
February 2025 In Touch with Grace



Dear family and friends of Grace,
"To everything there is a season and a time
for every purpose under heaven."
Ecclesiastes 3:1

February is a short month and yet it is full of special days. For instance, February 1 is Eat Ice Cream for Breakfast Day. Doesn't that sound fun?! February 2 is Groundhog Day when many of us hope that the groundhog does not see its shadow so Spring will come. (As if a groundhog could control the seasons)! Of course, we cannot forget Valentine's Day and President's Day. Every four years we get a Leap Year but not this year. February is also Black History Month. An amazing movie I have recently watched is *The Six Triple 8* which is about the only battalion in WWII made up entirely of women of color that was sent to Europe. Watch it if you can for an inspiring and eye opening true story. Don't forget our Annual Meeting, Part 2, after worship on February 16.

As the seasons continue to advance through the year - as winter eventually turns to spring - we may think of the seasons of life that we are in. Are we in a season of growth? A season of harvest? A season of planting? A season of rest? Maybe it is something else. No matter what season we are in, there is a purpose to our lives. This month, take a few moments to ponder your life. To find one's purpose may change over the seasons of our life. Purpose gives meaning and beauty to our life. Your current season may be to take care of yourself, find health and rest. Maybe your current season is one of creativity and

growth. Perhaps you are reaping a harvest of what you have sown. Just as a child grows through many stages and seasons of life, so do we. We never stop evolving and growing and learning through our experiences. God is with us every step of the way, in every breath we take, and in each and all moments. When we falter, God is there to pick us up, dust us off, and send us back on our way.

No matter what your season of life is, your God-given purpose is to live a life that shows in some way love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control - the fruits of the Spirit. Every purpose under heaven is filled with the goodness of God, no matter what. Find the blessing in the darkest winter season, offer gratitude in your heart for even the tiniest moments of growth, and know that God will bring a fruitful harvest.

With prayer and thanksgiving for each of you,
Pastor Karen

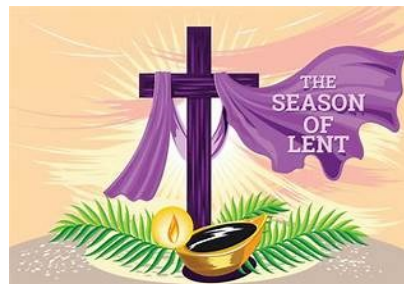


Announcements

- Annual Meeting, Part 2 - February 16, 2025 - Join us after worship as we receive our year end reports, elect our Council President, and take care of any business that may need to be addressed. We will meet in the S. Tower Room with refreshments and celebration for a productive year.
- Sunday, March 2, is the Day of Transfiguration. It is the end of Epiphany and the day we celebrate Jesus on the mountaintop transfigured into a divine vision. We will have brass in worship leading us in hymns in a Mardi gras style. We will celebrate a Mardi Gras themed fellowship hour after church with a potluck. Join us!
- **That Mardi Gras theme will be in the form of a Appetizer and Dessert potluck!!** Bring your favorite appetizer or dessert and we will celebrate before the Lenten disciplines begin on Ash Wednesday. More later.



- **Lent begins March 5 on Ash Wednesday.** Here is our schedule: Mark your calendars!
March 5 - Ash Wednesday worship at 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.
Wednesdays in Lent March 12- April 9 - supper beginning at 5:45 pm Worship 6:30 pm
Palm Sunday April 13, 9:30 a.m. followed by our annual youth sponsored brunch
Maundy Thursday April 17, 10:30 a.m. - followed by lunch with XYZs - and 6:30 p.m.
Good Friday, April 18, 7 p.m. here at Grace Lutheran with our Lutheran partners
Easter, April 20, Festival Worship at 9:30 a.m.



- If you have a family member suffering from dementia, there is a Dementia Support Group that meets every third Wednesday of the month from 2-3 p.m. at Cerenity-Marian. (225 Frank Street, St. Paul. All are welcome to attend.

Annual Reports for February Annual Meeting are due in the office ASAP if you have not submitted one yet!

FEBRUARY MISSION OF THE MONTH

The Mission of the Month for February at Grace is Operation Smile. A cleft is a gap in the mouth that did not close during the early stages of pregnancy, and it happens more often than you realize. Cleft lip and palate are believed to be the most common craniofacial differences worldwide. Without intervention affected children battle a lifetime of difficulties with eating, breathing, speaking and mental health.

Cleft lip and palate go untreated due to cost, lack of access to qualified medical staff and social stigma against medical intervention. At Operation Smile, they are committed to erasing these barriers to care.

The cost of care and surgery varies by country. A cleft surgery can cost as little as \$240.00. This is made possible by the generosity of volunteer medical professionals and corporate donations of essential supplies and equipment.

Please prayerfully consider making a gift to Operation Smile to reach out and improve the quality of life for children who are waiting for access to medical intervention around the world. Please use your blue multi-purpose envelope, mark mission of the month and place in the offering plate or mail to the church office. Checks should be made payable to Grace. Thank you.



Planned Missions of the Month for 2025 -

January - Doctors Without Borders

February - Operation Smile

March - Every Meal

April - International Rescue

May - Dwelling Place

June - ELCA Disaster Response

July - Open Arms

August - Feed My Starving Children

September - Houses for Haiti

October - Youth Link

November - ELCA World Hunger

December - Second Stork

Music Notes -

Did you know that one of the hymns in our hymnal was written by an Oscar nominee? That his choir sang backup on Michael Jackson's "Man in the Mirror" and Madonna's "Like a Prayer"?

That you hear his music arrangements in "The Lion King"? And that he even has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame? His name is Andraé Crouch, composer of hymn #439, "Soon and Very Soon". You might be of the age that you watched the TV sitcom "The Jeffersons". He appeared in a segment called "The Man of the Cloth". But how did he come to writing hymns?

Andraé Crouch's father was a sought-after preacher in the San Francisco and Los Angeles areas. At times, when his father was preaching, from the time he was eleven years old, Crouch would be asked to provide piano music. He began writing gospel music at the age of 14. Since then he has written so many gospel hymns that he has earned the nickname "Father of modern gospel music". Unfortunately his life was cut short after health complications leading to a heart attack in January of 2015.

Andraé Crouch was born with a twin sister named Sandra. Amazingly, not only was Andraé Crouch born with a twin, but also another Afro-American composer whose hymn is found in our hymnal had a twin brother. His name is Albert A. Goodson. He wrote hymn #633, "We've Come This Far by Faith". He based his hymn on a recurring theme within the Afro-American church, concentrating on our Christian journey and all its challenges. Both Crouch and Goodson have another thing in common - they both spent some time in Chicago, which at one time was the hub of modern gospel music. One more relationship between them: Andraé's and Albert's mothers had stores located next to each other in Los Angeles. So even though they were different ages i.e. Crouch b. 1945 and Goodson b. 1933, they grew up together, each becoming famous in the gospel music world.

"We've Come This Far by Faith" was first published as a choir anthem in 1956, but later took off as an opening hymn for many Afro-American church services. Goodson, along with Crouch and Doris Akers (hymn #768, "Lead Me, Guide me") helped to establish Los Angeles as a second hub for Afro-American gospel music, FYI: the dates given in our hymnal for Goodson's birth and death are wrong! He was born in 1933 and died in 2003. I watched a video of him teaching a class at UCLA in November of 1988, concerning the gospel hymn style of singing/playing. Of the many interesting things he said, one was that of all the gospel and spirituals that we sing in church, all can be "bluesed, and improvised in various gospel styles" except for one - "Amazing Grace". He said that particular hymn cannot be touched. It would be like "messing with the Lord's Prayer".

Afro-American contributions in the field of the arts as well as the sciences are highlighted during the month of February. These are just two of the many Afro-American composers who are getting a broader recognition.



FROM THE LIBRARY:

We welcome our librarian back from her tumble and she has supplied a new must read list for this month!

BOOK CLUB READS -

Trust
The Women

Hernan Diaz
Kristen Hannah

SPIRITUAL -

World Religions
An Hour with Jesus
Parish Housing
Jesus Calling

Dean Halverson
Once a Day Family Devotional
Phyllis Solari
Sarah Young

NONFICTION -

Norse Mythology
Circle of Stone
The Lapps and Mountains

Neil Gaman
Judith Duerr
Emilie Demant

SELF HELP -

How To Talk to Teens Who Don't Know What to Say
Entertaining for Dummies
Messie No More

Faber Mazlish

Sandra Felton

FICTION -

The Road Less Travelled
Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus

Scott Peck, MD
John Gray



Grace Book Club -

Here are the latest titles chosen -

For discussion on: February 6 - Lessons in Chemistry - Bonnie Grams

Sunday School

Our Sunday School kids are back continuing on a theme from the Christmas program of following Jesus, and learning more about his life. We started out the year looking at the many people that followed the star to see Jesus after his birth. We should all continue to search and find that guiding light in our lives and choose to follow Jesus each day. This year we will continue to deepen our knowledge of Jesus' life and how that impacts our lives each day.

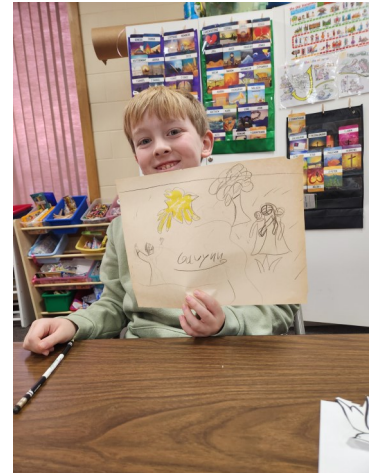
Upcoming dates: Pancakes and Puppets- February 23rd. - No Sunday School

As always, if anyone is wanting to help out with Sunday School in any way please contact Amanda Christie.



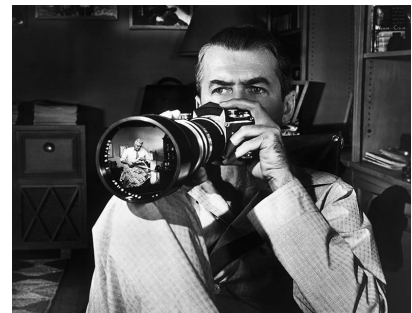
←Our kids made star crafts to remind them to follow Jesus each day.

And Gavynn did this great → drawing of Jesus' Baptism!!



February XYZ meeting - February 13th at 1:30 pm in the Tower room

This meeting will be a Movie Day provided by Bob Golder. We will be viewing a motion picture from 1954 - Alfred Hitchcock's thriller----**"REAR WINDOW"**. It stars James Stewart and Grace Kelly (and, of course, Hitchcock will make his usual cameo appearance). Movie snacks will be provided. All are welcome to attend and enjoy this 70-year-old movie classic.



The March XYZ meeting will be on March 13th at 1 PM (note change of time)

AARP speakers from our January meeting were so excited about our group that they are coming back to educate us regarding, fraud, scams and Identity Theft. Join us!

FOOD SHELF SUNDAY IS FEBRUARY 2nd!!!

ANNUAL MEETING PART 2 IS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 16th!
That means that Annual Reports are due in the office (electronic preferred)
ASAP!

Thank you!



Sunday, February 16th, 10:45 am

This is our official Annual meeting where we will:

- **Accept Financial and Committee reports for the year 2024.**
- **Elect representatives for the Synod Assembly in May.**
- **Elect President and any other current openings.**

Please plan to be present for this meeting to make your opinions heard on any of these issues.



Community Connections - ongoing projects!!

Internal, Local and Global

If you would consider serving treats on a Sunday morning, we would appreciate your help. Please take a look at the sign-up schedule in the South Tower room and see if there is a date that works for you to help out! If you would be willing to bring treats but would prefer to not serve, please speak with Linda Sackreiter and we can arrange that as well.

Thanks for your help!!

2024 Collections

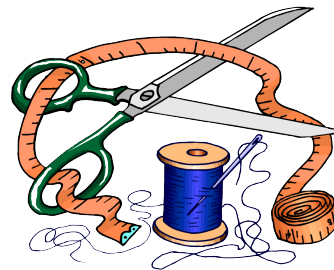
Quilts, baby care kits (Note: soap size accepted for baby care kits is 3.5 or 4 oz gentle soap; soap in each kit has to total 8 or 9 oz)

We delivered 30 Quilts and 9 baby kits to the LWR warehouse last year and have 18 new ones ready to go!

Other on-going collections at Grace - used eye glasses and cancelled stamps. Please find the small collection baskets on the library shelf. Also, Sandy Abernathy will take any American Flags that need to be disposed of properly. These can be left in the collection area in the library. (We are not currently saving soup can labels) Thank you for all donations!

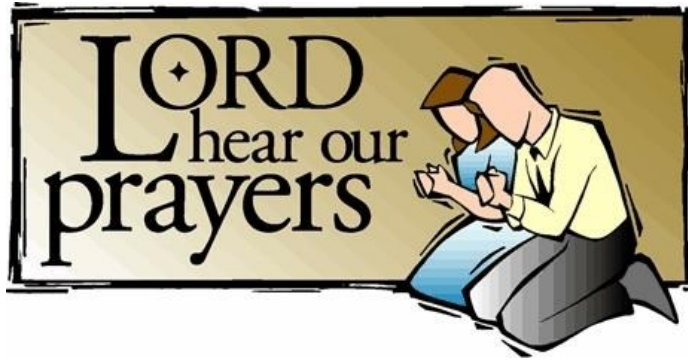


Quilt Days— We will be meeting again in February on the 2nd Saturday (8th) and the 4th Saturday (22nd). All are welcome to join us. No skills necessary, we will teach. Most months we meet on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays in the Tower rooms. Come join us in this month for some good conversation and to put those hands to use for a wonderful cause. Lutheran World Relief distributes donated quilts all over the world including in the US.



Miles of Pennies The large collection jar in the library is always accepting donations toward giving to the LSS fund for helping homeless Youth in St. Paul. Our goal was \$250.00 for 2024 and we sent \$275 to LSS! Let's exceed that again in 2025! Thank you to everyone who participates in this important mission. Your generous donations of coins and paper money are appreciated.





We lift our prayers to God in times of thanksgiving and times of need, in times of joy and times of sorrow. This month we especially pray for Jaxon and Piper Sliva on the death of their father, Tim, (Becky Blau's children), Russ Carlson, Stacy Bray, (Marlene Hockbein's niece), Judy Adam, Bev Henderson, Ron House, Carol Anderson, Butch Nelson, April Premo (niece of Judy Nelson), and all those we name in our hearts.

How to donate other than in the 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, other, 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-2023

| | <u>December Actual</u> | <u>YTD Actual*</u> | <u>YTD Budget</u> |
|-----------------|------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| General Fund | \$ 25,257.93 | \$ 234,196.52 | \$235,995.00 |
| Expenses | \$ 23,304.12 | \$ 276,647.67 | \$292,395.00 |
| Deficit/Overage | - \$ 1,953.81 | -\$57,548.85 | -\$56,400.00 |

* Does not include \$296,000.00 rec'd in June from the Met Council.



February BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------|----|---------------------|
| 1 | Dorothy Roeske | 25 | Christopher Scherer |
| 2 | Janice Fitzgibbon | 27 | John Armstrong |
| 3 | Marlene Hockbein | | Kari Heifort |
| 8 | Nick Williams | | Tammy Mohn |
| 9 | Justin Lincoln | 28 | Emma-Lee Engh |
| | Gary Petersen | | Sig Johnson |
| | Ethan Taylor | | Solomon Marquart |
| 11 | Kayla Revier | | Sue Wickert |
| 12 | Jamie Fleischhacker | | |
| 13 | Larry Denson | | |
| 14 | Chris Runquist | | |
| 15 | Wehso Cooper | | |
| 16 | Carol Golder | | |
| 17 | Jeffrey Adam | | |
| 18 | Patricia Sabo | | |
| 20 | Jonathan Rose | | |



Worship Leaders for February 2025-

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Liturgist</u> | <u>Acolyte</u> | <u>Lay Reader</u> |
|-------------|-----------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 2 | Pete Zitzewitz | Tony Childs | Bob Golder |
| 9 | Barb Holtan | Tony Childs | Linda Sackreiter |
| 16 | Monique McClure-Hegge | Cami Alleman | Keith Smeby |
| 23 | Russ Carlson | Kaliska Reed | Sig Johnson |

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Ushers (the families of the acolytes are also helping out)</u> |
|-------------|---|
| 2 | Norm Walby, Jonathan Williams, Linda Denson |
| 9 | Brian Petersen, Rachel Petersen, Molly Petersen |
| 16 | Brian Jackson, Patty Young, Alleman family |
| 23 | Bob Golder, Karin Nikula, Youth |

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Money Counters - (we could use some additional volunteers on our counting teams)</u> |
|-------------|---|
| 2 | Amanda Christie team |
| 9 | Monique McClure-Hegge team |
| 16 | Kate Pray team |
| 23 | Amanda Christie team |

**We could use some additional usher volunteers -
Please contact Brian Jackson if you are interested in
helping out. 612-323-5673**



Construction and Traffic updates!

The East entrance has been repaved and is again wide enough to use. The Gold Line construction involving our site is completed for the winter and word is that the buses will be running by late March.

There is still some fencing and landscaping to finish but most will wait until warmer weather.

Thanks for your patience!!

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gracelutheranstpaul@gmail.com

Pastor:

Rev. Karen Williams

Custodial Staff:

Linda Denson

Office Staff:

Linda Sackreiter

Music Staff:

Russ Carlson—Director of Music
Ministries

Kathleen Hollar—Organist

Jan Steingas—Triple G's

Russ Carlson—Bells of Grace

Connie Smeby—Joyous Juniors

