

February 2021

Graceline

Grace Lutheran Church E-newsletter

Claimed in Baptism

Lent is a season for reclaiming our identity in baptism as we prepare for Easter. It's a time to remember God's covenant made with us in the water. It is less about trying to imagine Jesus' state of mind and more about recalling our own identities as children of God.

Look for baptismal and water imagery in each week's readings. The first Sunday in Lent tells the story of the flood (Genesis 9), describe salvation through water (1 Peter 3). The texts for the fourth Sunday in Lent include images of healing and redemption (Numbers 21 and John 3) and language of dying to sin and salvation by grace (Ephesians 2). And the texts for Lent 5 include images of receiving a new heart and spirit (Jeremiah 31), cleansing (Psalm 51), and dying and rising (John 12).

Is Lent a time of somber self-sacrifice for you? Let me suggest you consider the prophet Joel's reminder to us to return to God, who is gracious, merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love (Joel 2:13). Repentance is not a frightening appearance before an angry God, but a homecoming to one who longs to save us in the midst of our trials and fears. In each of the gospel readings we hear a word of grace in the midst of the fears we face in our world: God longs to hear us as a father wants to listen to his children (Ash Wednesday); angels accompany Jesus during his temptation in the wilderness (Lent 1); Jesus calls Peter to move from confession to discipleship (Lent 2); the corrupt temple cannot throw Jesus off his mission (Lent 3); even the cross becomes a sign of healing (Lent 4); and death is a precursor to new life (Lent 5).

“Repentance is not a frightening appearance before an angry God, but a homecoming to one who longs to save us in the midst of our trials and fears.”

Let us hold this prayer in our hearts this season. Insert your name as a way to reclaim your identity in baptism as you prepare for Easter.

“God of the covenant, you claim us in baptism and call us to be signs of your salvation. Bless the work of your church. You name each of us beloved; empower us to show love in all we do. Amen.” Please feel free to call me (512-589-9401) for conversation and prayer. May God be our bridge of comfort and support.

Holding you in prayer,
Pastor Cindy Wolf



Lenten Services

February 17th is Ash Wednesday



Grace will host Lenten services that draw us into the discipleship journey.

We begin on February 17th with the Ash Wednesday call to admit that we will die and that we are sinners. We are marked with a sign of our death and of our sorrow for sin—but it is a cross on our forehead, where the baptismal water first marked us with God’s grace.



Gathering on Wednesdays in Lent will deepen our commitment to one another, and the mission God calls us to join in the world. Wednesdays, February 24- March 24.

All the services will be at 7p. Watch for more information and the Zoom link.

Weekly Devotion “Reflections” from BibleProject.com

A new 15-minute weekly devotion can be found in the announcements. Each episode includes a short message, a narration of a Scripture passage, and a time to reflect and respond to a series of thoughtful questions. May this time of reflection enrich your devotion to God’s word.

Monday Women’s Study @7p

Join this lively community and book discussion. Love is the Way will lead readers to discover the gifts they need in order to live the way of love: deep reservoirs of hope and resilience, simple wisdom, the discipline of nonviolence, and unshakable regard for human dignity. Watch for the zoom link in the announcements.

Treasurer’s Report

December		2020 YTD	
Operating Income	\$18,531.07	Operating Income	\$186,880.38
Operating Expenses	\$19,292.91	Operating Expenses	\$162,410.01



PRAYER REQUESTS

Dr. Patterson and her family (Sheila's sister Peggy's boss) at the death of her father-in-law. He was placed in hospice last weekend and passed away yesterday. May their family be held in God's love and comfort.

Christina Meadow's family at her grandfather's, Jack Reinshuttle, death. May the love shared in his lifetime be a comfort in grief.

Susan Rosas-Moreno and family (Adam R coworker) at the unexpected death of her husband yesterday. May God's hand bring peace into their grief and chaos.

Kathy and Ralph (Ann's friend Michele's parents) have been diagnosed with different cancers. Michele has gone to CA to be with them. May God's faithfulness and love guide their way.

Jean Manfred (Phyllis' friend) recovering from a surgery following a fall that broke both shoulders. God, be her constant companion and surround her with caring helpers.

Dennis Tollefson (Pastor and Sue C friend) is losing his sight. May physicians have wisdom and Dennis have courage and care at this time.

Marty Heany (Sue M friend)- will have surgery for brain tumors next week. We pray that this surgery extends and improves his life. We pray for his family and Sue, that they find strength and love in God.

Rae Clark (friend of Jan C) is recovering slowly at home from COVID19. May the Spirit of God walk with her through this long recovery.

Ollie (requested by Amy E) is a 4 year old in the hospital with COVID and meningitis. He is able to sit up and is doing better. He will remain hospitalize for a month for treatment. Lord be his friend and surround his family with hope and peace.

Jamie Haeuser (friend of Jan C) will have a lumpectomy as treatment for breast cancer. We pray that God reaches into this time and creates hope and healing.

Prayer list changes-Names will remain on the list for up to 4 weeks unless kariw@graceline.org is contacted with an update for the list.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Phyllis Dahlke recovering from a repair a hiatal hernia. May she be held and have an uneventful healing.

Families of the 432,864 dead of COVID19- Hear the cries of those who mourn and bring peace from heaven.

Essential Workers, Nursing Homes, Care Centers, Prisons and Detention Centers -that life and safety may be protected. May God reach out to bring courage and comfort.

FEBRUARY

February Birthdays

- 10 Tria Czenkusch
- 16 Alex Thomas
- 18 Nancy Wilson
- 23 Xander Allen Amstead
- 28 Perry Wall



February Anniversaries

- 19 Marilyn & Kenneth LaRonde (1966)



Save The Dates

February 2021

Sundays

@ 9:15a

7- Video Viewing Party

14- All Ages Event

21/28- Adult Discussion

@ 10:30a

Worship

Mondays

7p Women's Study

Tuesday

2-Stewardship Comm 6:30

16-Confirmation 7p

Wednesdays

3/10- Evening Prayer 7p

17- Ash Wednesday Service 7p

24- Lenten Service 7p

Thursdays

4- Worship & Music 6:30

18- Council 6:30p