

# *First Sunday in Lent*



*February 21, 2021*

*9:30 a.m.*

# 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, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer.

C: **Amen**

P: God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

P: Fountain of living water,

C: **pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free. Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.**

P: Beloved, God’s word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, your sins are † forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus.

C: **Amen.**

#### GATHERING HYMN “O Lord, throughout These Forty Days”

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## **GREETING**

**P:** The grace of Jesus Christ our Savior, the reconciling love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**P:** **And also with you.**

## **KYRIE**

**Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer.  
We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.**

**Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.**

**Have mercy on us Lord; make sin and shame depart.  
Renew us with your saving pow'r, create in us new hearts!**

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## **HYMN OF PRAISE**     *Unison*

**O Lord, throughout these forty days you prayed and kept the fast;  
Inspire repentance for our sin, and free us from our past.**

**Be with us through this season, Lord, and all our earthly days,  
That when the final Easter dawns, we join in heaven's praise.**

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**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**     *Unison*

**Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, 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**

### **Genesis 9:8-17**

*Today's reading is the conclusion to the flood story. Because of human sin, God destroys the earth by flood, saving only Noah, his family, and the animals on the ark. Yet divine destruction gives way to divine commitment. As in the first creation, God blesses humanity and establishes a covenant with all creatures.*

<sup>8</sup>God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup>“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, <sup>10</sup>and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. <sup>11</sup>I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” <sup>12</sup>God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: <sup>13</sup>I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup>When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup>I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. <sup>16</sup>When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” <sup>17</sup>God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 25:1-10**

*Your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness. (Ps. 25:10)*

<sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD,  
I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>**Show me your ways, O LORD,  
and teach me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

<sup>6</sup>**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,  
for they are from everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your  
goodness, O LORD.

<sup>8</sup>**You are gracious and upright, O LORD;  
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

<sup>9</sup>You lead the lowly in justice  
and teach the lowly your way.

<sup>10</sup>All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.

**1 Peter 3:18-22**

*As God acted through Christ's suffering and death to bring us to God, so God acts through baptism to save us from a sinful existence. This spiritual cleansing marks our new life in Christ.*

<sup>18</sup>Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup>And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

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

**Mark 1:9-15**

*The Spirit that comes upon Jesus at his baptism sustains him when he is tested by Satan so that he might proclaim the good news of God's reign.*

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." <sup>12</sup>And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup>He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. <sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

P: The Gospel of Our Lord.

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

## **HOMILY**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY “As the Deer Runs to the River”**

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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...Faithful God,

**C:** you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven. Accompany us in this journey, that we may pass over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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: You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor. God bless you ☩ that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

C: **Amen.**

### **SENDING HYMN “Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty”**

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### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Share the good news.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE**

## **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, 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 Laura Hyatt (Kristin Rich's partner), who passed away February 15th.

***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 Samaritas at Grace Lutheran Church. We also pray for this week's Synod Prayer Partner: Trinity Lutheran Church/Barton City, Rev. Chrisy Bright.

## **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. Please contact the office via email to receive the Zoom connection. That information will be sent out the days before March 7. ***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. 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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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

### **THANK YOU**

We are counting our blessings at Grace. The Little Food Pantry has had many recent donations. We want to say thank you for food, monetary and personal products that have been given. If you would like to donate, the following products are getting low in quantity: paper towels and toilet paper, feminine products, small shampoo and small soaps. We are filling the pantry almost daily and appreciate help. Blessings.— Little Food Pantry Coordinators

**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

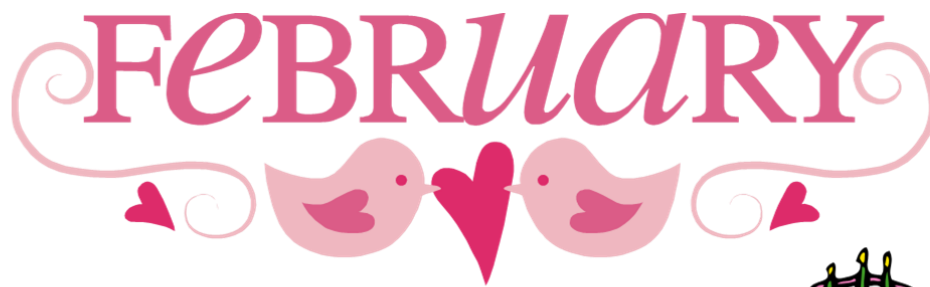
**GENERAL FUND GIVING**

Average needed each week to meet budget	\$ 4,489.00
Weekly giving - February 14	4,050.00

We received:

19 envelopes, 20 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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