

Gathering

***Doxology**

***Call to Worship**

“When the storms of life are raging, stand by me”

Lord, hear my cry and rescue me!

“When the world is tossing me like a ship upon the sea”

God who rules wind and water, stand by me.

God stands with you in bright sunshine and deepest storm.

God gently guides us to safety and peace. Thanks be to God.

***Opening Prayer**

God of mysterious ways, you take our fears and turn them into triumphs. You remind us that you are always with us and that we do not need to fear the wind and waves of life. Encourage us to step out of the boat; to come across these difficulties to your redeeming and transforming love. Give us courage and strength, joy and peace for all the times ahead. Amen.

***Hymn**

My Hope Is Built – Hymn 368

Proclamation and Response

Prayer of Illumination

Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, our Rock and our Redeemer. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading – *Matthew 14:22-34*

Jake Routh

Sermon *What is Your Boat?*

Mark Gustafson

***Apostles’ Creed**

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***Gloria Patri**

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***Passing the Peace**

Announcements, Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

***Hymn**

Love Lifted Me

I was sinking deep in sin, Far from the peaceful shore,
Very deeply stained within, Sinking to rise no more;
But the Master of the sea Heard my despairing cry,
From the waters lifted me, Now safe am I. **R R**

All my heart to Him I give, Ever to Him I’ll cling,
In His blessed presence live, Ever His praises sing.
Love so mighty and so true Merits my soul’s best songs;
Faithful, loving service too, to Him belongs . **R**

Souls in danger, look above, Jesus completely saves;
He will lift you by His love Out of the angry waves.
He’s the Master of the sea Billows His will obey;
He your Savior wants to be – Be saved today. **R**

Refrain:

Love lifted me! (even me!) Love lifted me (even me!)
When nothing else could help, Love lifted me.
Love lifted me! (even me!) Love lifted me (even me!)
When nothing else could help, Love lifted me.

Sending Forth

***Benediction / Going Forth**

Happy Birthday to Bob Livingston (2/25), Olivia Sholar (2/25), Mary Greene (2/25), Patti Suggs (2/28), and Beth Sasser (2/28)! We also wish a happy first heavenly birthday to Ray Beasley (3/2)!

Happy Anniversary to Hal & Angie Tatum (2/25)!

The cover art is given to the glory of God by Tori Allen.

Rev. Mark Gustafson, Pastor
919-931-9783

Randy Page, Accompanist
910-876-1075

We pray today for Priscilla Brayboy, Kristy Smith, Renee Inman, Maria McSwain, and Joel Melvin at Elizabethtown Primary School.

You may sign up to give flowers by contacting Pastor Mark or by filling out our online sign-up Google Doc.

Announcements

Elizabethtown Community Lenten Services: (all at noon)

Feb. 28: Elizabethtown Presbyterian. Brenda Flowers preaching.

March 6: Trinity. Jason Williams preaching.

March 13: First Baptist. Corey Lyons preaching.

March 20: Foundation. Rudy Ramphal preaching.

Please plan to participate in our Lent study, which will be on *Simon-Peter* by Adam Hamilton. We meet on Monday nights, 7 p.m. at Bethlehem and on zoom to discuss. Feel free to join, even if you have not read the book!

February 28, 7 p.m. Planning Meeting at Bethlehem. You are invited! Bring your ideas for ministry!

March 5, 7 p.m. at St. Thomas AME Zion Church, Daryl Strickland will be performing magic for the first time since his stroke. Come support him!

March 6, 12 p.m. at Bethlehem: Senior Saints!

March 7, 11 a.m. at Etown Library: Compassionate Care Meeting.

Sunday, March 3: First Food Sunday will collect for Bladen Crisis.

Items needed include non-perishable foods in 15-16 oz can size, cereals, canned meats, etc. Also needed: Paper towels, toilet paper, cleaning supplies, and personal hygiene items for homeless and burnout victims. Thank you!

The BLOG (Bethlehem /Live Oak/ Grace) Prayer List:

Mentioned 1/28/2024: Kathy Lee; Tim Scotterd; Dunham Pate; Carol Brindenburg; Betty Tatum's uncle Denny; Ginny Edge; Christy Smith; Chris Hill; Margaret Ledford; Faye Richardson; the family and friends of Susan Fisher, Harold Hobbs, and Tryon Lancaster.

Mentioned 2/4/2024: Johnny Dowless; Earl Coble; Rodney Hester; West Coast flooding; Stella Batton; Jan Evans; Joyce Strickland; Betty Joyce Blackman; Mordekai Barfield; the family and friends of Rodney Lancaster.

Mentioned 2/11/2024: Gene Woltman; Mary Cain; Jacob Chavis; Linda Schaeffer; Debbie Johnson; Darby Bordeaux; Annette Meares; Andrea Simpson; all those affected by the UNC-P shootings; Keith John; Jeremy McLean.

Mentioned 2/18/2024: Freeman Taylor and family; Lib Sessoms; Larry Feight; Bernice Herring; Francis Ogden; Ronnie Canady; Henrietta Martin; Chicky and Janice Robbins; Terry & Karen McPhail; Sylvia Wilson and family; Cole Fisher; the family and friends of Jim Knotts, Joan Hester, and Florine Harolle.

Prayers this week: Tori Allen; Jane Lomax; Joy Grady and family; Matthew Krause; Harold Sasser; Steve and Debbie Dunham; Beth Nance; Billy & Stella Cain; the family and friends of Ray Beasley.

Grace United Methodist Church

February 25, 2024

2nd Sunday in Lent
Worship Service 8:30 am

Our Mission

*To become faithful disciples of Jesus Christ
for the transformation of the world.*

Our Vision

*We welcome everyone into the experience
of a different story!*

