

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF February 14th THROUGH February 21st

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDIES

STUDY	TOPIC/TITLE	WHEN & WHERE
Adult Study	One Christ, Many Creeds	10:30 AM – Fellowship Hall (also live-streamed on Facebook)

STEWARDSHIP NOTE: Mark 9:6 – *“For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified.”* Soon enough, the disciples’ terror turned into joy, for when Jesus is with us, there is no need to fear. He loves us and cares for us and will never abandon us. That assurance is the basis of all generosity – for only those who are set free from worry can learn the joy of giving.

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God by Bill and Barb Galis in loving memory of their son Jonathan.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES: At the Ash Wednesday service on **February 17th at 6:30 PM**, we will offer the imposition of ashes for those who wish to receive them. It is completely optional. The name “Ash Wednesday” comes from this ancient custom. The pastor dips his thumb into some ashes (traditionally made from the palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday) and marks an ashy cross on each person’s forehead while saying, “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” This custom uses the biblical image of ashes (Job 42:6) to remind us that we, too, shall die and therefore need forgiveness from Jesus, which He won for us on the cross. (*adapted from Ordering Our Days in His Peace: An Introduction to the Christian Church Year, Concordia Publishing House*)

VACANT POSITIONS: The following positions at Grace are currently vacant: President, Treasurer, Board of Elders Member, Board of Stewardship Member, Board of Missions and Evangelism Member, Board of Trustees Member, and Endowment Committee Representative. Please consider serving our church in one of these capacities. If you are interested, please contact John Adams, Valjean Abrahamson, or Pastor Crane. Thank you!

WORSHIP SERVICES: Our Sunday and Lenten worship services can be viewed on Grace’s Facebook page and on our YouTube channel, “Grace Lutheran Church, Racine, WI – LCMS.”

ELECTRONIC GIVING is available at Grace through Vanco. The electronic giving process has been smooth, and there have been no issues here at Grace. Also, we can now accept credit card giving. Questions can be answered by John Adams or Doug Alexander. Enrollment forms are available in the Office Equipment Room. Completed forms should be returned in a sealed envelope and placed into John’s or Doug’s mailbox outside the church office.

KWIK TRIP & SPEEDWAY GAS CARDS are for sale before and after the service on Sunday in the Office Equipment Room. If you need to purchase gas cards some time other than Sunday morning, please call the church office to arrange for an alternate day and time. Grace gets a percentage back on all cards sold. Cards are currently available in \$50 and \$100 amounts. **Many thanks to all who have helped to support Grace in this way!**

COVID-19 WORSHIP GUIDELINES:

- We can hold in-person worship services at 50 percent of our seating capacity.
 - Our nave can hold about 300 people, so 50 percent of that is 150.
- Social distancing (six-foot distance between people, except for members of the same family) will be followed as much as possible.
 - Please keep your distance as best you can from other people.
 - Some rows of pews are blocked off.
- Per the City of Racine's mask ordinance, all people aged five years and older must wear a mask or face covering inside our building unless exempted for medical, hearing, or other reasons.
- A linen dipped in alcohol will be used to wipe the rim of the common cup (chalice) between communicants.
- The individual cups will be spaced throughout the trays to reduce the risk of touching another cup besides your own.
- Please keep some distance from others while at the Communion rail (families can remain together). You may kneel at the rail or remain standing.
- Hand sanitizer will be available on stands near the trays for the used Communion cups for those who wish to use it.
- The children will not come forward for Catechism Time.
- The offering plates will be located at the back of the nave.
- The Fellowship Pads will not be completed at this time.
- **Please contact me if you or your family would like to receive Communion from me privately, either at church or at your home.**

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. If you have any questions, please let me know. May God bring an end to this pandemic soon. – Pastor Crane

GRACE PENS AND 2021 POCKET CALENDARS ARE AVAILABLE in the Office Equipment Room. There are two varieties of pen to choose from: a click, ballpoint pen that has a stylus on the end and a gel pen with a cap. The pens and calendars are \$1 each, with all money going towards the Elevator Fund. The pens include the name of our church and contact information for Grace. They are great for personal use and also could be given to people to invite them to our church!

THANK YOU for the many phone calls and get-well cards I received after my hip surgery. I am doing well and appreciate your thoughtfulness and caring. – Robert Kunstman

2021 CHURCH DIRECTORIES are in the narthex. We attempted to make the church directory as accurate as possible. However, if you find any errors or omissions, please notify the church office. Thanks! – Pastor Crane

LCMS LIFE CONFERENCE is **March 20 and 21, 2021**, and there is still time to register. See [lcms-life.org](https://www.lcms-life.org) for more information.