

# *Last Sunday after the Epiphany*



*February 14, 2021*

*9:30 a.m.*

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# *Grace Lutheran Church*

## **Grace Lutheran's Purpose Statement**

*“We share God’s love by welcoming all and making a Christ-like difference in our community and world.”*

### **GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

#### **WELCOME**

#### **PRELUDE**

*(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.)*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation.

**C: Amen**

P: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

P: Holy God,

**C: you search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.**

P: How vast is God’s grace! Through the power and promise of † Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God’s own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God’s forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ’s justice and the Spirit’s reconciling peace.

**C: Amen.**

#### **GATHERING HYMN “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”**

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## **GREETING**

P: The boundless grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the wisdom of God, and the light of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**P: And also with you.**

## **KYRIE**

P: Lord have mercy.

**C: Christ have mercy.**

P: Lord have mercy.

## **HYMN OF PRAISE** *Unison*

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;  
Glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.  
Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;  
glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY** *Unison*

**Almighty God, the resplendent light of your truth shines from the mountaintop into our hearts. Transfigure us by your beloved Son, and illumine the world with your image, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **WORD**

*God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.*

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

### **2 Kings 2:1-12**

*Today's reading centers on the transfer of power and authority from the prophet Elijah to Elisha. Their travels, which retrace the path of Joshua back to Moab (the place where Moses died) and the parting of the waters, demonstrate that Elisha and Elijah are legitimate successors of the great prophet Moses.*

<sup>1</sup>Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. <sup>2</sup>Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. <sup>3</sup>The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent." <sup>4</sup>Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave

you.” So they came to Jericho. <sup>5</sup>The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?” And he answered, “Yes, I know; be silent.” <sup>6</sup>Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. <sup>7</sup>Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. <sup>8</sup>Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground. <sup>9</sup>When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.” Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.” <sup>10</sup>He responded, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.” <sup>11</sup>As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. <sup>12</sup>Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 50:1-6**

*Out of Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth in glory. (Ps. 50:2)*

<sup>1</sup>The mighty one, God the LORD, has spoken;  
calling the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

<sup>2</sup>**Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty,  
God shines forth in glory.**

<sup>3</sup>Our God will come and will not keep silence;  
with a consuming flame before, and round about a raging storm.

<sup>4</sup>**God calls the heavens and the earth from above  
to witness the judgment of the people.**

<sup>5</sup>“Gather before me my loyal followers,  
those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with sacrifice.”

<sup>6</sup>**The heavens declare the rightness of God’s cause,  
for it is God who is judge.**

### **2 Corinthians 4:3-6**

*The spotlight of Christian ministry is not on the people who carry out ministry but on the Lord Jesus Christ. Just as God made light shine at creation, God makes the light of Jesus Christ shine in our lives through Christian ministry.*

<sup>3</sup>Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup>In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. <sup>5</sup>For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup>For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia. This is my Son, my Chosen, listen to him! Alleluia.**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

### **Mark 9:2-9**

*Mark's gospel presents the transfiguration as a preview of what would become apparent to Jesus' followers after he rose from the dead. Confused disciples are given a vision of God's glory manifest in the beloved Son.*

<sup>2</sup>Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, <sup>3</sup>and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. <sup>4</sup>And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. <sup>5</sup>Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." <sup>6</sup>He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. <sup>7</sup>Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" <sup>8</sup>Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. <sup>9</sup>As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

P: The Gospel of Our Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

### **HOMILY**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY "Beautiful Savior"**

*Text: Gesangbuch, Munster, tr. Joseph A. Seiss; Music: Silesian folk tune.  
This selection is in the public domain.*

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again;  
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **INTERCESSORY PRAYERS**

*(Response after each petition)*

**P: Hear us, O God.**

**C: Your mercy is great.**

## **OFFERING**

### **OFFERTORY**

**P: Let us pray...O God,**

**C: receive these gifts as you receive us: like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide. Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace. Amen.**

## **THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

**P: O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feasts; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.**

**C: Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## **SENDING**

### **BLESSING**

P: God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter ✠ keep you in peace.

C: **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN** “Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies”

Text: Charles Wesley; Music: J. G. Werner. This selection is in the public domain.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

#### **POSTLUDE**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **LENT STARTS ON ASH WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 17th**

#### **COMMUNION AND ASHES PICKUP**

There will be home communion and ashes pickup available on Tuesday February 16 from 1:30 - 3:30 PM and from 4:30 - 5:30 PM. And on Wednesday February 17th from 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM. As before there will be a liturgy for both the communion and something for the imposition of ashes . Please call the office and let us know when you will be picking up your packet and how many you would like.

#### **LENTEN SERIES**

This year Grace Lutheran will be doing a Lenten Series on Facebook live. Tune in on Wednesday evenings at 7 PM for a time of scripture, prayer and meditation. The series will begin this Wednesday February 17th which is Ash Wednesday. Join us at our Facebook page to participate.

## **PRAYERS**

Betty Dulebohn, Paul Denstaedt, Gerald Lancaster, Charlotte Werth, Hannelore Duenkel & Family (Charlotte Werth's niece), Dorothy Hansen, Alecia Lewis, Don, Verna & Tammy Furze, Larry Nelson, Vicki Piontkowski, Michele Amelotte, Joanne Nicholls, Deb Nitchman's Family, Diane Prevost, Harold Kissau, Jim Malaski, Emma Nelson, Allison, Bishop Craig Satterlee and Synod staff, Amanda Lema (Betty Dulebohn's granddaughter), Lyn Marshall, Joanne Coughlin, Bob Mackie, Sylvia Rouech, Jimmy Lappan, Herb Schiller, Donna Hatch, Jordyn, Maggie, Ann McMullen, Genie Diamond, Ann, Laura Bleau, Sharon Anderson, Laura Hyatt (Kristin Rich's partner), Becky, Jodi Kennedy Dinnan, Stephanie Bradford, Charlotte Barnard, Jamie Shipman, Betty Kelly, Maria Shelton, Emily Cross, Liz, Lucas David, David Delano (David's Dad), Edna Delano, Joseph Hansen, Scott Coddington, and Cody Gustin. We also remember the family of Marilyn Colby (Meredith Smith's mother), who passed away February 8th.

***Our prayer list is redone each month. If you, or a family member, would like to continue on the prayer list, please call the office (354-2640).***

## **PRAYER CONCERNS**

Prayer concerns received by the church office by Tuesday each week will be included in the coming weekends bulletin. Please do have the person's permission for inclusion and realize it is published online, so more than our congregation will know about it.

## **IN OUR PRAYERS**

In observance of our covenant with the LARCC (Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic and Congregational UCC) parishes of Alpena, we pray each week for a specific ministry of one of the 5 LARCC parishes. This weekend we pray for justice and peace efforts at First Congregational UCC. We also pray for this week's Synod Prayer Partner: St. John's Lutheran Church/Baroda, Rev. Jim Morgan. We also pray for the families who have lost loved ones from the Coronavirus.

## **ALTAR FLOWERS**

If you would like to place flowers on the altar, please call (354-2640) or email ([officemanager@gracelutheran-alpena.org](mailto:officemanager@gracelutheran-alpena.org)) the Church Office.

## **ANNUAL MEETING - SUNDAY MARCH 7TH**

Council is announcing the Annual Meeting of the congregation for Sunday March 7th at 11 am. At this time, the meeting will be entirely online with the Zoom platform. Council reviews the current Covid-19 situation in our area monthly and makes a determination on how best and safest to worship for the coming month. If there is a change to allowing a combination meeting of in-person and online as we did in the fall, announcements will be made of this. ***If you have an annual report for your group in the church, please get it to Peggy as soon as possible this week so that it may be included in our annual report booklet.***



### **IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICES REMAIN SUSPENDED**

Along with most of our ecumenical partners in Alpena, our in-person worship services remain suspended for the time being.

### **RECOVERING AT MEDILODGE**

Betty Dulebohn is recovering from pneumonia at Medilodge. She is not able to have visitors due to COVID. If you would like to send a card to cheer her up, here is her address:

Betty Dulebohn  
Room E8, Bed 2  
MediLodge of Alpena  
301 Long Rapids Rd.  
Alpena, MI 49707

### **VIEW SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE AT 9:30 AM ONLINE**

Sunday morning worship service will be livestreamed. The worship will be conducted with a very limited number of worship leaders in the sanctuary and can be viewed as it is happening. Go to [www.gracelutheran-alpena.org](http://www.gracelutheran-alpena.org) for the link to the YouTube livestream. A recording of the service will be available for viewing anytime afterwards.

### **WATCHING GRACE'S WORSHIP ON THE INTERNET**

Several people have mentioned that using their smart TVs that are connected to the internet for viewing the worship services have offered them the bigger picture of course and as importantly for some, better sound. Hope you are enjoying the worship livestreamed.

### **YOUTH GROUP**

We are looking to start some virtual Zoom Youth Group meetings over the next couple months. If you have youth at Grace Lutheran between 7th and 12th grade please contact Valerie Slaght with the name of your youth, contact info, and their level of interest! [vslaght98@gmail.com](mailto:vslaght98@gmail.com) or text at 989-255-5166.

### **CHRIST IN OUR HOMES DEVOTIONAL**

*Christ in Our Homes* Devotional for January - March are available in the Office Lobby. Pick one up during office hours of Tuesday - Thursday 8 am to noon or call the office and we will mail one to you.

### **LIVING LUTHERAN MAGAZINE FOR JANUARY/FEBRUARY**

The new *Living Lutheran* from the ELCA for January and February is also available in the Office Lobby. Several back issues are there too.

### **CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

The Church Office is open Tuesday-Thursday, from 8 a.m. - noon. We ask that you please wear a mask when in the building. Please log in on the sheets as you enter the Office Lobby. Please also log out as you exit the building, noting the areas of the building that you were in.

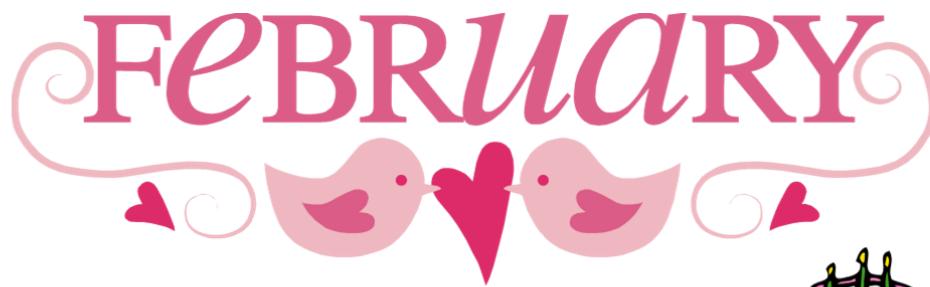
#### **GENERAL FUND GIVING**

Average needed each week to meet budget	\$ 4,489.00
Weekly giving - February 7	3,054.00

#### We received:

19 envelopes, 17 Simply Giving recurring payments and  
1 Give+ payment made from our website

# FEBRUARY



## Anniversaries of Baptism



**February 3**  
Darlene Freel

**February 5**  
Judith Douglas

**February 12**  
Thomas Lappan

**February 13**  
Stephanie Adamski

**February 16**  
Alexandra Priebe

**February 19**  
Rhonda Himes  
Cody Suszek

**February 22**  
Joseph Gentry  
Steven Lappan

**February 23**  
Mitchell Agius  
Judy Black  
Laura Thompson

**February 24**  
Kenda Yochum

**February 25**  
Gracelyn Gohlke

**February 26**  
Kurt Smith

**February 27**  
Matthew Haske  
Rebecca Petrilli

**February 28**  
Davis Crittenden

## Birthdays



**February 2**  
Brianna Himes  
Charles McKay

**February 3**  
Alexandra Priebe

**February 4**  
Kathryn Reynolds  
Karen Upham

**February 5**  
Eleanor Coddington  
Kurt Smith

**February 6**  
Stephanie Ihnat  
Bob Stacey

**February 7**  
Jeremy Jacobs

**February 9**  
Sandra Garant

**February 10**  
Kaitlyn Schultz  
Tracey Urlaub

**February 11**  
Keri Bertrand  
Erwin Simi

**February 15**  
Matthew Haske  
Cheryl Werblow

**February 18**  
Joel Suszek

**February 19**  
Jon Carr  
Michael Dekett  
Trevor Denstaedt  
Taylor Hayward

**February 20**  
Maggie O'Connor

**February 21**  
Dustin Crittenden

**February 22**  
Mary Rowader

**February 24**  
Barb Werle

**February 27**  
Joshua Engstrom

**February 28**  
Astrid Fitzpatrick



## Wedding Anniversaries

2nd Gerald & Barbara Mudge  
12th Edward & Elvira Jahnke  
16th Gene & Cynthia Domrase

**GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**      **119 W. Dunbar St., Alpena, MI 49707**  
**Church Office Hours: Tuesday-Thursday, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**  
**Phone: Office 354-2640      Pastor's Home 356-8729      Pastor's Cell Phone 916-8759**  
**Pastor: Rev. Thomas W. Orth      ~      Web Site: [www.gracelutheran-alpena.org](http://www.gracelutheran-alpena.org)**  
**E-mail: [pastor@gracelutheran-alpena.org](mailto:pastor@gracelutheran-alpena.org)      [officemanager@gracelutheran-alpena.org](mailto:officemanager@gracelutheran-alpena.org)**



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