thank you,
Pete Raif***



Stephen Ministry

We all experience challenges in life. There are times when we could benefit from the support of a caring Christian friend that will keep our visits confidential. Stephen Ministers are ready to provide the emotional and spiritual care one needs when faced with a difficult time. If you, or someone you know in the congregation or community, could benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister, please call or ask the person to call the numbers below. Stephen Ministry is **CONFIDENTIAL**

Contact: Linda Johnson 504-433-4768 or Pastor Dave Parr 423-620-1284.

Fellowship Ministry—Chris Jarrell

A big thank you to all who helped with our Christmas Party, and to all who provided and served refreshments following worship in December. I hope that everyone who attended the Christmas Party had fun! The socks we collected were given to the King's Kitchen (an outreach ministry to feed the homeless) in Bay St. Louis. They were so grateful for the donation. Thank you all who participated.

On January 9th following worship we will have a reception for Gloria Mays. We would like to show our appreciation for her many years as our church Secretary. Plans are still being made. If you would like to help with planning or refreshments, please let me know.

The new sign-up sheet for fellowship refreshments is posted in the narthex.

Save the date:

On Friday, January 28th, at 6:30 PM we will have our "State of the Union Dinner"

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!

November 2021 – Finance Secretary's report for Grace Lutheran Church

Finances for Grace were solid in November. Contributions in November were \$19,729, while expenses were \$15,050. There were no unusual budget expenditures in November. To meet the 2021 budget, our income needed each month is \$16,610. **Contributions YTD are \$2,818 below the amount needed to meet the budget.**

Restricted fund account activities were fairly active in November. Grace Food Pantry received \$708 in donations with expenses of \$143. Good Samaritan expended \$1,278 to assist members and others in need with \$70 in donations. Due to the great success of the Garage Sale (s), the Service Project Fund received \$2,980 in deposits. These Restricted funds will continue to be used to help members and others in the community in need.

Duane Wilson

READINGS FOR JANUARY

Date	Sundays	1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Gospel
2	2nd of Christmas	Jeremiah 31:7-14	147:12-20	Ephesians 1:3-14	John 1:1-18
9	Baptism of Our Lord	Isaiah 43:1-7	29	Acts 8:14-17	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
16	2nd after Epiphany	Isaiah 62:1-5	36:5-10	1 Corinthians 12:1-11	John 2:1-11
23	3rd after Epiphany	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10	19	1 Corinthians 12:12-31a	Luke 4:14-21
30	4th after Epiphany	Jeremiah 1:4-10	71:1-6	1 Corinthians 13:1-13	Luke 4:21-30

LORD IN YOUR MERCY, HEAR OUR PRAYERS FOR....

Kevin Baker, Gracie Blair, Jennifer Bonstaff, Vicky Boolos, Wanda Branstetter, Jim Bryant, John Bull, Charles Busby, Don Bridges, Jan Bruner, Lonnie Calvin, Margaret Cannon, Sharon Cates, Charissa, Cynthia Chadwyck, Vivian & Mike Collins, Alice Crandall, Cole Crane, Bill Creasy, Susan Cross, Stan Cross, Robert Crowley, Richard Cuevas, Alvin Culberson, Gina Dale, Timothy Davis, Toni Davis, Christie Deshotel, Amberly Favre, Azalee Fullmer, Emily Galloway, Madelyn Gordon, Vickey Gordon, Joe & Jonathan Gray, John Guthans, Brandy Haydin, Devon/Emily Head, Steve Hiles, Brenda Hiles, Sherry Holbrook, Pat Holliday, Donald Holliday, Ann Holliday, Mike Hughes, Peggy Jefcoat, Mike Johnson, Carmela Jones, Sarah Koehn, Cheryl Lacey, Rachel Lacey, Breanna Ladner, Carrie Ladner, Patti Lastorka, Patricia Lindsey, Lois Long, George Lorrick, Jr., Betty Marshall, Gloria Mays, Glen McElwee, Cindy Mitchell, Val Mueller, Johnney Odom, Mike/Kathy Pearson, Patience Poupart, Pat Pruitt, Lucy Puckett, Morris/Gloria Richardson, Christopher Ryan, Karen/Bud Samuelson, Kim Schultz, Kay Shushan, Corky Sidell, Ryder Simoneaux, Ruth Spera, Larry Strohsack, John Thompson, Maggie Tirrell, Jeff Turner, Fred Turrentine, Juanita Vann, Brantley West, Janyce Westerman, Dolly Williams, Larry Wilson, Hope Wood, Rachel Singleton

Prayers of thanksgiving for assistance provided for others: Richard and Linda Mueller and Pat Holiday to Emily Galloway

**Deployed & Active Military ~ Victims of Domestic Abuse ~ All who have been furloughed
All Medical Personnel and First Responders**

If you see any names that can come off or any names you would like to add, please let Julie know so she can update the list.

Worship Ministry - Candis Raif

Thank you to Pastor Larry Koehn for serving as celebrant on Sunday, December 26th, and to Kevin Schultz for presiding and Ingrid Miscavage for delivering the sermon!

We need readers, communion assistants, and volunteers for children's sermons for each Sunday. Please sign up on the lists on the bulletin board in the narthex!

For Assisting Ministers, we will use the AM schedule as it stands. If you are not able to serve on your scheduled Sunday, please swap with someone and let Ingrid know!

If you are interested in signing up for altar care, there is a list on the bulletin board in the narthex. If you have never done altar care but are interested in learning, please let me or Jeanne Sween know.

January Service / Liturgy Schedule

January 2, 2022 ~ 2nd Sunday of Christmas (White)

Gospel: John 1:1-18... the prologue to John's gospel is a 'hymn to the Word' ... through whom all things were created: and the Word became flesh, dwelt among us, bringing grace and truth to the world.

Jeremiah 31:7-14 Psalm 147:12-20 Ephesians 1:3-14

January 9, 2022 ~ Baptism of Our Lord (White)

Gospel: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22... the passage begins with questions about the identity of the Messiah, and John the Baptist makes it clear it's not him! Whether all hear God's voice, He settles the issue: "This is my beloved Son"

Isaiah 43:1-7 Psalm 29 Acts 8:14-17

January 16, 2022 ~ 2nd Sunday after Epiphany (Green)

Gospel: John 2:1-11 ... the first sign: turning water into wine at the wedding at Cana. The first of many epiphanies revealing that Jesus bears God's creative power and joyful presence to the world.

Isaiah 62:1-5 Psalm 36:5-10 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

January 23, 2022 ~ 3rd Sunday after Epiphany (Green)

Gospel: Luke 4:14-21 ... near the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, he visits his hometown of Nazareth, stating and claiming his identity, purpose and mission, drawing on words found in Isaiah.

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

January 30, 2022 ~ 4th Sunday after Epiphany (Green) (Youth Sunday)

Gospel: Luke 4:21-30 ... the people in Jesus' 'hometown' are initially pleased to hear God will free the oppressed...until they grow in anger toward Jesus when he reminds them that mercy and healing are extended to those regarded as outsiders.

Jeremiah 1:4-10 Psalm 71:1-6 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Mid-week Worship Schedule

Shared meal at 6:00 pm

Midweek Worship ... in person & on Zoom at 7:00 pm. Bible study follows worship