

# Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD

3700 WASHINGTON AVENUE – RACINE, WISCONSIN 53405-2999

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REV. DAVID W. HINTZ, PASTOR

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## February & March 2023

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### I OWE, I OWE

***“Owe no one anything, except to love each other  
for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law,” Romans 13:8***

America is a nation of debtors. In January 2023 the amount of consumer credit debt owed by Americans stood at \$31.4 trillion. That figure becomes more meaningful when it's broken down to every individual person in America - \$95,000.

As he guides believers in applying the Christian faith to their lives, the apostle Paul writes about our attitude toward our financial obligations. The principle is a simple one: ***“Pay to all what is owed to them,” (Romans 13:7).*** A verse later, it becomes more simple: ***“Owe no one anything.”*** The apostle appears to say both, ***“Pay your debts”*** and ***“Don’t incur any debt.”*** How are we to understand him?

We were all once horribly in debt. Our failure to fulfill God’s Law had us in over our heads. Our best efforts at trimming that debt were too little, too late. Spiritually speaking, we were deadbeats. Our only prospect seemed to be the debtor’s prison of hell.

But God is a merciful creditor. He did more than reduce the outstanding balance or lower the interest rate. In Jesus He forgave all our debts. By His death on the cross, Jesus took down that shameful reminder of our indebtedness. Paul used the language of lenders when he wrote, ***“[God forgave] us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This He set aside, nailing it to the cross” (Colossians 2:13 &14).*** Through faith in Jesus, Who shed His priceless blood for us, our sin-debt is paid in full.

Enriched by God’s forgiveness, a Christian seeks to serve God in every area of life. Realizing that refusing to repay our debts is another form of stealing, we seek to pay what we owe. A believer cannot in good conscience ignore student loans or cheat the landlord out of the rent or file for bankruptcy to evade financial obligations. That we might be able to get away with it—or that it may even be legal—doesn’t make it right.

Some have seen in Romans 13:8 a biblical injunction against incurring any debt—no credit cards, no car loans, no installment purchases. In that case, however, Jesus’ command—***“Do not refuse the one who would borrow from you,” (Matthew 5:42)***—would make us partakers in the sin of those who ask us for a loan. Though there is no absolute prohibition of borrowing here, it certainly warns against irresponsibility in financial matters. The sad fact is that the poor financial decisions of many Christians have sentenced them to paying interest to their creditors rather than using a greater share of their income to support the Gospel ministry.

***“Owe no one anything, except to love each other,  
for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law,” Romans 13:8***

But let’s suppose that our bills are always promptly paid in full. Are we free and clear then? Not quite. There remains what Paul calls ***“the continuing debt to love one another.”*** There is no exact amount to this debt. There is no point at which I can finally say to my fellowman, ***“There! Now we’re even. I don’t have to love you anymore.”*** In this regard, we’re always debtors.

But this debt isn't a crushing burden or an annoying obligation. It is the joyful response of those who know that in Christ they've passed over from death to life. It is the humble recognition that even at the height of my charity, I can't out-give God. We live in love for God and our fellowmen, knowing—gratefully—that we'll always be indebted to Him for the gift of His Son.

May God continue to richly bless us as we prepare ourselves for the coming Lenten season.

The Lord be with you,  
Pastor David W. Hintz

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### **FROM THE BOARD OF ELDERS**

We began the new year by welcoming Kelvin Nowak as Elder and we are grateful for his willingness to serve.

Our organist, Paul Hegland, is on the Board of Regents for Concordia Seminary in St. Louis and must attend meetings there on Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Sharon Adel from St. John's will be our guest organist for that Thursday. We thank her for filling in.

We are also sad to announce that our secretary, Kay Tobias will be leaving us on February 16<sup>th</sup>. We will miss her hard work and dedication. God's blessing to her and her family. An ad has been placed in the LCMS churches for a part-time secretary.

While we are looking for a new part-time secretary, we are hoping some of our members will volunteer to pitch in on necessary tasks such as preparing bulletins, by-monthly newsletters, counting/attendance reports or even monitoring the phone. Help with any task would be appreciated. If interested, please let Bill Galis know. Kay will be available until Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> to answer any questions you may have.

Our Lent Schedule will be as follows:

Ash Wednesday (Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>) service at 6:30 PM (There will be no Thursday service offered that week)

Lenten services will be held on Thursdays at 6:30 PM

Maundy Thursday (April 6<sup>th</sup>) and Good Friday (April 7<sup>th</sup>) services will be at 6:30 PM

Easter Sunday (April 9<sup>th</sup>) service will be held at 9:00 AM. No Bible study will be held after service.

God's blessings,  
Bill Galis

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### **FROM THE BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP**

#### **Don't Replace "And" with "Or"**

We've all heard that stewardship means giving to the church of our time, talents, and treasure. This alliterative trinity helps us see that giving is not just about money but about our whole lives.

God gives us everything we have and enjoy, as Luther's Small Catechism explains in the First Article of the Apostle's Creed. First, we each confess that God "has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses" (SC II). Then, we confess that He gives us material things.

The time, talents, and treasure trinity places before our eyes the fact that we are to give something of all three of these things toward the mission of the church in thanksgiving for what God has provided. For everything we have, and indeed, everything we are, comes from God's fatherly, divine goodness and mercy.

The problem with this alliterative trinity comes when we replace one little word with another little word — when we replace the word and with the word or. It is always written with the and, but when we read it, we read it with the or. Thus, this quite helpful trinity — which extolls that everything that we have and are is a gift from God, to be given back in service of His church — turns into a trinity that we can pick and choose from when we serve God. The giving of our time, talents and treasure turns into the giving of our time, talents, or treasure.

Then the question arises: Can we give of our time and talents instead of our treasure? Or perhaps it is the other way round: Can we give of our treasure and not of our time and talents? But these are the wrong questions.

The right question is: Can we give of our time and talents in addition to our treasure? Yes, indeed, we are called to give of all three. The things that God gives us are not to be pitted against one another. Rather, they are given to us, and we are to press them all into God's service for benefit of His church and our neighbors in need.

Thus, we give all three. We give our treasure in the form of a generous, first-fruits proportion of our income. We give of our time in generosity for the benefit of Christ's holy church. We give of our talents in the same manner. Since God gave us all these things, we are called to give generously of all these things in faith toward Him and in fervent love to our neighbors.

For God has provided all these things for us. Out of His fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, He gives us each time, talents, AND treasure as a means to bless those around us. We serve our neighbors with these things, blessing them with the blessings with which God has blessed us. We give of our time, talents, and treasure to our families, our society, our church, and our local congregations.

And we do this because we know that we are not our own. Rather, we belong to God. We have been bought with a price: the holy, precious blood, and innocent suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. He gave everything — His time, His talents, and His treasure — to have us as His own and to live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness. We have these things as gifts and blessings from God.

Let us then press them all into service for the sake of His love — time, talents, and treasure together.

— LCMS Stewardship Ministry: [lcms.org/stewardship](https://lcms.org/stewardship)

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## **FROM THE BOARD OF PARISH FELLOWSHIP**

### **Dates to Remember**

**February 15<sup>th</sup> and March 15<sup>th</sup>**

Game Day will meet in Fellowship Hall following Growing Strong with Grace. Bring a friend!

### February 10<sup>th</sup>

Ladies of Grace will meet at 11:30 AM at The Asian Buffet (3701 Durand Avenue – Elmwood Shopping Center). Contact Jane Kunstman or Linda Eaton for more information.

### March 10<sup>th</sup>

Ladies of Grace will meet at 11:30 AM. Location to be determined. Watch bulletin for details. Contact Jane Kunstman or Linda Eaton for more information.

### Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup>

Our Ladies Craft & Chat breakfast will be at 8:30 AM on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Church. Watch for sign-up sheets.

### Lenten Meals

We will be having Pot Bless meals again this year before our Lenten services. Meal themes will be announced.

Please join us for coffee, refreshments, and fellowship every Sunday following the worship service.

Respectfully,  
Board of Parish Fellowship

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**ELEVATOR:** As of December 31, 2022, the balance on our elevator loan stands at \$160,683.53. Thank you for your support and generosity!

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**PASTOR'S PHONE:** To reach Pastor Hintz directly, please call his cell phone number, 920-227-7915. Thank you.

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**FELLOWSHIP HALL UPDATE:** Removal of the damaged carpeting and the underlying tile will begin in the next two weeks. It is the congregation's responsibility to have the downstairs areas free and clear of furniture, etc. Please consider helping clear areas as necessary when the time comes. Stay tuned. Board of Trustees.

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**2023 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. Thank you!

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**LADIES OF GRACE:** Our luncheon is scheduled for **Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup>**, at **11:30 AM** at The Asian Buffet (3701 Durand Avenue – Elmwood Plaza Shopping Center). Please RSVP to Linda Eaton or Jane Kunstman.

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**2022 OFFERING STATEMENTS & 2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES** are in the mail slots (if you haven't already picked them up). If you have any questions or corrections, please contact Lori Heidenreich at (775) 830-1291. Thank you!

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**BOARD OF CHRISTIAN CARE QUILTERS' REPORT:** We made over 100 clothing protectors, 36 lap robes, 54 quilts, and 13 baby quilts! We were able to add 2 new projects through donations of \$250.00 Thrivent cards, making 9 patriotic quilts for Moments Hospice of Racine and 31 fidget blankets for St. Croix Hospice.

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**KISS MY BABIES PROJECT:** Thank you on behalf of the "Kiss my Babies" project to the people who made hats, scarves and mittens. They were really appreciated. Ruth Anger.



**Lenten Theme: "Follow Jesus"**

**Services are on Ash Wednesday at 6:30PM**

**Followed by:**

**Mid-Week Lenten Services on Thursday Evenings at 6:30PM**

**Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Services at 6:30PM**

**Easter Sunday Service at 9AM**

**Ash Wednesday: February 22<sup>nd</sup> "Follow the Blood" –Text: Hebrews 9:22**

**Lent 2: March 2<sup>nd</sup> "Follow the Tree" – Text: 1 Peter 2:24**

**Lent 3: March 9<sup>th</sup> "Follow the Thief" – Text: Hebrews 11:6**

**Lent 4: March 16<sup>th</sup> "Follow the Myrrh" – Text: Psalm 45:6-8**

**Lent 5: March 23<sup>rd</sup> "Follow the Hyssop" – Text: Psalm 51:7**

**Lent 6: March 30<sup>th</sup> "Follow the Cloud" – Text: Mark 15:33**

**Maundy Thursday: April 6 "Follow the Way of Life" –Text: 1 John 5:6**

**Good Friday: April 7 "Follow the Curtain" – Text: Hebrews 10:19-22**

**Easter Sunday: April 9 "Follow Jesus" – Text: Psalm 118:17**

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## GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

**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.

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

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

**IN MEMORY OF/OCCASION:**\_\_\_\_\_

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**ROMANS 5:8 – BUT GOD DEMONSTRATE HIS OWN LOVE TOWARD US, IN THAT WHILE WE WERE STILL SINNERS, CHRIST DIED FOR US.**



**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP AFTER SERVICE**



*March 10 - LADIES OF GRACE at 11:30 (location tbd)*  
*March 15 - GAME DAY at 11:30 at Youth Room (brown bag)*

*For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth,  
the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtle dove is heard in our land.  
Song of Solomon 2:11-12*

Coffee Fellowship After Service



## Daily Lectionary Readings: February – March 2023

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