



February 2022

GRACE MESSENGER

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



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 February Newsletter

"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ." - Gal. 6:2

As you may have noticed from all the recent prayer requests listed in various emails and in our church bulletins, we have a lot of sickness among us! Our prayer list continues to grow, and many of our brothers and sisters are growing weary and perhaps a bit discouraged from so many hospital stays and doctor's office visits. Added to that is the inconvenience and discomfort of home confinement and prolonged recuperation. For some, this can lead to depression.

I want to take this opportunity to encourage all of us to **reach out** to those who are going through the crisis of sickness or any other issues that cause anguish or despair. Loneliness and depression have no boundaries and show no mercy to anyone. A telephone call, a text message, or a cheerful card could be exactly what is needed to shine the light of Christ's love where darkness is creeping in. And while I don't mind giving updates when you ask me about someone, it would most likely be the case that this person would like to hear directly from *you*.

We have a recently updated church directory that was sent out last month and contains contact information for most, if not all, of our members and friends of the congregation. Please use this resource to check on folks on the prayer list, or who haven't been to church in a while, or for whom you simply have concerns. If you didn't receive the directory, or need another copy, please contact Julie in the church office - (228) 864-4248 – and she will happily provide another copy.

"For everything there is a season..." - Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Perhaps you have heard the saying "Time flies." While I don't see any wings on my watch or desk clock, I will attest that "this is most certainly true!" We are already into February and have only a few weeks until Ash Wednesday and the **season of Lent**. It's not too early to begin reflecting on our faith journey and seeking reconciliation and renewal. I hope we will see increased participation in our Lenten services, but most of all an increase in our love and ministry to our neighbors near and far.

And finally, I encourage everyone to participate in **weekly worship**, whether it be in-person or via Zoom. We cannot allow our faith to weaken for lack of nourishment! I fully understand the health issues some of you have and respect your decision to refrain from public gatherings. We give thanks for your faithful participation on Zoom. But some of you have not received Holy Communion for quite a while. I am happy to provide a sanitized version of Communion similar to that which I did when we had no in-house gatherings. Feel free to contact me at (423) 620-1284 or gracepastordave1@gmail.com if you are interested.

In Christ,

Pastor Dave

The President's Remarks



At this writing, it is the dead of winter, it's cold outside, and days are short. It's not good for golf, fishing, walking picnicking or any other outdoor activity. It's not even good to travel northward. However, our church is always heating up. We don't slow down as long as you, our members, stay involved. We recently hosted the Finnesgard Family for a wonderful night of music and witnessing, our men's group will meet for breakfast on the 12th of February and each second Saturday thereafter, our church services are meaningful and fellowship thereafter continues the experience. We gave a really nice, big envelope of money to a church in Mayfield, Kentucky and much, much more. We need the involvement of all members. Please complete your time and talent sheets if you haven't done so already. It's a fact—the more you put into our ministry, the more you will take away, in multiples. Have a good month, and I'll see you in church or sooner.

Keith

Christian Education

Sunday school hours have changed and are now during the Adult Bible study time. Children have invited friends and neighbors to the class with great success. We encourage children to bring a guest but we would love to see our own congregational children return to classes. If coming back to church is not an option, let me know and we can discuss Zoom options. We would love to have more kids learn about God and his love for everyone.

Lisa Speck

Sunday School Staff





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

Birthdays in February

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| 5 Destiny Peneguy | 20 Jamie Ruoss |
| Jim Hughes | 22 Scott Gordon |
| 9 Linda Mueller | 23 Pete Peterson |
| 11 Caroline Ruoss | 25 Donna Aycok |
| 13 Candis Raif | 26 Charlie Loew |
| 14 Catherine Authement | |
| 15 Timothy Collins | |

Anniversaries in February

10 Jason & LeAnna Conley



READERS

- 6 Kevin Schultz
- 13 Carrie Carrubba
- 20 Candis Raif
- 27 Keith Voigts

ASSISTING MINISTER

- 6 Judy Hierstein
- 13 Ron Schmidting
- 20 Jerry Luzadder
- 27 Ron Schmidting

TELLERS

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

OUTREACH MINISTRY

Breakfast for the seniors at the Long Beach Senior Center is scheduled for Thursday, February 17th, at 8:30 am. More seniors usually show up for this event, so we may have about 30 seniors to serve. The Men's Breakfast is Saturday, February 12th, at 8:00 am at DaddyZ. They open at 8:00 am and are located at the east end of North Street in the Pass. This is a local hangout for Keith!

*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

Hosting fellowship following worship is a great way to get acquainted with other members. Try it and see! The sign-up sheet for fellowship is on the wall in the narthex.

Graceful Grazers - we are looking for a restaurant to dine at in the near future. We'll keep you posted.

Thank You!



December 2021 Newsletter – Grace Lutheran Church

Finances for Grace were solid in December. Contributions in December were \$25,905, while expenses were \$18,042. There were no unusual budget expenditures in December. To meet the 2021 budget, our income needed each month is \$16,610. **Contributions YTD are \$5,046 above the amount needed to meet the budget. Great job!**

Restricted fund account activities were fairly active in December. Grace Food Pantry received \$1,329 in donations with expenses of \$208. Good Samaritan expended \$1,533 to assist members and others in need with \$1,579 in donations. \$600 was donated to CASA of Hancock County from the garage sale proceeds. These Restricted funds will continue to be used to help members and others in the community in need.

The December 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

READINGS FOR FEBRUARY

Date	Sundays	1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Gospel
6	5th after Epiphany	Isaiah 6:1-13	138	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Luke 5:1-11
13	6th after Epiphany	Jeremiah 17:5-10	1	1 Corinthians 15:12-20	Luke 6:17-26
20	7th after Epiphany	Genesis 45:3-11,15	37:1-11, 39-40	1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50	Luke 6:27-38
27	Transfiguration of Our Lord	Exodus 34:29-35	99	1 Corinthians 3:13-4:2	Luke 9:28-43a

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 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 - February 2022

Thank you to the Finnesgard Family for an awesome time on Wednesday night!

We need readers, communion assistants, acolytes 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.

February Service / Liturgy Schedule

February 6, 2022 ~ 5th Sunday after Epiphany (Green)

Gospel: Luke 5:1-11 Crowds begin to gather when Jesus teaches. Simon, James and John experience hospitality, obedience, risk, fear, and amazement at what they hear and what they see ... until they choose to leave everything behind to become apostles/disciples.

Isaiah 6:1-13 Psalm 138 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

February 13, 2022 ~ 6th Sunday after Epiphany (Green)

Gospel: Luke 6:17-26... with 12 disciples chosen (verses 12-16), Jesus teaches the crowd about the nature and demands of discipleship. His great sermon is a litany of blessings and curses.

Jeremiah 17:5-10 Psalm 1 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

February 20, 2022 ~ 7th Sunday after Epiphany (Green)

Gospel: Luke 6:27-38 ... The great sermon continues with an invitation from Jesus to shower radical love, blessing, forgiveness, generosity and trust on everyone ... friend or foe; insiders and outsiders. Living in harmony with God's intent brings the rewards of unending mercy and overflowing blessings.

Genesis 45:3-11, 15 Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

February 27, 2022 ~ Transfiguration of Our Lord (White)

Gospel: Luke 9:28-43a ... the conversation about Jesus' suffering and death is enclosed in a dazzling foreshadowing of the resurrection. The disciples are stunned and speechless; God affirms Jesus' identity; and Jesus resumes his mission

Exodus 34:29-35 Psalm 99 1 Corinthians 3:13-4:2

Mid-week Worship Schedule ~~Shared meal at 6:00 pm, 7:00 pm Midweek Worship ... in person & on Zoom at 7:00 pm. Bible study follows worship

Stewardship - Cathy Wilson ~~ Stewardship is working with the congregation on how we can all continue to share our gifts. Time and Talent sheets have been emailed to everyone. They can be emailed back to cathycreasywilson@gmail.com or turned in at Church. We want everyone to celebrate the family of Grace and the life of our church and our ministries in the world. Remember that participating in worship virtually or in person is a loving way to support our congregation.