

Receiving Christ Continually as God's People through Word and Sacrament



Grace Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

Spotlighter - February 23

Our Mission Statement
Sharing **GRACE**

Growing in God's Word, **Reaching** out with love, **Announcing** forgiveness, **Calling** the lost, **Encouraging** everyone

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SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Lessons for this coming Sunday:
Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17:1,15-16
Romans 5:1-11
Mark 8:27-38

Generosity Thoughts

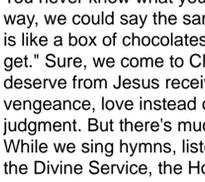
Matthew 15:27-28 - She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from your masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith!" Faith says "Yes" to all that the Lord gives us. The Canaanite woman trusted Jesus and so she knew there was a blessing for her in everything the Lord says - even when His words seemed difficult or harsh. We all need a faith like that!

Prayer Requests Melissa Netkowski, Shirley Gray, Mike Stark, Gordon Manner, Vi Koehler, Pam Hornber, Dale Ann Gripenstrog, Jack Greenleaf and Margaret Barber.

Notices

- The E-Board will meet on Tuesday, February 27 at 7:00 p.m.

Chili Challenge 2018 Congratulations to this years winners!

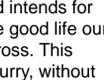


1st place: Julie Potter

2nd place: Don Rauschenberger

3rd place: Cindi Heap

A Word from Pastor: "You never know what you're gonna get!" While sitting in a park in Savannah, Georgia, Forrest Gump said, "My mom always said life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna get." In a way, we could say the same about worship! "The Divine Service is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna get." Sure, we come to Church expecting to get what we don't deserve from Jesus receiving forgiveness instead of vengeance, love instead of hate, and mercy instead of judgment. But there's much about worship that's unexpected. While we sing hymns, listen to the sermon, and participate in the Divine Service, the Holy Spirit is slowly but surely recalibrating our hearts to desire the good life God intends for us, the good life we left in the Garden of Eden, the good life our Lord gained for us by losing His own life on the Cross. This work of the Holy Spirit to transform us is without hurry, without fanfare, without bells and whistles, but it's necessary work and it can make us quite uncomfortable. The Holy Spirit brings to light broken relationships that need reconciliation, a neighbor that needs our help, an idol that needs to be smashed, a member that needs to be visited, a pet sin or grudge that needs to be let go. "You never know what you're gonna get!" As we gather around the Word and Meal, be ready for the Holy Spirit to do the unexpected, inviting us to join Jesus in His blessed life, calling us to leave our sins, our gossip, our grudges and embrace love, mercy, and forgiveness, sending us out as His People who joyfully hear His Word and do it!



Encouraging One Another In our thoughts and prayers this week is Ruth Roth. If you wish to send her a card or note, her address is 700 N Pine Rd., Apt. 123, Essexville 48732. Her birthday is February 26. Wish her a Happy Birthday!

Thank you A big thank you to all my church family for all the prayers and cards. It is very uplifting to know we are thought of during our illness. God Bless All. *Vi Koehler*

Home Bible Study The next Bible Study will be held on Sunday, March 4th at 6:30 PM. Our hosts will be Pastor and Mrs. Schian, 311 5th St., Bay City, Apt. 28 (Corner of 4th St. & Adams).



Thank, Praise, Serve, and Obey Books Rev. Weedon's Thank, Praise, Serve, and Obey books were purchased from CPH. If you ordered one please pay and pick at the office. The cost is \$12/book. Checks can be made payable to "Grace Lutheran Church".

Thursday A.M. Friends Thursday, March 8 at 10:00 a.m. is a presentation you won't want to miss. Bruce Malone, a former Dow scientist who now devotes his life sharing in Bible classes, DVD's, books and presentations, "**The Biblical truth that God is our Creator**".

His presentation for us is "Blind to the Obvious-The very laws of science are designed so we will know we have a creator. How come so many people can be blind to the obvious?"

He will bring some of his books, etc. for us to purchase.

Thank You to all who so generously donated financial gifts for Beacon of Hope through the Life Sunday "Baby Bottle Boomerang." The gifts of over \$1,000 have been delivered to the pregnancy center and they are very thankful for them. If you enjoy making baby quilts, receiving blankets, burpers, sweaters, hats or just enjoy shopping for great deals this time of year on baby clothes (newborn - 2T), these items will be greatly appreciated in May on Mother's Day when we have our ingathering of diapers and baby items for Beacon of Hope. Again thank you for your generous support of this life saving ministry.



If you have any questions about Beacon of Hope, how you can support them or volunteer at the center, please call Jean Peters at 989-402-1120.

Sunday Afternoon Basketball Men & Women, high school age and older are invited to come shoot some hoops in our gym at 4:00 pm on Sunday. A good work out, just for fun.



2018 Lenten Services and Suppers Throughout the season of Lent, please join us on Wednesdays for supper at 6pm and then come to the midweek service which will follow the Order of Vespers. This year's Lenten theme is "The I AM Sayings of Jesus"! All services begin at 7pm. Meals are sponsored by several groups/committees: Elders (February 28), the Choirs (March 7), Potluck (March 14), and Large Print (March 21). For the potluck on March 14, any member can bring a dish to pass. Chicken noodle soup and bread will be provided at the potluck. There will be a freewill donation for each meal and the proceeds will go to support missionaries Jamielynn Tinkey and Christel Neuendorf.

Quilting for World Relief The Quilting backs for World Relief needs sheets for the backs of the quilts. Any size sheet flat or fitted can be used. Thank you for your donations. Questions call Gayle Wood at 662-2347.



Birthdays: Deb VanTol, 23rd; Ruth Roth, 26th; Robert Wegener, 28th; Dan Bale, 1st; Tom Wegener, 1st; Gabe Kalitta, 2nd; Lisa Bale, 3rd; Ryan Doan, 3rd; Shaun Ruff, 3rd; Julia Hundley, 6th; Barb Reiss, 7th; Fran Galke, 8th; Karla Weiss, 9th; Donna Geneseo, 10th; Jeff Vennix, 10th; Lauren Frank, 10th; Charlie Hyatt, 12th; Elise Hoogland, 12th; Sharon Kayden, 12th; Travis McNally, 12th; Kelly Whalen, 14th; Lynnsay Hughes, 14th; Pam Haapala, 16th; Brenda Gray, 18th; Gary Pyle, 22nd; Melissa Vennix, 25th; Dan Koehler, 27th; Dave Wegener, 27th; Iris Dominowski, 27th; Darlene Pfannes, 28th; Bob Yaeger, 28th;

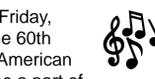
Anniversaries: Kerry and Tracy Storey, 6th; Mark and Gayle Wood, 11th; Paul and Linda Varner, 20th; Charlie and Tammy Hyatt, 21st; Bob and Merry Lee, 28th;

Visit from Pastor Erber Great news! Pastor Erber will be visiting us on Sunday, March 4. During the Bible study hour, he will give us an update on his time in Africa. Grace has supported Pastor Erber for decades. We thank our Lord for this opportunity to see Pastor Erber and hear of all the good that God is doing in Africa.

Sunday School is available every Sunday morning following the church service. All children ages 3 - 10 are welcome. If you have any questions, please speak to Annette Rudick. Join us for fun and learning in Room 1!

Congratulations to Irene Seaver on her engagement to Anthony Keilani. Irene is the daughter of Pastor Wade and Lynn Seaver and granddaughter of member, Sheryl Seaver.

Sunday High School Fellowship and Bible Study We will begin offering a weekly fellowship and Bible study time for high schoolers. Michael Potter will be leading this fellowship with our high school aged members following the Divine Service in the youth room [Room 3]. Michael and his wife Julie enjoyed several years helping the youth at St. Lorenz and now they are part of our Grace family ready to serve our youth. The high schoolers that participate will have opportunities to decide topics of discussion and also the ways that they could care for those in the community.



Issues, Etc. Essential Exercise for the Christian Mind...Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week's topics include: The Movie "Black Panther," State Islam in France, The Hymn "In the Cross of Christ I Glory," Creation, Ruth, The Church and more. You can listen live or on-demand at www.issuesetc.org and on the LPR mobile app.

Organ Concert at Bethlehem Lutheran on Friday, March 2, at 7:00pm. The occasion marks the 60th anniversary of the Saginaw Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. The public is invited to be a part of this amazing event provided by an stunning performer, Dr. Charles Ore.



Trinity Lutheran School Round-up Early childhood round-up will be held on Monday, February 26th at 6:30 p.m. This is for any family with children age 3 - 5 years interested in preschool or kindergarten programs. Half-day or full-day pre-kindergarten options are available. For more information call our school at 989-662-4891. Trinity is located on the corner of Salzburg Road & Eight Mile in Monitor Twp.

CEF and You Make a Difference When you invest with the Church Extension Fund (CEF), you invest in another LCMS organization's ability to spread the Word of Jesus Christ. CEF offers your investment dollars as low-cost loans to congregations and schools for building needs so that the preaching of the Word continues. Today, CEF is offering very attractive rates on all of its investments for individuals and organizations. Call 800.242.3944 or visit www.mi-cef.org for information.

Grace at Prayer for Lent 2

Invocation

In the Name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Apostles' Creed

Verse of the Week: Psalm 118:24

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

February 26 Psalm 91 Genesis 18:1-15 Mark 6:14-34
February 27 Psalm 126 Genesis 21:1-21 Mark 6:35-56
February 28 Psalm 6 Genesis 22:1-19 Mark 7:1-23
March 1 Psalm 28 Genesis 24:1-31 Mark 7:24-37
March 2 Psalm 118 Genesis 24:32-67 Mark 8:1-21
March 3 Psalm 2 Genesis 27:1-29 Mark 8:22-38
March 4 Psalm 129 Genesis 27:30-28:22 Mark 9:1-13

Writing from the Lutheran Confessions

The old Adam, like an unruly, stubborn ass, is still a part of them. It must be forced to obey Christ. It not only requires the teaching, admonition, force, and threatening of the Law, but it also often needs the club of punishments and troubles. This goes on until the body of sin is entirely put off [Romans 6:6] and a person is perfectly renewed in the resurrection. Then he will need neither the preaching of the Law nor its threats and punishments, just as he will no longer need the Gospel. These belong to this imperfect life. [Formula, Solid Declaration, Article VII:24]

The Lord's Prayer

Collect for Week of Second Sunday in Lent

O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Sunday: Pray for the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacraments.

Monday: Pray for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for Lutheran schools [especially Zion Beaver and Trinity Monitor] and her teachers; for good government and for peace.

Tuesday: Pray for the Church and her pastors, teachers, musicians, missionaries, and deaconesses.

Wednesday: Pray for marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.

Thursday: Pray for repentant hearts, that all would confess their sins and seek our Lord and His forgiveness in the Word and Sacraments.

Friday: Pray for the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.

Saturday: Pray for faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ's holy gifts.

In Our Prayers this Week:

- The sick, shut-in, and suffering.
- The families of our loved ones in the Armed Forces.
- Growth for Grace Lutheran Church.
- Steadfastness for Christians persecuted throughout the world.
- Unity among the mid-Michigan congregations in caring for the poor.
- God's use of Grace Your Closet to clothe families.
- Wisdom to put the best construction on everything.
- Opportunities to share the Gospel with family and friends.
- Time to meditate on God's Word and pray during this season of Lent.
- Peace to all that are suffering from the Florida school shooting.

Luther's Morning Prayer or Evening Prayer from the Catechism

Benedicamus

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

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