

# *Third Sunday after the Epiphany*



*January 31, 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 “Rise, Shine, You People!”

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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*

**Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **WORD**

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

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

### **Deuteronomy 18:15-20**

*Today's reading is part of a longer discourse in Deuteronomy, an updating of the law for the Israelite community as the people wait to enter the promised land. Here Moses assures the people that God will continue to guide them through prophets who will proclaim the divine word.*

[Moses said:] <sup>15</sup>The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. <sup>16</sup>This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die."  
<sup>17</sup>Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. <sup>18</sup>I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command.

<sup>19</sup>Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I

myself will hold accountable. <sup>20</sup>But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.”

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 111

*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom. (Ps. 111:10)*

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,  
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

<sup>2</sup>**Great are your works, O LORD,  
pondered by all who delight in them.**

<sup>3</sup>Majesty and splendor mark your deeds,  
and your righteousness endures forever.

<sup>4</sup>**You cause your wonders to be remembered;  
you are gracious and full of compassion.**

<sup>5</sup>You give food to those who fear you,  
remembering forever your covenant.

<sup>6</sup>**You have shown your people the power of your works  
in giving them the lands of the nations.**

<sup>7</sup>The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice;  
all of your precepts are sure.

<sup>8</sup>**They stand fast forever and ever,  
because they are done in truth and equity.**

<sup>9</sup>You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant forever;  
holy and awesome is your name.

<sup>10</sup>**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;  
all who practice this have a good understanding. God’s praise endures  
forever.**

### 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

*Paul is concerned about the way some Corinthian Christians use their freedom in Christ as license to engage in non-Christian behavior that sets a damaging example to other, impressionable believers. Christians have a responsibility to each other that their behavior does not cause another to sin.*

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. <sup>2</sup>Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; <sup>3</sup>but anyone who loves God is known by him. <sup>4</sup>Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no

idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.”<sup>5</sup> Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—<sup>6</sup>yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. <sup>7</sup>It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. <sup>8</sup>“Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. <sup>9</sup>But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. <sup>10</sup>For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? <sup>11</sup>So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. <sup>12</sup>But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. <sup>13</sup>Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

#### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia. The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light; for those who sat in the shadow of death light has dawned. Alleluia.**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

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

#### **Mark 1:21-28**

*Forces that would bring death and disease have taken hold of a man, yet they recognize Jesus and know what his power means for them. Jesus commands these forces to leave and people are amazed at his authority.*

<sup>21</sup>[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. <sup>22</sup>They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. <sup>23</sup>Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, <sup>24</sup>and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” <sup>25</sup>But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” <sup>26</sup>And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. <sup>27</sup>They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” <sup>28</sup>At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

P: The Gospel of Our Lord.

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

## **HOMILY**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY “Jesus, Come! For We Invite You”**

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### **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 feats; 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 “O Lord, Now Let Your Servant”**

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### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **DISMISSAL**

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

C: **Thanks be to God.**

#### **POSTLUDE**

### **PRAYERS**

Paul Denstaedt, Darlene Freel, 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, 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 Mari Crow whose sister, Kathryn Ridner, passed away on December 29th.

***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 the Administration Ministries at St. Paul Lutheran Church. We also pray for this week's Synod Prayer Partner: St. John's Lutheran Church/Baroda, Rev. Jim Morgan.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **ADULT CHRISTIAN ED**

#### **The Black Church in Civic Life**

Bridging Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Black History Month of February, we will explore the role of the Black Church in the struggle for civil rights. How have they seen themselves and how have they been seen? What role does church and religion have to play in the work for justice in the world? Join us at 11 on Zoom for the class. Contact Pastor Tom if you did not receive the email or need the Zoom connection.

### **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.



**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUTH**

Sunday, January 31 at 3:00 p.m., Vicki Denstaedt and Joe Gentry will be cooking to-go dinner's at Trinity Episcopal Church. Volunteers are needed to pack and deliver the food out to the pick up table. Please contact Vicki for more details at: denstaedtv@alpenaschools.com or by phone at 989-916-9258.

**THANK YOU TO THE CONGREGATION FROM PASTOR TOM**

A sincere thank you for the very generous Christmas gift. It is truly appreciated. I haven't yet decided on one thing it might go toward. Though I suspect it will likely involve something photographic.

**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. On days Peggy is working from home, she may be reached at 989-255-8850. 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.

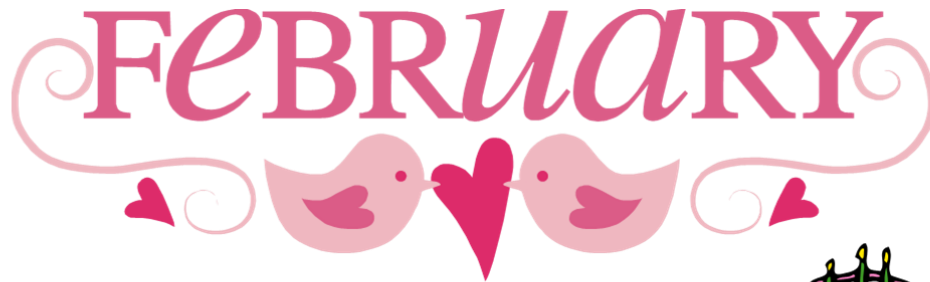
**GENERAL FUND GIVING**

Average needed each week to meet budget	\$ 4,489.00
Weekly giving - January 24	10,373.13

We received:

11 envelopes, 9 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  
12th  
16th

Gerald & Barbara Mudge  
Edward & Elvira Jahnke  
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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