

# Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD

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## February & March 2020

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**“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.” (Jeremiah 29:11 ESV)**

Dear Friends in Christ:

As you know, all throughout last year, we celebrated Grace’s centennial anniversary. What a busy and exciting year it was for us! Below is a list of some of the major events of 2019:

- January 20: 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Kickoff Service
- February 3: Dedication of our Elevator Addition
- June 30: Church Open House
- August 6: National Night Out Kickoff for Racine
- October 13: 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service and Luncheon
- December 8: 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Pastor Bartz’ Installation at Grace
- December 15: Milwaukee Handbell Ensemble Christmas Concert

In addition to these events, we held our weekly Sunday worship services; midweek services during Lent and Advent; Sunday School and Bible classes; Vacation Bible School; many board, council, and voters’ meetings; Growing Strong with Grace gatherings; Youth Group fundraising luncheons; quilting and other service projects, just to name a few. I get a little tired just thinking about all that we did at Grace last year!

As we begin a new century at Grace, I am excited for our future. I am excited, even though I am mindful that challenges will come our way, just as they did over the past 100 years. For example, our congregation is not as large as it once was. Although our elevator addition is beautiful and much needed, we still have a sizeable amount of debt on it to repay. And, to make matters more difficult, we live in a culture and society that is growing increasingly indifferent and, in some cases, antagonistic to Christ, His Word, and His Church. If we look at the world around us, we can find many reasons to be concerned.

That’s why I love Grace’s theme verse for 2020: “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope” (Jeremiah 29:11). God first spoke these words to the conquered people of Jerusalem who were living in exile in Babylon. He had punished His people because of their sins of idolatry. It looked as if all hope for them was lost. But God, who is rich in mercy, promised that He would give them and their children “a future and a hope.” That promise was fulfilled in the birth of His Son, Jesus Christ, who came to take away their sins and the sins of the world.

Our future and hope, both individually and as a congregation, are found in Jesus, too. To borrow an old saying, “I don’t know what the future may hold, but I know who holds the future.” Yes, Jesus is our future and hope. The Bible says, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever” (Hebrews 13:8). Our risen Lord and Savior holds you and our beloved church, Grace, in the palms of His nail-scarred hands. Therefore, my friends, with confidence in His power to bless and to save, let us move boldly into this new century, knowing that the future belongs to Jesus—and so do we!

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Brian Crane

## **FROM THE BOARD OF ELDERS**

Welcome to the second century of Grace Lutheran Church!

Last year gave us much to celebrate as we gave thanks to God for 100 years of our church and the blessings those years have been filled with. This year, 2020, doesn't bring with it a nice round number of an anniversary to celebrate, but we still have so much to be thankful for.

We have the ability to worship, freely and safely. This is a right that people in the world still today live without and others have died for. Our doors are open, our church is located near us, and we are welcomed with open arms to Our Father's house.

We have God's Word. Available in our native language. Affordable and legal for us to own. Faithfully and cheerfully taught here at Grace.

We have a Pastor dedicated to his flock. We have our brothers and sisters in Christ to share our worship with. We have beautiful hymns passed down through generations of believers. We have the Lord's Supper offered to us every week, a celebration of the forgiveness Jesus earned for us.

We have so much to be thankful for. But I am not ignorant of the concerns that exist. Our congregation is smaller. Our weekly worship services are smaller. Our offerings are less. These are all true. These are concerns that deserve our prayers and consideration. But they are not a reason to lose hope.

In Grace's 10th Anniversary year, 1929, the stock market crashed, and our nation was plunged into severe economic depression, but God preserved this church. Grace was formed shortly after World War I ended and saw its members and loved ones called to serve in the Second World War just over two decades later, but God preserved this church. As many in our country become increasingly antagonistic towards or disinterested in religion, as the world tells us our beliefs are hateful and out-of-touch, and as churches in our city close, I firmly believe God will preserve this church.

The future is in God's hands. But we can still do our part to support His church, His shepherd, and His people here at Grace. Our story is just getting started. Let's all work together to help tell it.

Yours in Christ,  
Matthew Olson

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## **FROM THE BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP**

Of the three things a person is not to talk about in polite company – religion, politics, and money – the church is called, in one way or another, to talk about all three. Perhaps this is the reason why teaching about stewardship often seems to be an afterthought. It's something that happens only out of necessity when financial constraints are already nipping at the heels.

There is a more excellent way. Stewardship shouldn't be the kind of teaching that comes up only when there is a financial crunch. It should be part and parcel of the ongoing instruction of Christians as they live out their faith in their vocations – members of their family, their society, and their church. This teaching touches upon every facet of our lives; it stakes a claim upon our time, our presence, our prayers, and our possessions.

Stewardship begins with the acknowledgment that we are stewards. A steward is a manager of someone else's possessions. In Christian stewardship, we recognize, according to the Apostles' Creed, that God is the owner of all things as the Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. And in His fatherly divine goodness and mercy, He gives us what is His to manage here below.

The principal virtue for stewards is faithfulness. As St. Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth:

“Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.” (1 Cor. 4:2)

Stewards must manage that which belongs to the owner according to the owner’s wishes. That is what it means to be faithful in stewardship.

That raises a question: How are Christian stewards to be faithful in their managing of what God has entrusted to them to manage? In other words, what are the specific duties of a Christian steward?

This depends upon what God has revealed in His Word for each of our vocations in life as those in a family (fathers, mothers, husbands, wives, children), society (governors or citizens), and the church (pastors or laity). The Table of Duties from *Luther’s Small Catechism* lays this out in a helpful and orderly way.

Let’s look just at what the laity (hearers as it is labeled in the catechism) owe their pastors:

“In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.” (1 Cor. 9:14)

“Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.” (Gal. 6:6–7)

“Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, ‘You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,’ and, ‘The laborer deserves his wages.’” (1 Tim. 5:17–18)

“We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.” (1 Thess. 5:12–13)

“Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.” (Heb. 13:17)

We can see that the Lord commands hearers to support the work of the ministry with the gifts God endowed them – their time, their presence, their prayers, and their possessions. This is the means by which God blesses His people with His gifts: the ministry with the support of those whom they serve, and the hearers with the work of the ministry.

St. Paul expounds upon this further in his letters to the church at Corinth. He instructs them to give regularly (1 Cor. 16:1–2), proportionally (1 Cor. 16:1–2; 2 Cor. 8:12), and generously (2 Cor. 8:20) of our first-fruits (1 Cor. 16:2) with a spirit of eagerness (2 Cor. 9:2), earnestness (2 Cor. 8:7), cheerfulness (2 Cor. 9:7), and love (2 Cor. 8:23).

All of this teaching is set forth squarely within the context of stations to which God calls us. This is always appropriate for the church to speak because it instructs God’s people in how they are to live out their faith as His stewards under those who are created, redeemed, and sanctified by Him.

## FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE BOARD OF YOUTH

The Grace Youth Group invites you to a delicious **Lasagna Luncheon** on **Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, at 12:00 PM**. The menu will include Lasagna, Bread, Salad, Dessert, and Beverages. Tickets are \$10 each. Children three years old and younger are free. Tickets can be purchased in the Martin Room before and after church on Sunday. We hope you will join us for this fun afternoon of fellowship and nourishment!

Save The Date! You are invited to an exciting afternoon at the **Milwaukee Wave indoor soccer game** on **Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 PM**. Tickets for the game are \$17 each. All children and youth who are with our group will be invited down to the field to welcome the Wave players back to the field after halftime. Each person who attends will also receive a Milwaukee Wave drawstring bag. Tickets can be purchased before and after church in the Martin Room. We will be trying to coordinate carpooling for anyone who is interested.

**Vacation Bible School 2020!** Vacation Bible School will be held **August 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>** at Grace. At Splash Canyon VBS, children will learn that God keeps His promises on life's wild ride! They'll look into the Bible, God's Holy Word, and explore Bible accounts where our faithful God keeps His promises to be with us and gives us life and hope through Jesus, our Savior. More information about VBS will be included in upcoming newsletters and bulletins!

### Youth Schedule

February 7 <sup>th</sup> (Friday)	Meeting	6:00 PM – 8:30 PM
February 9 <sup>th</sup> (Sunday)	Lasagna Luncheon Fundraiser	Noon – ?
February 23 <sup>rd</sup> (Sunday)	Meeting	11:30 AM – 2:30 PM
March 8 <sup>th</sup> (Sunday)	Meeting	11:30 AM – 2:30 PM
March 15 <sup>th</sup> (Sunday)	Milwaukee Wave Game	1:00 PM
March 22 <sup>nd</sup> (Sunday)	Meeting	11:30 AM – 2:30 PM

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## FROM THE BOARD OF PARISH FELLOWSHIP

In the spirit of fellowship and cooperation, we are going to change things around a bit. We will now have a sign-up sheet for Bible Study for set up and clean up. If you wish to bring or donate something to the kitchen, we would appreciate a donation of items that are shelf-stable or have a long use-by date, such as coffee cups, 6" plates, napkins, coffee (both regular & decaf), baked goods that can be frozen, packaged cookies, trail mix, nuts, cheese, sausage, and crackers. If you wish to bring fresh fruit, please do so with the intent of using it on the next Sunday morning. We will also have a list on the bulletin board of things we will need soon.

Next, we extend an invitation for everyone to use the kitchen and stock available. A calendar will be provided so we don't interfere with each other. We hope that a first-come, first-serve policy will work and that if there's a conflict, we can talk it out. If you use the last of something, please replace it or let a Board member know.

Third, all monies donated will be accounted for in the church's main account, as will any purchases with this money. Our hope is that almost everything we need will be donated.

Fourth, we are trying to formulate a plan for loaning out kitchen equipment such as large coffee pots, Nesco roasters, etc.; we will roll that out in the coming months.

We will be working with other Boards to allow them an opportunity to use the annual events such as Lent and Advent meals for fundraising.

If anyone has any suggestions or questions, please let us know!!

Board of Parish Fellowship,  
Diana Bohn  
Jane Kunstman



“O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Gradual for Lent, based on Hebrews 12:2)

When the characters in the Passion narrative look at Jesus, what do they see? In most cases, people misunderstood who He is and what He was doing. In some cases, by faith, people recognized Him aright. Our Lenten series this year, *Eyes on Jesus*, based on the Gospel according to St. Mark, will examine how the various people around Jesus viewed Him—and how we should view Him. We will “fix our eyes” on what Jesus has done to save us from our sins by His holy, precious blood and innocent sufferings and death, and celebrate what God sees on account of His work: our justification for His sake.

*Eyes on Jesus* will continuously focus our eyes on Jesus Christ and Him crucified, buried, and risen for our justification. This is a vision that will never disappoint, for by trusting in Jesus, He promises that we will gaze upon His beautiful face now by faith and forever in heaven!

**2020 MIDWEEK LENTEN SERIES**  
**“Eyes on Jesus” – Wednesdays at 6:30 PM**

**February 26<sup>th</sup> – *Misjudging Eyes***  
(Mark 14:1–9)  
(Ash Wednesday Service/Holy Communion)

**March 4<sup>th</sup> – *Betraying Eyes***  
(Mark 14:10–21, 32, 41–46)

**March 11<sup>th</sup> – *Sleepy Eyes***  
(Mark 14:32–42)

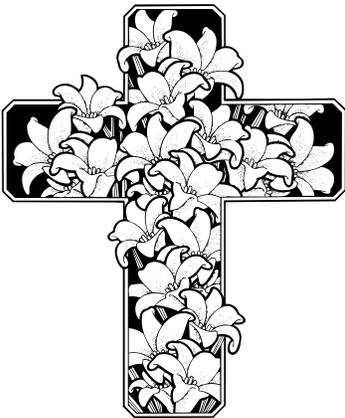
**March 18<sup>th</sup> – *Denying Eyes***  
(Mark 14:26–31, 66–72)

**March 25<sup>th</sup> – *Murderous Eyes***  
(Mark 14:1–2, 53–65)

**April 1<sup>st</sup> – *Worldly Eyes***  
(Mark 15:1–20)

**LENTEN SUPPERS** – The Board of Youth is coordinating pot-bless Lenten Suppers. Doors open by 5:00 PM and suppers begin at 5:15 PM. Everyone is encouraged to bring a side dish, dessert, etc., to complement the meal. Please watch the upcoming bulletin announcements for more information. Monetary donations are gladly accepted. Come enjoy the fellowship and food!

# EASTER MEMORIALS



This year, we are again asking for a cash donation to help purchase Easter lilies for our Easter celebration. If you would like to make a donation in memory of a loved one(s), please fill out the form below and put it with your cash or check payable to:

## **GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

For each \$15 donation, if you wish, you may take one Easter Lily after the 9:00 AM Worship Service on Easter Sunday. All other spring flowers such as TULIPS, HYACINTHS, DAFFODILS, and HYDRANGEAS will remain in the chancel and may be planted outside here at church to beautify the church grounds. When taking your Easter Lily from the chancel, please be respectful of the altar, as it symbolizes the presence of our Risen Lord.

**PLEASE DO NOT** place orders or envelopes in the offering plates on Sunday as this has caused considerable confusion in previous years. Instead, please place your order in the secretary's mailbox in the Communication Center.

**DEADLINE** for returning your donation and form is **Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>**. If you have any questions, please call Dorothy at the church office at 633-4831.

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**(Please print clearly)**

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ toward Easter flowers.

**GIVEN BY** \_\_\_\_\_

**IN MEMORY OF** \_\_\_\_\_

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**ELEVATOR FUND:** As of Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, we have raised \$55,247 for the Elevator Fund. Thanks be to God! To make additional donations, you may use the specially marked white envelopes in the pew racks.

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**TELEVISION IN ELEVATOR LOBBY:** The new television and accompanying Wi-Fi system are gifts to Grace from the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) to enhance our elevator lobby. The television serves as an electronic message board to welcome people to Grace and to broadcast church and LCEF announcements. We thank LCEF for their generous gift! (LCEF was our lender for the elevator project.)

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**PORTALS OF PRAYER:** Quarterly daily devotional books for January through March are available in the narthex. Please help yourself!

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**OFFERING STATEMENTS AND ENVELOPES:** 2019 offering statements and 2020 offering envelopes can be found in the church mail slots.

**2020 FLOWER CHART** is available for sign up in the narthex. The cost is **\$27.00** for two bouquets. Please make your checks payable to "Grace Lutheran Church" and place in the secretary's box in the Communication Center. To reserve a Sunday, please sign your name and the occasion. Thank you!

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**THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS®:** Eligible Thrivent members who have available Choice Dollars® from 2019 have until **March 31, 2020**, to direct them to Grace or other charities. Call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt. Or go to [thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://thrivent.com/thriventchoice).

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**GROWING STRONG WITH GRACE:** Our monthly meetings continue in February and March. On **February 19<sup>th</sup>**, we welcome a representative from Thrivent/Vantage Financial. The presentation on **March 18<sup>th</sup>** will be a surprise for all of us. Think about an old Jim Stafford song! Pastor Crane will say grace on both days at **11:00 AM**. Hope you can make it!

<b>Daily Lectionary Readings</b> <b>February – March 2020</b>
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Saturday, February 1:	Zechariah 11:4-17 2 Timothy 4:1-18	Monday, March 2:	Genesis 6:1-7:5 Mark 3:1-19
Sunday, February 2:	Zechariah 12:1-13:9 Titus 1:1-2:6	Tuesday, March 3:	Genesis 7:11-8:12 Mark 3:20-35
Monday, February 3:	Zechariah 14:1-21 Titus 2:7-3:15	Wednesday, March 4:	Genesis 8:13-9:17 Mark 4:1-20
Tuesday, February 4:	Job 1:1-22 John 1:1-18	Thursday, March 5:	Genesis 11:27-12:20 Mark 4:21-41
Wednesday, February 5:	Job 2:1-3:10 John 1:19-34	Friday, March 6:	Genesis 13:1-18 Mark 5:1-20
Thursday, February 6:	Job 3:11-26 John 1:35-51	Saturday, March 7:	Genesis 15:1-21 Mark 5:21-43
Friday, February 7:	Job 4:1-21 John 2:1-12	Sunday, March 8:	Genesis 16:1-9, 15-17:22 Mark 6:1-13
Saturday, February 8:	Job 5:1-27 John 2:13-25	Monday, March 9:	Genesis 18:1-15 Mark 6:14-34
Sunday, February 9:	Job 6:1-13 John 3:1-21	Tuesday, March 10:	Genesis 21:1-21 Mark 6:35-56
Monday, February 10:	Job 6:14-30 John 3:22-4:6	Wednesday, March 11:	Genesis 22:1-19 Mark 7:1-23
Tuesday, February 11:	Job 7:1-21 John 4:7-26	Thursday, March 12:	Genesis 24:1-31 Mark 7:24-37
Wednesday, February 12:	Job 8:1-22 John 4:27-45	Friday, March 13:	Genesis 24:32-52, 61-67 Mark 8:1-21
Thursday, February 13:	Job 9:1-35 John 4:46-54	Saturday, March 14:	Genesis 27:1-29 Mark 8:22-38
Friday, February 14:	Job 10:1-22 John 5:1-18	Sunday, March 15:	Genesis 27:30-45, 28:10-22 Mark 9:1-13
Saturday, February 15:	Job 11:1-20 John 5:19-29	Monday, March 16:	Genesis 29:1-30 Mark 9:14-32
Sunday, February 16:	Job 12:1-6, 12-25 John 5:30-47	Tuesday, March 17:	Genesis 35:1-29 Mark 9:33-50
Monday, February 17:	Job 13:1-12 John 6:1-21	Wednesday, March 18:	Genesis 37:1-36 Mark 10:1-12
Tuesday, February 18:	Job 13:13-28 John 6:22-40	Thursday, March 19:	Genesis 39:1-23 Mark 10:13-31
Wednesday, February 19:	Job 14:1-22 John 6:41-59	Friday, March 20:	Genesis 40:1-23 Mark 10:32-52
Thursday, February 20:	Job 15:1-23, 30-35 John 6:60-71	Saturday, March 21:	Genesis 41:1-27 Mark 11:1-19
Friday, February 21:	Job 16:1-22 John 7:1-13	Sunday, March 22:	Genesis 41:28-57 Mark 11:20-33
Saturday, February 22:	Job 17:1-16 John 7:14-31	Monday, March 23:	Genesis 42:1-34, 38 Mark 12:1-12
Sunday, February 23:	Job 18:1-21 John 7:32-53	Tuesday, March 24:	Genesis 43:1-28 Mark 12:13-27
Monday, February 24:	Job 19:1-12, 21-27 John 8:1-20	Wednesday, March 25:	Genesis 44:1-18, 32-34 Mark 12:28-44
Tuesday, February 25:	Job 20:1-23, 29 John 8:21-38	Thursday, March 26:	Genesis 45:1-20, 24-28 Mark 13:1-23
Wednesday, February 26:	Genesis 1:1-19 Mark 1:1-13	Friday, March 27:	Genesis 47:1-31 Mark 13:24-37
Thursday, February 27:	Genesis 1:20-2:3 Mark 1:14-28	Saturday, March 28:	Genesis 49:29-50:7, 14-26 Mark 14:1-11
Friday, February 28:	Genesis 2:4-25 Mark 1:29-45	Sunday, March 29:	Exodus 1:1-22 Mark 14:12-31
Saturday, February 29:	Genesis 3:1-24 Mark 2:1-17	Monday, March 30:	Exodus 2:1-22 Mark 14:32-52
Sunday, March 1:	Genesis 4:1-26 Mark 2:18-28	Tuesday, March 31:	Exodus 2:23-3:22 Mark 14:53-72