

Grace Lutheran Church
2006 60th Street, Kenosha, Wisconsin 53140
262-654-9143 + gracekenosha.com
Sunday, February 25, 2024
Pastor: Rev. Jonathan Barker
Leading worship today: Gracie Underwood
Musicians: Gracie, Samuel & David Underwood
Lay reader: Judy Gregory
ASL interpreter: Dottie Watts
Projectionist: Jarlene Kriehn



GATHERING

WELCOME.

WELCOME SONG — Carolyn Reynolds

AFFIRMATION OF WELCOME STATEMENT

- ① Let us affirm our welcome statement.
- ☐ **Grace Lutheran Church commits to live as a community of people seeking reconciliation and wholeness in our life together and in our ongoing outreach to the world. We commit to the work of anti-racism, anti-ableism, liberation, and environmental justice for all of God's beloveds.**

We affirm the sacredness of people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions. We affirm the sacredness of all those who have experienced exclusion because of race, culture, disability, age, or physical demeanor. We affirm the sacredness of those who wrestle with addiction, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us.

You are absolutely invited to share your gifts as you join us in this lifelong journey. We welcome and embrace all who are seeking God's love and grace. We need each other and our sincere hope is by being in community together we will know the kingdom of God has come near.

GATHERING SONG: "Drive Out the Darkness"

Refrain: *Come O come be our light*
Drive out the darkness
Come Jesus come

1: *Ev'ry year under the thorn*
Ev'ry wrong that we have known
Ev'ry valley will be raised
The ancient ruins will be remade

2: *Ev'ry weapon made for war*
Ev'ry gun and ev'ry sword
Will be melted in the flame
To be used for gardening

3: *In the emptiness of grief*
Through the night of suffering
Ev'ry loss and in the tears
God our comfort O be near

Ending: *Come O come be our light*
Drive out the darkness
Come and end all the violence
Come and do not be silent
Come we cling to Your promise
Come You'll break all injustice
Come Jesus come

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ① Let us pray.
O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☐ **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 23:1–8

📖 A reading from Genesis.

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD.

Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD.

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Therefore, the days are surely coming, says the LORD, when it shall no longer be said, "As the LORD lives who brought the people of Israel up out of the land of Egypt," but "As the LORD lives who brought out and led the offspring of the house of Israel out of the land of the north and out of all the lands where he had driven them." Then they shall live in their own land.

📖 The word of the Lord.

🔊 **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL: John 15:1–17

🕒 The holy gospel according to John.

🔊 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said, I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit.

"You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do

nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

"If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.

"You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

🕒 The gospel of the Lord.

🔊 **Praise to you, O Christ.**

MESSAGE — Gracie Underwood

HYMN OF THE DAY: "We Abide We Abide in You"

1: *We are the vineyard You have planted*

Tend our leaves and wild branches:

we abide, we abide in You.

We abide, we abide in You.

2: *Fruit growing from our strength and labor*

Rain on us with grace and favor

We abide we abide in You

We abide we abide in You

Chorus: *Where can my soul find living water*

Apart from You we bear no fruit

O plant my feet down by the river

We abide we abide in You

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VERSE: (ELW #887 vv. 1 & 3)

1: ***This is my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for lands afar and mine.***

***This is my home, the country where my heart is;
here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
but other hearts in other lands are beating
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.***

3: ***This is my prayer, O God of all earth's
kingdoms,
your kingdom come; on earth your will be done.***

***O God, be lifted up till all shall serve you,
and hearts united learn to live as one.***

***So hear my prayer, O God of all the nations;
myself I give you; let your will be done.***

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Ⓛ Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

A brief silence.

Ⓛ We turn to you for meaning, holy God. Nurture in your children the gifts of the Spirit poured out in baptism and let the mind of Christ guide the church. Give wisdom and discernment to our bishops, pastors, deacons, teachers, and leaders. Hear us, O God.

☑ **Your mercy is great.**

Ⓛ We turn to you for renewal. Save lives and ecosystems threatened by pollution and a changing climate. Cleanse the earth's waters and restore the soil. Preserve rainforests, deserts, and wildlife, that generations to come may cherish your creation. Hear us, O God.

☑ **Your mercy is great.**

Ⓛ We turn to you for justice. Uphold the worth and dignity of every person, especially any who experience hatred and rejection because of gender, ability, sexual orientation, color, ethnicity, or religion. Hear us, O God.

☑ **Your mercy is great.**

Ⓛ We turn to you for healing. Send compassionate helpers to any who suffer because of war and violence. Shelter unhoused people, befriend those who are lonely, bring hope to any in despair, and console the bereaved, *especially:*

• Darlene Bard

- Kate Barker
 - Dawn Bench (Welcome Center volunteer)
 - Doug Becker (Marlene's son)
 - Eric Berge (Paul's brother)
 - Pat Bernacchi
 - Jackie Brichacek (Nancy's sister-in-law)
 - Andrew Calvert
 - Cameron Carr (Karen Cassidy's nephew)
 - Holly Cummings
 - Eric Dangerfield
 - Jan Dugdale
 - Barb Ehlen
 - Gregory Foster
 - Judy Gregory
 - Shirleen Gulick
 - Cogan Holly Hall
 - Aggie Hartnell (Bert's mother)
 - Christine Hill
 - Sydney & Skyler Houston
 - Bob Kauffman (Dick's brother)
 - Dick Kauffman
 - Norma Larson
 - Rubel Pierce (Randy's father)
 - Mary Jean Preston
 - Rex Reeve
 - Carolyn Reynold's children Eddie, Santino, and Lytosh
 - Martha, Joel, and Jeanette Sanchez
 - Cynthia Schwartz (Norma's daughter)
 - Patti Shields
 - Jill Swails
 - Marcia Swanson
 - Joyce Swift
 - Andrew Tate
 - Ron and Linda Wadham
 - Steve & Heather Waldron
 - Henry, Florence, and Jacqueline Walker (Carolyn's brother and sisters)
 - Charles and Timothy Walker
 - Dottie Watts
 - Chris Webb (Bert's sister)
 - Pam Wisse
 - Kristi Weiss.
Hear us, O God.
- ☑ **Your mercy is great.**
- Ⓛ We turn to you for purpose. Remind us of your faithfulness to this congregation. Increase our trust in your guidance and keep us near the cross. Grant that our acts of service will express Christ's sacrificial love. Hear us, O God.
- ☑ **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Ⓐ We turn to you for peace. We honor the saints who lived in service to others (*especially Elizabeth Fedde, deaconess, whom we commemorate today*). Inspire us by their example until you gather us into your kingdom. Hear us, O God.

☑ **Your mercy is great.**

Ⓐ Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

☑ **Amen.**

PEACE (ELW p. 206)

Ⓐ The peace of Christ be with you always.

☑ **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING PRAYER

Ⓐ God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

☑ **Amen.**

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Ⓐ O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way 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 feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

☑ **Amen**

LORD'S PRAYER (*sung*)

Ⓐ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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 debts

As we forgive our debtors

And lead us not into temptation

But deliver us from evil

For thine is the kingdom

The power and the glory forever

And ever. Amen

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REFLECTION MOMENT: "Come to Me"

1: ***You weighed down you are worried
Child I see you child I know you
Bring your burdens bring your labor
Come to me***

Chorus: ***Come to me come to me
Come to me if you are weary
I will give you I will give you my rest***

2: ***I am gentle I am humble
Let me teach you let me show you
Trade your burden mine is easy
Come to me***

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SOLO: "We Abide"

SENDING

BLESSING

Ⓐ The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✚ give you peace.

☑ **Amen.**

SENDING SONG: "John 13 song"

Verse: ***A New Commandment I give to you
That you love one another
Just as I have loved you.*** Repeat.

Chorus: *You ought to love one another, Love one another, love one another.*

Verse: *A New Commandment I give to you That you love one another Just as I have loved you.* Repeat. Chorus. Chorus again.

Bridge: *By this all people will know that you are my disciples*

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If you have love for one another. Repeat twice.

Chorus. Verse again.

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DISMISSAL

Ⓐ Go in peace. Share your bread.

ⓐ **Thanks be to God.**

Opportunities of the Week at Grace

Sunday, February 25	Pastor Barker at church		
	9:30 am	Worship service	sanctuary/Facebook
	7:00 pm	NA	Rainbow Room
Monday, February 19	Pastor Barker at church		
Presidents' Day	9:00 am - noon	Welcome Center volunteers	lower level
	9:00 am	Prayer group	library
Tuesday, February 27	Pastor Barker at church. Paul in office 9:00-12:00		
	8:00 am - noon	Welcome Center volunteers	lower level
	4:00 - 5:30 pm	Welcome Center food pantry	courtyard, parking lot
Wednesday, February 28	Paul in office 9:00-2:00.		
Thursday, February 29	Pastor Barker at home. Paul in office 9:00-2:00.		
	8:30-9:15 am	Welcome Center breakfast	Rainbow room
	2:00 - 5:00 pm	Infant Moses diaper ministry	Room 102
Friday, March 1	Pastor Barker at home. Paul in office 9:00-2:00		
	8:30-9:15 am	Welcome Center breakfast	Rainbow room
Saturday, March 2	Pastor Barker at church		
Sunday, March 3	9:30 am	Worship service	sanctuary/Facebook
	10:30 am	Men's group	library
	7:00 pm	NA	Rainbow Room

Gather in the narthex after the worship service today and help celebrated the birthdays of Leah Schaut and Stephanie Knezz.

New members class continues Sunday, March 10. Please see Pastor Barker if you are interested in joining the Grace family.

We invite everyone to sit in the first eight pews on each side of the sanctuary—this will make the acoustics of our congregational singing much stronger.

Our compressor went out on the upstairs part of our HVAC system. This is an essential part of the system and must be repaired. The repair cost is \$4,100. We appreciate everyone who has generously donated towards this

repair already, and we hope those who have not donated will consider making a donation—every donation helps get this paid for.

Birthdays this week:
Feb. 26, Stephanie Knezz

Receipts February 14-18:

General offering.....	\$ 1,131.00
Benevolence.....	\$ 205.00
Ash Wednesday	\$ 106.00
Lent.....	\$ 50.00
From friends of the congregation:	
General offering.....	\$ 100.00
<u>Minus internet transaction fees.....</u>	<u>\$ (0.00)</u>
Total	\$ 1,592.00

Attendance February 18: 32.

Men's Group will meet after worship on March 3 to plan a chili fund raiser.

L'Arche meets in the narthex at 6:30 p.m. next Monday, March 4. Everyone interested in the issues of intellectual disabilities and neurodivergence is invited.

The office will close at noon this Tuesday.

Trinity and Lakeside Lutheran Churches offer Lenten midweek services on alternating Wednesdays. This week, Trinity hosts at Soup supper at 5:30, worship service at 6:00.

A heartfelt thanks to all of you who have used Thrivent's generosity programs to support our church. Once again you showed us how, together, we can make a difference by helping to strengthen communities and change lives. Go to Thrivent.com/generosity to learn more.



Grace Lutheran Church Fish Bake

Friday, March 8 4:30-7:00

Adult \$15 Child \$5

- Cod
- Mac and Cheese
- Baked Potato
- Corn
- Cole Slaw or Corn
- Apple Sauce Cup
- Rye Bread
- Juice Box
- Dessert
- Dessert
- Drinks: Coffee, Water, Lemonade
- Soda will be available for purchase

You can dine - in or take it to go

Stop by the Grace office from 9:00 am- 2:00 pm Tuesday -Friday to purchase tickets



EASTER LILIES ORDER FORM:

We will have a display of Easter lilies around the cross and the altar on Easter Sunday, March 31. This is the order form for your lilies.

After the worship service on Easter Sunday, you may take your lily home with you. A sheet will be posted in the narthex listing your name and the lilies you ordered. Someone will be available in the sanctuary to help you get your flowers.

The deadline to order your Easter lilies is Thursday, March 17. You may place this order form in the offering plate, mail it to church or place it in the secretary's mail box in the office.

Name Env. #

Phone/email

Amt. enclosed \$_____ for #_____ Easter lily/lilies at \$20.00/ea.

Check one: In honor of In memory of:

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