



GRACE MESSENGER

March 2022

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.

Grace Lutheran Church, an ELCA Congregation
19221 Pineville Road, Long Beach, MS 39560
228-864-4248 gracelutheran4248@gmail.com
www.gracelongbeach.com
PASTOR DAVE PARR cell - 423-620-1284
Personal email gracepastordave1@gmail.com



Pastor's March Newsletter

Our Lenten Journey Has Begun

Ash Wednesday (March 2) marked the beginning of the Lenten Season, the 40 days leading to Holy Week. All Christians are invited into a holy journey of reflection, self-examination, and repentance. In some traditions Christians choose to enhance their Lenten experience by periods of fasting or giving up something they otherwise would enjoy. I have always advocated adding additional prayers and deeds of service and mercy to those we already practice. Such possibilities include increased visits to shut-ins, sending cards and making additional calls to those who are lonely or bereaved, and "ramping up" our prayer lives. Given the war and devastation the people of Ukraine are experiencing, intense and constant prayer is certainly needed.

Regardless of how we choose to observe Lent, we have an opportunity to be drawn by the Holy Spirit into a deeper understanding of our relationship with God our Creator and Redeemer. I pray that your journey is fruitful and leads to a deeper appreciation of the Grace and Love we find on the Cross.

Lenten Study Opportunities at Grace

A couple of years ago during Lent we held discussions and studies about some of the basic elements of our Christian faith and worship practices, all of which are included in Luther's Small (and Large) Catechism. I have been asked to do so again this year and am happy to oblige.

Here is the topic schedule:

March 9: The 10 Commandments , March 16: The Apostles' Creed , March 23: The Lord's Prayer, March 30: Baptism,
April 6: Holy Communion

Each discussion will include the Biblical references and theological foundations of these elements. Everyone is invited to participate.

Prayers for Ukraine

Aggression and oppression are expressions of evil, and when one nation or one individual engages in such ungodly practices, everyone is affected. The evil that is being perpetrated upon the people of Ukraine by the Russian government is unconscionable. As God's people we cry out to God for justice and peace to come to Ukraine, and that all war and killing cease. Lord, in your mercy...

Continued...

Looking Ahead

On **March 13** Pastor Jonathan Hemphill, Assistant to the Bishop for Congregational Life, will be with us in worship and will deliver the sermon. In my capacity as Conference Dean I have been working with Pastor Hemphill to provide pastoral guidance and care to the congregation of St. Paul's in Mobile as they begin the search for a new pastor.

Daylight Savings Time also begins on March 13, so remember to "Spring forward" one hour!

Spring begins on Sunday, March 20. Let us pray for sunny days filled with flowers, the singing of birds, and most of all, peace and unity for all the world!

I will be in Pensacola, FL, the weekend of **March 25th** to conduct the Affirmation of Wedding Vows for Justin and Talia Prendergast. Their original plans were sidetracked by Covid-19.

We pray for travel mercies, and for God's blessings to rain down upon Justin and Talia as they can finally experience the joys of a "full-blown" wedding!

Jerry Luzadder is preaching, and Pastor Larry Koehn will celebrate the Holy Eucharist.

And finally, may we rejoice in the fullness of God's Grace as we seize opportunities for serving our Lord by serving others.

In Christ,

Pastor Dave

The President's Remarks

It looks like we are heading into a time period where that nasty COVID is no longer more threatening than the flu, Mississippi drivers or the latest theme park ride. It has been a nightmare, and it's time we had relief. If you have been participating in our church services via ZOOM, I applaud you for sticking in there. But let's not get lazy now. Please start thinking about getting out of the house and joining your co-members by attending church at the church regularly. While ZOOM is nice, it does not replace the wonderful interaction we all receive by worshipping together and enjoying fellowship with each other. Don't get in a rut and use ZOOM as an excuse for not showing up. Those of us physically attending church regularly miss those of you who have not been physically present. (People in other areas such as Costa Rica are excused!!). I truly and sincerely hope to see all of our members worshipping together soon if not sooner.

Keith



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
- *Read the Bible *Give a tithe and beyond

READERS

- 6 Art Speck
- 13 Carrie Carrubba
- 20 Caroline Ruoss
- 27 Paul Hierstein

ASSISTING MINISTER

- 6 Keith Voigts
- 13 Mary West
- 20 Jerry Luzadder
- 27 Judy Hierstein

TELLERS

- 6 Jarrell/Saglibene
- 13 Schultz/Seslar
- 20 Puckett/Gaines
- 27 D. West/K. Voigts

Birthdays in March

- 7 Jaye Parr
- 10 Brenda Simoneaux
- 11 Warren Carrubba
- 13 Wendy Allard
- 14 Melanie Montgomery
- 15 Susan Prendergast
- 28 Bud Samuelson

Anniversaries in March

- 14 Tommie & Ron Yanik
- 31 Kevin & Kim Schultz

OUTREACH MINISTRY

Grace supplied breakfast for the seniors at the Long Beach Senior Center on Thursday, February 17. We fed 35+ seniors. They kept moving like a bunch of 2-year-olds! We all had a good time. Thank you to everyone who supplied food and helped serve. We hope to do it again in about 3 months.

The next men's breakfast will be Saturday, March 12th at 8:30 at the church. The Sweenes will be cooking.

Thank You

Pete Raif

Christian Education

Sunday School attendance has been steady. Still looking for more families who are willing to come early at 9 during the Adult Sunday school hour. We are willing to do Zoom meetings if some families choose to stay at home but still want to be part of the class. We will be in on Spring Break for March 20 and 27. We will not have class on those Sundays.

Lisa Speck

Sunday School Staff



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

Thank you to all who served refreshments or assisted with clean-up in February.

Two years ago, during Lent we were in lock down mode and isolated from our friends, family and our church. We gave up going out, socializing, and worshipping together. This year we are feeling better about removing our masks, getting out, enjoying time with friends. As we begin our Lenten journey, let's meet at church to share a simple supper. We can share our stories and reconnect with friends old and new. Then we will stay and reflect on Jesus's journey to the cross.

Lenten suppers (a.k.a. Shared Meals) start on March 2nd @ 6pm – Ash Wednesday. They continue every Wednesday @ 6pm through April 6th.

Bring your favorite dish, or a crockpot of soup, a tray of sandwiches or anything else you'd like to bring. We are not picky.

There will be a sign-up sheet on the board in the narthex. You know what to do.

Thank You!



January 2022 Newsletter – Grace Lutheran Church

Finances for Grace dipped a bit in January. Contributions in January were \$14,412, while expenses were \$17,792. There were no unusual budget expenditures in January. To meet the 2022 budget, our income needed each month is \$18,042. **Contributions YTD are \$3,630 below the amount needed to meet the budget.**

Restricted fund account activities were fairly active in January. Grace Food Pantry received \$240 in donations with expenses of \$328. Good Samaritan expended \$3,584 to assist members and others in need with \$3,799 in donations. \$5,936 was sent to Kentucky to assist with those impacted by the recent severe weather. These Restricted funds will continue to be used to help members and others in the community in need.

The January Financial Summary is posted in the hallway if you'd like to review the finances in more detail. We should all be thankful for our financial stability, challenge ourselves to turn the decline in Finances around, and continue to pray for the council and financial health of our church so that we can continue to support our church mission and outreach. Please remember to support our church financially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Duane Wilson

Worship Ministry - Candis Raif - March 2022

As we enter the Lenten Season, please join us each Wednesday evening for worship at 7:00pm. The nursery will be available each Wednesday evening in Lent and on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

Please check the sign-up sheets in the Narthex! We need Readers, Communion Assistants, Acolytes, Greeters, Altar Care Volunteers, Tellers and volunteers for Children's Sermons. Thanks to all who serve! **If you are interested in serving in one of these areas but are unsure what your duties would be, see me for more information!**

If you have signed up to assist in worship and are unable to serve, please find a replacement and notify me, Pastor Dave, or Julie as soon as possible by phone or email. Thank you to those who serve, all are welcome and appreciated! **Remember to arrive at least 15 minutes before the service begins if you are serving! Arriving late may mean someone else has been asked to serve in your place!**

March Service / Liturgy Schedule

Wednesday, March 2, 2022 (Ash Wednesday - Purple)

Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21... In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus commends prayer, fasting and giving alms, but makes it clear that acts of spiritual devotion are not meant to be, nor should they be done for show.

1st Reading: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 Psalm 51:1-17 2nd Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

March 6, 2022 ~ 1st Sunday in Lent (Purple)

Gospel: Luke 4:1-13 ... after Jesus is filled with the Holy Spirit at his baptism, he is lead out into the wilderness. As he is tempted by the devil, his responses define exactly what it means to be called "the Son of God."

1st Reading: Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 2nd Reading: Romans 10:8b-13

March 13, 2022 ~ 2nd Sunday in Lent (Purple)

Gospel: Luke 13:31-35 ... Nothing, absolutely nothing will deter Jesus from his sacrificial mission, whether it's the plotting by Herod or Jerusalem's resistance to maternal love.

1st Reading: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 Psalm 27 2nd Reading: Philippians 3:17-4:1

March 20, 2022 ~ 3rd Sunday in Lent (Purple)

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9 ... Jesus is asked about current (in his time) tragic events. He turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved, into a hard call to obedience ... and holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgement will be tempered by patience.

1st Reading: Isaiah 55:1-9 Psalm 63:1-8 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

March 27, 2022 ~ 4th Sunday in Lent (Purple) ... Youth Sunday

Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 ... Jesus tells a parable about a son who, despite spurning his father's love, receives grace and love beyond his hopes, and triggers a cry from his older brother who feels his obedience has earned him his place in the father's home.

1st Reading: Joshua 5:9-12 Psalm 32 2nd Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Mid-week Worship Schedule ~ Lent

Shared Meal at 6 pm

Midweek Worship, with communion ... in person & on Zoom at 7 pm.

Lenten Midweek Services: March: 9, 16, 23, 30 and April 6

READINGS FOR MARCH

Date	Sundays	1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Gospel
2	Ash Wednesday	Joel 2:1-2,12-17	51:1-17	2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
6	1st Sunday in Lent	Deuteronomy 26:1-11	91:1-2, 9-16	Romans 10:8b-13	Luke 4:1-13
13	2nd Sunday in Lent	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18	27	Philippians 3:17-4:1	Luke 13:31-35
20	3rd Sunday in Lent	Isaiah 55:1-9	63:1-8	1 Corinthians 10:1-13	Luke 13:1-9
27	4th Sunday in Lent	Joshua 5:9-12	32	2 Corinthians 5:16-21	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

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, Vicky Gordon, Joe & Jonathan Gray, John Guthans, Brandy Haydin, Devon/Emily Head, Steve Hiles, Brenda Hiles, Sherry Holbrook, Pat Holliday, Ann Holliday, Peggy Jefcoat, Mike Johnson, Carmela Jones, Sarah Koehn, Cheryl Lacey, Rachel Lacey, Breanna Ladner, Carrie Ladner, Patti Lastorka, Patricia Lindsey, Lois Long, George Lorricks, 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, Juliana.

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.