



Grace Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2023

Grace Ev. Lutheran Church

415 10th Street
P.O. Box 156
DeWitt, IA 52742-0156

PH: 563-659-9153
Fax: 563-659-9154

WEB: www.gracedewitt.org

EMAIL:
kgood@gracedewitt.org

Pastor Eric Obermann

563-321-0032
pastoreric@gracedewitt.org

Mark Sperry, DCE

563-321-0674
mosperry@gracedewitt.org

Mark's Office Hours
7:30 am to 1:00 pm

Kerry Good

kgood@gracedewitt.org

Church Office Hours
M-Th - 8am to 3 pm
F - 8am to Noon

Grace Lutheran Preschool

P.O. Box 156
DeWitt, IA 52742

PH: 563-659-9193

Preschool Teacher/Director Christine Greve

preschool@gracedewitt.org

Grace Lutheran Camp

2675 242nd Street
P.O. Box 156
DeWitt, IA 52742-0156

Camp Reservations

camprentals@gracedewitt.org
319-230-7718

Dear Redeemed and Love Saints of Grace,

The other day as I was sitting in my reading chair, my phone buzzed with an alert. I looked up from my book and check the alert, thinking maybe it was a text or missed call. Instead, it was an article from my news app. As my eyes glanced the alert, it grabbed my attention, "Man wearing Jesus saves shirt asked to leave Mall of America." My first reaction was not shocking but I wanted to read the article to find out what happened. As the details of the story scrolled across my screen, I still cant stay I was stunned by the actions of the security team, but the accusations brought against this man wasn't anything he did. The primarily offense was the message of his shirt said, "Jesus saves."

As I finished the article, the author stated that the spokesman from the mall said the man wearing the shirt was allowed to stay in the mall without having to put on a new shirt. After putting my phone down and opening back up my book, my mind was starting to put connections together. The article said what people found offensive was the message "Jesus saves." Nothing else. Only Jesus. This is what St. Paul says in Galatians "the offense of the cross." In 1 Corinthians Paul writes how the cross because a stumbling block to those who don't believe.

Why does the phrase "Jesus saves" offend? If we are totally honest, the reason becomes very clear, what do we need saving from? As Christians when we hear the phrase "Jesus saves", we fill in the rest of the sentence with "from our sins." That is what we need saving from. Yet, there are too many times when we are honest, that as we stand accused of our sin, that we don't want to face the accusation. We don't want to admit that we are who our sin says we are. Our pride, or our view of ourselves wont allow us to admit who we truly are. People who need being saved.

The phrase then, "Jesus saves" becomes offensive because it places salvation in only one place. The cross of Calvary. There is no other place we can look. Only to the cross. For a world who doesn't want to acknowledge they need saving, it becomes challenging to focus on the work Jesus does for us. It becomes challenging to admit who we are. People who can't save ourselves. Instead, we are people who can only be saved through the love of our savior Jesus.

My thoughts slowly put these thoughts together over the last few weeks. Reflecting over this story, I realize that things will not get any easier. The world will keep pushing back, keep trying to get God's people to stop see the cross as the only way of salvation. The place where God shows us his love through his son.

Second thought for this newsletter this month, is I want to thank you all for all the Christmas cards. I know that I am little late on this, but it was my intention to get thank you cards out. I had them all written out and then a couple of my kids found my letters and rip them all up. I do apologize for that. Thank you all for the countless signs of your love for us. Thank you!

In the service of Jesus,

SERVING THIS MONTH:

The Elders: Sunday's 8:00 AM Paul Kirby
10:30 AM Jon Betz

Wednesday 7:00 PM Scott Steffens

Ash Wednesday 11:00 AM Scott Steffens
7:00 PM Jim Harroun

The Organist: Diana Baetke

The Acolytes

Feb. 5, 2023

8:00 AM

Trevor McMahon

10:30 AM

Hudson Meyers

Feb. 12, 2023

8:00 AM

Amelia Rickertsen

10:30 AM

Porter Vopatek

Feb. 19, 2023

8:00 AM

Silas DeHaven

10:30 AM

Dylan Dies

Feb. 22, 2023

7:00 PM

Zack Garrity

Feb. 26, 2023

8:00 AM

Kolton Goddard

10:30 AM

Luke Hill

Special Gifts Given Include:

In loving memory of Jeanette Eastman \$25 was given to Grace Lutheran Preschool.

In loving memory of Julie Krukow \$500 was given to Grace Preschool, \$500 to Sunday School, \$500 Grace Youth, \$550 to Glory Bound Choir, \$500 to Grace Camp, \$505 to Decorating Fund, and \$1,670.00 to Grace Church.

In loving memory of Maxine Hinck \$20 was given to Grace Lutheran Preschool.

Donate your used glasses, including sunglasses and reading glasses, to the Lions Club. A collection box is located in the foyer coat area. These glasses are picked up by a member of the Lions and then sent to a facility who will refurbish for others who may not be able to afford glasses. (Please, remember they can not accept glass cases.)

Are you a piano player? Are you available to play once a month at Fieldstone? If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, please contact Pastor Obermann.

IMPORTANT - Deadline for submitting articles for the March Newsletter is February 15th.

THE ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE for Grace Lutheran Church will be accepting grant applications starting January 1 through March 15, 2023. Applications for projects which provide support to missions, education, youth, worship, and music and/or capital projects will be considered.

Referral Center Donations

As we continue our monthly collection for the Referral Center as the need is great. With it being winter they are getting short on kid's cereal, hamburger helper, tuna helper, chicken helper, canned chicken, canned tuna, boxed potatoes, soup, pasta, pasta sauce, jelly, condiments, sugar, flour, and spaghettiOs type canned goods.

The 2023 Altar Flower calendar is now available on the Welcome Center. Bouquets can be donated in honor of or in memory of persons or events. Each bouquet is \$30 and there are two bouquets available each week. Please sign up for your preferred dates and place your payment in the secretary's door. You may purchase one or both bouquets.

Key Record Keeping

I am still working on updating our records. If you have a key to the church, please bring it in and show it to Kerry. We need to keep accurate records of who has a keys to our church. If you have a key and do not need it, we ask that you turn it in to the church office. Thank you for your assistance with this.



Lent

Lenten Midweek Services
 February 22nd, March 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, & 29th
 11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

LENTEN MEAL SCHEDULE

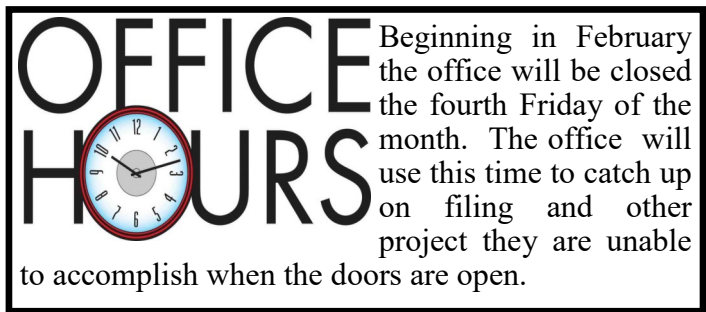
*Wednesday's @ 5:30 p.m.
 Free Will Donation*

- February 22nd** - Camp Board — Breakfast
- March 1st** - Board of Education - Meatball Subs
- March 8th** - Board of Outreach & Choir—Sloppy Joes
- March 15th** - Board of Elders & Preschool—Spaghetti
- March 22nd** - Board of Youth - Turkey & Dressing Sandwiches
- March 29th** - Board of Finance & Trustees -Taco in a Bag



Palm Sunday

April 2nd
8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
 Procession of the Palms
 Sunday School Children Sing (TBA)
 Pancake Breakfast - 8:30 to 10:00 am



OFFICE HOURS

Beginning in February the office will be closed the fourth Friday of the month. The office will use this time to catch up on filing and other project they are unable to accomplish when the doors are open.

Holy Week and Easter Services



Come Worship With Us!

Maundy Thursday
April 6th
7:00 p.m. Worship/Communion

Good Friday
Harvest of Sorrows Cantata
April 7th
7:00 p.m. Worship

Easter Sunday Worship
April 9th
8:00 a.m. Worship/Communion
10:00 a.m. Worship/Communion

Reminder—There will be no Sunday School or Adult Bible Study on Easter Sunday, April 9th.



We need SINGERS!

Come join the Cantata Chorale in performing a Good Friday Cantata, "Harvest of Sorrows", for ONE performance only on April 7, 2023, at the 7:00 pm service at Grace.

Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings at 7:45 pm – beginning February 1.

Come join us for a beautiful journey in song this Lenten season.

Save the date! Immanuel Lutheran Grand Mound will be hosting Trivia on Sunday, February 19th, in the evening. Get together your teams of 8, or join with another team when you get there. Last time we did this, great fun was had by all!



Blood Drive
 March 20th
 2 to 6 pm
 @ Grace Church

2023 Camp Board Members

President: Craig Paarmann
 Vice President: Duane Hansen
 Secretary: Wendy Proctor
 Treasurer: Dave Schneider
 Allison LaFevers
 Jesse Spain
 Jason Hill
 Danny Burzlaff
 Netty Schneider
 Mary Garlough



35TH ANNIVERSARY OF GRACE CAMP

On August 22, 1988, the congregation of Grace Lutheran Church voted to buy 87 acres of farmland with the idea of transforming it into a beautiful area for quiet reflection, joyful worship, and other activities.

A 'Blessing of the Land' was held on October 30, 1988. The sermon was Matthew 28:18-20.

In March of 1989, there was a pledge drive to raise monies to pay for the camp. A member could donate \$550 for ½ an acre or \$1100 for one acre. There is a wooden plaque in the office of the Andrew building with 105 brass plates of those who donated!! On December 24, 1989, there was a mortgage burning.

Then the building began.... More on that in the March newsletter!

What you see at Grace Camp today is the product of many, many hours of hard work by volunteers, members, and friends of Grace and lots of prayers.

Plans are currently underway for the June Day camps. Look for ways you can help show Jesus' love to kids!!

Mark your calendars NOW for the pancake breakfasts: **Ash Wednesday Supper, February 22**, June 18th (Father's Day), July 16th, and August 20th.

Many volunteers have been involved with the building of Grace Camp and/or on the Grace Camp Board. If you have any thoughts, memories, or history that you would like to share please contact Mary Garlough, [at mcbop13@gmail.com](mailto:mcbop13@gmail.com) or 659-3670. The Camp Board would like to include these in the Newsletters as we celebrate 35 years!!!

GRACE CAMP NEW OUTDOOR WORSHIP AREA:

Items completed & donated/paid for:

◆ Terrace stone walls	\$ 34,827.00
◆ Electrical work & trenching	\$ 1,674.00
◆ Concrete work	\$ 9,103.00
◆ Outdoor speakers	\$ 450.00
◆ Brick edging/crushed stone	\$ 8,707.00
◆ Railings	\$ 1,910.00
◆ Grading & hydroseeding	\$ 415.00
◆ Band Shelter	<u>\$ 14,283.26</u>
	\$ 71,369.26

Remining items to complete &/or fund:

◆ Band Shelter (Loan from tree farm account)	\$ 2,131.00
◆ Stone Altar	\$ 6,500.00
◆ Metal Benches w/back support ◇ 15 total	<u>\$ 16,000.00</u>
	\$ 24,631.00

Current Outdoor Chapel Balance < \$0.00 >

Remaining funds needed \$ 24,631.00

Total Cost of Project as of 1-4-23 \$ 96,000.26

As you can see from the list above we still have projects that need to be completed on the Outdoor Worship Area. During the month of February the "Little White Church" will be used to collect donations for this project. We thank you for your continued support of Grace Camp and look forward to many years of worship at this new outdoor worship area.

MILES OF DIMES - Grace Camp was purchased in 1988. The Miles of Dimes project was started about 1990 in an effort to help pay for the facilities which everyone enjoys. There is a "Miles of Dimes" jar located at the Welcome Center. Leave your "dimes" or any donation you may want to make. Yes, we do accept pennies too!

SENIOR HIGH MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY

Our Midweek Bible study will continue to meet on Wednesday's at 7:00 pm at the Sperry's. We hope you can join us.

SUPER SNACK SALE FUNDRAISER

The Jr. & Sr. High youth will be selling snacks on **Sunday, February 12th** between services to make your party complete. Please consider purchasing some snacks and supporting Grace Lutheran Youth Ministry plans.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH NIGHT

Attention all 9th-12th graders. Make plans to join us on **Sunday, February 19th from 6 pm – 7:30 pm** at the G*Y*M Building for our first Youth Night of the new year. Part of the night will be spent assembling and packing care packages for our college students.

MIDDLE SCHOOL (6th-8th) YOUTH NIGHT

Our next Middle School Youth Night will be Sunday, February 26th from 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm at the G*Y*M Building at Grace Camp. Look for more information in the near future.

College-Student Care Packages

The Youth Groups here at Grace will be assembling Care Packages to send to our college students. We need your help with collecting items. This year we will be packing and mailing care packages to 15 students. Please drop off one or more of the following to DCE Mark Sperry or at the church office:

\$10 Gas Gift Card

Microwave Popcorn

Pre-packaged Cookies / Crackers

Chewing Gum

Thank you in advance for your assistance. I know our students will greatly appreciate getting these care packages.

GRACE LUTHERAN YOUTH'S FAMOUS LASAGNA DINNER

Our Youth Lasagna Dinner will be held on Sunday, March 5th. We will begin taking reservations on Sunday, February 19th. There will be two reservation times: 5:00 pm & 6:15 pm. To register, please contact the church office or sign-up at the table in the foyer.

HIGH SCHOOL (9th-12th Graders) LOCK-IN

Attention all 9th – 12th graders. We will be hosting an all-night LOCK-IN here at church on **Friday, February 24th** at 7:00 p.m. There is no cost for this event, but you must register by **Wednesday, Feb. 22nd**. **To sign-up please write your name down on the sheet posted outside of Mr. Sperry's office.** The night will include: games, food, movies, Bible time and much more. Don't miss out, get registered right away! We ask that each participant please bring a snack for the snack table. Something sweet or salty, etc. Pizza and drinks will be served Friday night. We will have donuts for breakfast before heading home at 7 a.m. Contact the church office with any questions.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Our program this year is entitled **Keepers of the Kingdom** and will equip us with the armor of God to stand strong in today's battle for truth. The dates will be Sunday, June 25th – Thursday, June 29th. The program will again be held at Grace Camp in the evenings. Dinner will be served from 5:00 pm – 5:30 pm and the program will run from 5:40 pm – 8:15 pm. Watch the bulletin board in the atrium for more updates and for ways to get involved in being a **Keeper of the Kingdom!**



CLUB 345 - SAVE THE DATE! Our next event will be **Sunday, February 26th from 2:00 pm until 4:00 pm** at the G*Y*M Building out at Grace Camp. Look for more information coming soon.



We can't believe it's February already. Our preschoolers are working hard on learning their letters and shapes. We are also learning about Groundhog's Day, Community Helpers, and Pete the Cat. The children are excited to celebrate Valentine's Day!

3-year-old preschool is learning about Jesus Calming the Storm, A Fisherman's Net, Jesus Feeding Thousands, and Jesus Walks on Water during their Jesus Time.

We want to thank everyone who has donated toward and/or purchased items off the 3s Preschool Wish List. Your generosity and support of this program is a true blessing.

There are still items on our wish list. If you haven't had time to see the display on the bulletin board in the foyer, please take a moment look it over. Items from the wish list can be purchased online at Amazon (use the QR code provided below) or take the envelope(s) corresponding with the item(s) you wish to donate off the bulletin board, place the amount listed inside the envelope and put the envelope in the secretary's door slot.



PRESCHOOL EXPANSION UPDATE

There has been a lot of progress on the new 3s room within the last month. Walls have been painted and the air unit has been installed. The Trustees are working on getting quotes for some water issues that need to be addressed. Once the water issues have been rectified we can order flooring. We have started looking for wall cabinets. Stay tuned for more updates in March.

Grace Lutheran Preschool

2023-2024 Class Schedule

Class Schedule 2023-2024

- 4s M-F 8:00 - 11:00 am (16 spots)
 M-F 12:00 - 3:00 pm (16 spots)
 Please note that there is NO 4s classes on Wednesday.
- 3s M W F 8:15 - 10:45 (10 spots) \$150 monthly
 T&TH 8:15 - 10:45 (10 spots) \$110 monthly
 Please note that all 3s must be potty trained.

The 3s Registration form will be available February 1st on the Preschool page of the website (www.gracedewitt.org). The registration form along with the registration fee may be dropped off at the church office or mailed to PO Box 156, DeWitt, IA 52742.

Registration for the 4s Preschool Program will be available February 1st on the Central DeWitt Community School District Website. Registration begins at 7:00 am.

For God 
 SO LOVED THE WORLD
 THAT HE GAVE HIS
 ONLY 
 BEGOTTEN 
 SON SO 
 THAT WHOEVER
 BELIEVES
 IN HIM SHALL
 HAVE EVERLASTING
 Life  John 3:16

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 1st Lauren Stowe
- 3rd David Williams
- 4th David Hall
Shirley Franks
Rebecca Gisel
- 5th Maddison Burke
- 6th Lauren Hansen
Mitch Krukow
- 7th Wyatt Jensen
Audra Seifert
- 9th Christine Greve
Abigail Johnson
- 10th Dave Paarmann
- 11th Raymond Myers
- 12th Isabella Nolin
- 13th Scott Steffens
Caden Knight
- 14th Bill Dies
Myrle McWilliams
Raegan Spain
- 15th Jared Dies
Keli Runge
- 17th Barbara Dies
Madison Lawrence
David Schneider
- 18th Lavonne Martin
- 19th Marilyn Mundt
Kristine Peters
Cole Tobey
- 21st Marvin Richael
- 23rd Kitt Converse
Cade Converse
- 24th Jon Betz
- 26th Allan Anderson
Kerry Good
Kathy Ketelsen
- 27th Kathi Lieving
Dorothy C. Ketelsen
Valerie Erps
- 28th Amanda Hoepner
Angela Wagner
Patricia Niemann



- February**
- 12th Cody & Crystal Baines
 - 24th Greg & Kristine Anderson

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Newsletter Article – February 2023

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. As we confess in the Small Catechism's explanation of the First Article of the Apostle's Creed, God gives us everything we have and enjoy. First we confess that God gives us "our body and soul, our eyes, ears, and all our members, our reason and all our 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/steward



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>29</p> <p>8:00am Traditional Worship w/ Communion 9:15am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 10:30am Traditional Worship w/ Communion 2:00pm CLUB345 6:00pm Middle School (6th-8th) Youth Night</p>	<p>30</p> <p>6:00pm All Boards Vision & Mission Meeting</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>1</p> <p>5:30pm Confirmation 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Glory Bound Choir 7:00pm Sr. High Bible Study 7:00pm Worship 7:45pm Cantata Rehearsal</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9:00am Tops Meeting 7:00pm Women of Grace Bible Study</p>	<p>3</p> <p>8:00am Trustees Board Meeting</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5</p> <p>"Wites" Sunday 8:00am Traditional Worship w/ Communion 9:15am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 10:30am Traditional Worship w/ Communion</p>	<p>6</p> <p>1:00pm 500 Card Club 6:00pm Board of Discipleship 6:00pm Preschool Board Meeting 6:30pm Elders Meeting</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6:00pm Sunday School Teachers Meeting</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7:00am Finance Board Meeting 7:30am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Confirmation 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Glory Bound Choir 7:00pm Sr. High Bible Study 7:00pm Worship 7:45pm Cantata Rehearsal</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9:00am Tops Meeting 7:00pm Women of Grace Bible Study</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10:00am Snack Sale Set-Up</p>
<p>12</p> <p>Fellowship Sunday SUPER SNACK SALE 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:15am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 10:30am Traditional Worship</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6:00pm Council Meeting</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Office Will Close At NOON</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Newsletter Deadline 9:00am Sewing Ladies 5:30pm Confirmation 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Sr. High Bible Study 7:00pm Worship 7:45pm Cantata Rehearsal</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9:00am Tops Meeting 7:00pm Women of Grace Bible Study</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Preschool Yoga Friday</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19</p> <p>8:00am Traditional Worship w/ Communion 9:15am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 10:30am Traditional Worship w/ Communion 6:00pm High School Youth Night - College Care Packages</p>	<p>20</p> <p>4s Preschool Conferences 1:00pm 500 Card Club 7:00pm Youth Board Meeting</p>	<p>21</p> <p>4s Preschool Conferences</p>	<p>22</p> <p>7:30am Staff Meeting 11:00am Ash Wednesday Service 5:30pm Confirmation 5:30pm Lenten Meal - Breakfast 6:00pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Glory Bound Choir 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Worship 7:45pm Cantata Rehearsal</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9:00am Tops Meeting 7:00pm Women of Grace Bible Study</p>	<p>24</p> <p>No Preschool Office Closed 7:00pm HIGH SCHOOL LOCK-IN</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26</p> <p>8:00am Traditional Worship 9:00am Fellowship Sunday 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship 2:00pm CLUB345 6:00pm Middle School (6th-8th) Youth Night</p>	<p>27</p> <p>6:30pm Board of Christian Education</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>1</p> <p>11:00am Lenten Worship 5:30pm Confirmation 5:30pm Lenten Meal-Meatball Subs 6:00pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Glory Bound Choir 7:00pm Lenten Worship 7:45pm Cantata Rehearsal</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9:00am Tops Meeting 7:00pm Women of Grace Bible Study</p>	<p>3</p> <p>8:00am Trustees Board Meeting</p>	<p>4</p>