
March In Touch with Grace



Dear family and friends of Grace,
"Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return." What a great way to start a letter! Actually, these are the words that we hear on each Ash Wednesday which begins on the first Wednesday of this month, March 2. The words are spoken as a cross is imposed on our foreheads. We hear the words once again and are reminded of our mortality in the ashes. We are also reminded of our hope in the formation of a cross out of those ashes placed on our foreheads. Both death and life are found there. We find humility as well as hope.

During the 40 days of Lent, we begin with this reminder from the book of Genesis that tells us who we are – mere humans who are on our earthly journey, just as Jesus was. The ashes also provide us with a marvelous reminder of creation. Out of the dust of the earth, God created humankind. It is with the very breath of God that we have received life. So, in this season of Lent, we find both a sense of sadness at death but also the joy of life, especially eternal life.

Spring is the season when we see winter fade away and signs of new life appear. What seemed to be dead is restored and life springs forth once again. This is the promise we each have through our life in Christ. God who gave us our first breath of life will once

again fill us with new life.

Join us in our Lenten journey with soup suppers on Wednesdays after Ash Wednesday as well as a 30 minute worship service each week. (available in person and online). Together, we will journey to the cross with Jesus and beyond to the new life of resurrection.

Peace be with you this season,
Pastor Karen

Ash Wednesday



*Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.*

E C C L E S I A S T E S 3 : 2 0

Announcements

Lenten Faith to Go packages for Sunday School aged children have been sent out. If you would like to receive one, please let the office know.

We pray God's blessings upon Kairo Stewart on his baptism. Parents are Xenia Rose and Elvis Stewart as well as grandparents, Lydia and Jonathan Rose. Welcome to God's family!



Lent begins March 2nd with Ash Wednesday! Here is the schedule for Lent -

Ash Wednesday Worship - 10:30 am and 6:30 pm The 10:30 am service will be livestreamed to our Facebook page and recorded so it can be viewed at any time during the day after that. This service will include the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion.

Midweek worship and Bible Study - On Wednesday evenings (3/9, 16, 23, 30, & 4/6) the collaborative has scheduled a noon Zoom worship followed by a Bible Study from Arlington Hills and an evening soup supper, worship and Bible Study from Grace with supper beginning at 5:45 pm, worship at 6:30 pm with Bible Study following. The evening service and bible study will be live on Zoom as well as in person. Please join us for some midweek meditation and study during this season as we walk with Christ to the cross.

From the Intern's Desk -

Greetings Collaborators!

March is here, Lent is upon us, and it's the beginning of round four! Over this last round of my time with each congregation, I've had the opportunity to learn with confirmation students, to ponder and to plan with all of you at your annual meetings, and to imagine with many of you the possibilities of our shared ministry work together. It has been a very busy and fruitful new year already... And we're just getting warmed up!

As we move through this next round, I am looking forward to exploring with you what it means to bear the promise of our baptism as beloved children of God both throughout our lives and particularly during the holy season of Lent. As we begin our slow and somber journey toward the cross, we will meet weekly—both virtually *and* in person—to explore the covenant established between us and our God at the baptismal font. I hope you can join me! (*Please see the Lenten Bible Study article in this newsletter for the particulars*).

I am also excited to be continuing my work with the shared ministry group when we meet again at the end of this month. Imagining the amazing possibilities that can come from working together is not only important and invigorating work, it is also the future of the church! And you can be part of it, too! If you'd like to know more, please reach out to me or to one of the pastors about participating in this group.

This Lenten journey can often feel like a difficult one, filled to the brim with solemnity, sacrifice, and silence. But it can also be a time of deep contemplation and an opportunity to reconnect with the foundations of our faith. Just as we spent Advent leaning into the "both/and" of it all, I am excited to experience the fullness of this season with all of you!

-Per

Living into our Baptisms: A Shared Lenten Bible Study

The season of Lent has long been a time in the Christian church when people prepare themselves or their children for baptism at Easter. This year, the congregations of the East Side Collaborative are invited to participate in a Bible study exploring the nature of our baptismal covenant. This brief study time will happen immediately after each midweek Lenten service, both in person (12:30pm @ Arlington

Week One (March 9)

Focus: To live among God's faithful people

Texts: Psalm 133
Acts 2:37-47

Week Two (March 16)

Focus: To hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper

Texts: Psalm 119:97-104
Luke 24:28-32

Week Three (March 23)

Focus: To proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed

Texts: Psalm 71:15-24
Luke 24:44-49

Week Four (March 30)

Focus: To serve all people, following the example of Jesus

Texts: Psalm 25:1-10
John 13:31-35

Week Five (April 6)

Focus: To strive for justice and peace in all the earth

Texts: Psalm 85
Micah 6:6-8

Zoom link for Lent worship & Bible studies: <https://luthersem.zoom.us/j/9910881410>

Opportunity for Special Giving - At the Annual meeting on February 20th, we heard about the need for repair to our Lower Level Entry doors. Regular wear, wind, snow, heat, dust, etc. have made it necessary for us to rebuilt the doors with new hardware, locks and to add a handicapped electronic entry system in order to make the entry both safe and secure. If you wish to contribute toward this project please place your gift in the offering plates or mail to the church and be sure to mark it for the Lower Level door project. Thank you for your generosity as always.

March Mission of the Month

The Mission of the month for March is Circle of Welcome, a program through Lutheran Social Service to fulfill our biblical call to welcome strangers and walk with refugees as they rebuild their lives.

Circle of Welcome increases successful integration of refugee families arriving in the U.S. by creating meaningful ways for faith and community groups to engage with and walk alongside refugee families in service, friendship and as advocates. Volunteers work with new refugees to get settled, get acclimated to new ways, secure healthcare, housing, schools, etc.

Money raised is handled collaboratively between the co-sponsorship group, the local resettlement agency, and the family with the goal of meeting their most pressing needs. Often this does include rent, healthcare, transportation, and school supplies.

Please prayerfully consider making a donation to this organization to reach out in Christian love to God's people facing incredible life changes. Please use your blue multi-purpose envelope, mark mission of the month and place in the offering plate on Sunday mornings or mail to the church office. Checks should be made payable to Grace. Thank you.

Thank you to everyone who contributed and/or worked to fill the nutrition packs for "Love One Another" - Alan Law's ministry to the homeless of Minneapolis. What an amazing amount of quality protein bars, nutrition bars, etc. We packed 269 baggies with 4 items each in a bag. This will truly help our homeless hungry neighbors.

Music Notes -

Did you know that the Covid19 pandemic is not even close to having taken as many lives as the six cholera pandemics which occurred from 1816 to 1923. 38 million died in India; over 2 million died in Russia. It wasn't until the first cholera vaccine was developed with the research by Louis Pasteur (the creator of pasteurization) that the pandemic tide ebbed.

The cholera pandemic also devastated the U.S. At the time, Robert Lowry was a Baptist minister in Brooklyn, New York. Many of his friends and parishioners had already died from it. He was depressed and needed some relief. He remembered the verses from Revelation 22:1-2 which said, "Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God." He had to get his frustrations out somehow. He was an excellent musician, so he took out those frustrations on his musical keyboard. The words and tune started pouring out. As has happened on many occasions, wonderful creations have come out of horrendous situations. And so "Shall We Gather at the River" was born. Our hymnal has 4 of the original 5 verses that Lowry created. The one verse that is usually left out is the following:

At the smiling of the river,
Mirror of the Savior's face,
Saints, whom death will never sever,
Lift their songs of saving grace.

Robert Lowry, born March 12, 1826, is best known for four of his hymn creations—
"Shall We Gather at the River", "How Can I Keep from Singing", "Christ Arose" and
"Nothing But the Blood". Frequently it is heard as a vocal solo, arranged by the Amer-
ican composer Aaron Copland.

FROM THE LIBRARY:

When you look at the library shelves and only see the same books over and over in the middle shelves, try a new tactic. Look first at books on the top and bottom shelves. If it's difficult to read book titles, take a step back or forward to reposition book titles and lighting in your mind's eye. I do this in the grocery store and am amazed at the interesting things that are the shelves.

Additions to the Grace inside library include the following books:

BOOK CLUB READS	<u>My Life and Hard Times</u>	James Thurber
	<u>People We Meet On Vacation</u>	Emily Henry
FICTION	<u>That Girl He Used To Know</u>	Tracey Graves
	<u>The Passenger</u>	Lisa Lutz
	<u>Finding Nouf</u>	Zoe Ferraris
	<u>Murder She Wrote</u>	Jessica Fletcher & John Bain
	<u>The Story of Edward Sawtelle</u>	David Wroblowski
	<u>61 Hours</u>	Lee Child
AUTOGRAPHED BY AUTHOR:		
	<u>I Told The Mountain To Move</u>	Patricia Raybon
	A Personal book about Prayer	
SPIRITUAL	<u>Atlas of the Bible</u>	Reader's Digest
SELF HELP	<u>The Gifts of Imperfection</u>	Brene Brown

Happy reading during this frigidly cold winter!

Grace Book Club schedule -

For March 3rd: The Alice Network - Kate Quin

For April 7th: The Paris Wife - Paula McLain

For May 5th - The Calligrapher's Daughter - Eugenia Kim



President's Message

We are entering the season of Lent. As people of hope, we look forward. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, Lent is a season of reflection and preparation, looking forward to the celebrations of Easter. By observing the 40 days of Lent, Christians replicate Jesus Christ's sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert for 40 days. So while we are still encountering uncertainty and concern over Covid and other world events, we, as Christians, are Easter people, confident in the promises of God that "I am with you always, yes, even until the end of the age." Matt. 28:20

Updates on Current Topics:

The **Church Council participated in a January Retreat** lead by Pastor Karen and Pastoral Intern Per. We discussed the theological background to why we are a church. We reviewed Church Vitality with the following questions: What is our WHY? Who is Grace? What is our vision - mission - purpose? What do we want our Legacy to be? We developed New Year's Resolutions for Grace and will be working on those at a follow-up retreat in March.

Gold Line Rapid Bus Line Construction: I have contacted the Minnesota Department of Transportation and the manager for the Met Council to ask about the status of the appraisal, questions about start dates and expected activity when the project starts. No response yet.

Business Management and Property Management will be looking into a second appraisal for the land affected by the Gold Line Project.

See the recent news article from 2-11-22

https://saintpaulpioneerpress-mn.newsmemory.com/?publink=14837e183_1348357

Enlighten Academy Charter School: The school continues to work on recruiting students. They are doing three open houses at the church on the third Saturdays of January, February, and March. The school is having conversations about technology support and security in the school area. The school will be providing a preliminary report on progress to the Minnesota Department of Education in March.

The **Annual Meeting** was held on February 20, 2022 in-person following the worship service and over zoom. The main items of business included the committee reports from 2021. We elected Karin Nikula as Vice President and Monique Hegge McClure and Jeff Oberlander as Synod Assembly Delegates. Karin Nikula and Linda Baer are alternates. We will also discuss the urgent need for repair of the lower level doors to the parking lot.

Please continue to pray for the church leadership and Council.

Linda Baer

President



OK, close your eyes and picture this...No wait. Read this, then close your eyes!

The sun and breeze is warm on your face. There is no snow and it is definitely spring! Now you can open your eyes.

It is time to order our plants for the Easter garden! As always, these are premium plants from Gerten's Greenhouses that you will be able to take home after the Easter worship service. The deadline for ordering and payment is March 13th this year.

Name _____

Amount of Check _____

In Memory or in Honor of _____
(please circle which it is)

How many?

White Lily \$11.00 _____

Pink Azalea \$18.50 _____

White Mum \$11.25 _____

Yellow Calla Lily \$17 _____

Tête-à-tête Daffodil \$5 _____

Blue Hydrangea \$17.75 _____

Pink/Purple Mum \$11.25 _____

Apricot Calla Lily \$17 _____

White Calla Lily \$17 _____

How many?

Mixed Gerbera Daisy \$5 _____

Pink Hydrangea \$17.75 _____

Yellow Mum \$11.25 _____

Pink Calla Lily \$17.00 _____

Mixed Hyacinths \$9.25 _____

Pansy Bowl \$14.50 _____

Remember - Orders and payment are due in the office by March 13th!

Community Connections - ongoing projects!!

Internal, Local and Global

The Community Connections Committee is currently collecting items for the LSS Circle of Welcome project. There is a grey bin outside the Sanctuary on the North side of the Narthex for any donations. There is also a list of requested items attached to the bin which you can take with you to do any shopping.

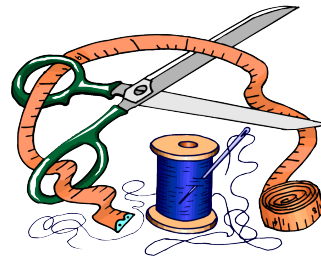
The **Circle of Welcome** is a project intended to make new refugees to this country a little more comfortable with their relocation by offering them assistance with finding a home, basic needs for living in that home and introductions to goods and services in their neighborhood. It can certainly be more than a little scary to move into a new place let alone a new country with a whole new set of rules and expectations. LSS is attempting to mitigate some of the fear by coming alongside them while they acclimate to new surroundings.

Mission 2022 Lutheran World Relief Collections:

Quilts, baby care kits (Note: soap size accepted for baby care kits is 3.5 and 4 oz gentle soap; soap in each kit has to total 8 or 9 oz). In February 2022, Grace's delivery for 2021 to Lutheran World Relief warehouse in South St. Paul happened. Other on-going collections at Grace - used eye glasses and cancelled stamps. Please find the small collection baskets on the library shelf. Thank you!

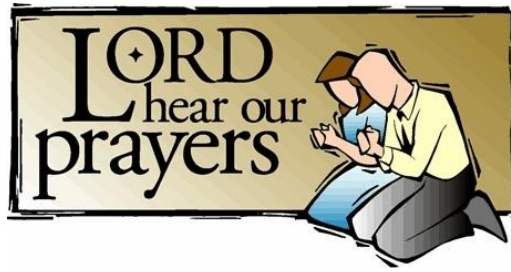


Quilt Days- March 12 & 26, 10 am, Tower rooms. Come and join our faithful energetic quilters who work every month on the 2nd & 4th Saturdays assembling, pinning, and tying approximately five quilts each meeting. Crochet thread is now used for tying, but we have a good supply. Come to work, to chat, to laugh, to enjoy being God's hands for the day! Coffee's available, bring a friend. A good time, well spent. New workers are always needed and welcomed! No experience required. We will train!



Miles of Pennies The large collection jar in the library is always accepting donations toward helping the LSS fund for helping homeless Youth in St. Paul. Our goal is \$250.00. for 2022 Thank you to everyone who participates in this important mission. Your generous donations of pennies and coins, are appreciated. *Let's exceed our goal in 2022!*

Sunday Coffee Hour Pick a Sunday to serve coffee and treats following worship. Open to all committees, individuals, groups. Sign-up clipboard is on the table inside the South Tower Room. Any questions, call Linda in the church office.



We lift our prayers to God in times of thanksgiving and times of need, in times of joy and times of sorrow. Today, we especially pray for Curt Kinnunen, (Patty Young’s brother-in-law), Phyllis Acker, Carol Sprau, Butch Nelson, and those we name in our hearts.

(Many of these people have long term situations so if we discontinue listing them specifically please continue to pray for their healing.)

How to donate without an offering plate:

There is always snail mail. The office is open to receive the mail and our bookkeeper will count what comes in each week and deposit it in the bank. Our address: 1730 Old Hudson Road, St. Paul, 55106.

To donate electronically: You can schedule a transfer of funds with your own bank if they have bill pay available and it will come automatically on the date you choose. Otherwise, you can go to our website (www.gracelutheranstpaul.org) and click on the GIVE page. This site is secure for financial transactions through Vanco which is the Simply Giving program. At the GIVE page you can go through the steps as directed and give whatever amount you wish to several different categories (general, mortgage, etc.) This works best on the Firefox or Edge browsers. This does get to us electronically in a very timely manner. If you are comfortable using the QR, it will take you directly to the GIVE page on the website. **Please call the office if you have any questions.** Thank you.

Give QR



Financial Snapshot for GLC-2022

	<u>January Actual</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
General Fund	\$22,652.84	\$22,652.84	\$24,191.66
Expenses	\$27,470.77	\$27,470.77	\$30,248.09
Deficit/Overage	-\$4,817.93	-\$4,817.93	-\$6,056.43



March

BIRTHDAYS

28 Luke Runquist
5 Anne Oberlander
7 Wyatt Wood
8 Christiana Ray-Taylor
11 Karen Doree
Peter Hultgren
12 Nancy Zitzewitz
13 Curtis Lindquist
14 Paul Hesterberg
16 Olivia Childs
Pat Flores
Lexi Revier
19 Dakota Reed
21 Sue Atneosen
Luke Christie
22 Margaret Swenson
23 Danita Hanson
24 Thomas Rose
25 Debra Duke
Barbara Kinney
26 Kathleen Voss
27 Susan Brown
Carol Westling
28 Jan Steingas

29 Roger McClure
Karen Olson
30 Josh Wickert
31 Judy Adam
Debra Johnson
Cynthia Wood



Worship Leaders for March 2022 -

<u>Date</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
2 Ash Wednesday	10:30 Linda Sackreiter	6:30 ?
6	Jeff Oberlander	Lauren Alleman
13	Jan Steingas	Dakota Reed
20	Per Halaas	Olivia Childs
27	Per Halaas	Lauren Alleman

<u>Date</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
6	Team F - Peter Hultgren, Linda Denson, Larry Denson, Rich Castle
13	Team G - Brian Jackson, Patty Young, Kristen Wintheiser, Chris Wintheiser
20	Team H - Karin Nikula, Bob Golder, Youth
27	Team A - Norm Walby, Ron House, Larry Carlson, Roger McClure

<u>Date</u>	<u>Money Counters - (we could use some additional volunteers on our counting teams)</u>
6	Amanda Christie team
13	Monique McClure-Hegge team
20	Kate Pray team
27	Amanda Christie team



Grace Lutheran Church
1730 Old Hudson Road
Saint Paul, MN 55106



Phone: 651-774-9617

FAX: 651-774-0006

www.gracelutheranstpaul.org

gracelutheranstpaul@gmail.com

Pastor:

Rev. Karen Williams

Custodial Staff:

Larry and Linda Denson

Office Staff:

Linda Sackreiter

Music Staff:

Russ Carlson—Director of Music Ministries

Kathleen Hollar—Organist

Jan Steingas—Triple G's

Peter Zitzewitz—Bells of Grace

Connie Smeby—Joyous Juniors

MARCH

