

GRACE



LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE GOOD NEWS OF GRACE

February 2025

A Newsletter for Members and Friends of
Grace Lutheran Church
1408 Washington Street
Wenatchee, WA 98801-2555
Volume 9 Issue 1



Epiphany, the Calling Season

Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people. (from Luke 5:10)

Dear People of Grace;

This year's Byberg Preaching Conference was another good one! Luke Powery, Dean of the Chapel for Duke University, was our keynote. His overall theme was Preaching in the Spirit.

Here are a few takeaways:

- ◆ "Bones." Using the Valley of the Dry Bones text from Ezekiel 37, Dr. Powery spoke powerfully to remind us that the Spirit of the Lord brought the prophet to the place of death. As we are tempted to avoid death and sorrow, also in the life of the church, we therefore remove ourselves from the experience of being brought back to life in God. "Death is to be gone through and not around."
- ◆ "Sighs." The prayer of the preacher in preparation for preaching is more essential than we might think. Scripture referenced: Romans chapter 8 – "sighs too deep for words." Powery quoted many current and past authors, one who said, "I want to be a better pray-er than I am a preach-er" He tied this presentation together with a story of a Haitian man who was trapped under a slab of concrete during a devastating earthquake. A news reporter bent down with his microphone to interview the still-stuck man who was yet conscious and alive. Reporter: "What's going through your mind as you lie here under this concrete?" Man: "Jesus, my life is in your hands." This is the prayer of the preacher, as well as all of us.
- ◆ "Tongues." Using the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2) as a reference, Dr. Powery emphasized the need for the word to be understood. Context is an important consideration. What are the local images, concerns, vocabularies of the people? The Spirit of God is elusive, not to be controlled. The hope is that the Spirit will blow through the hearts, minds, and words of the whole people including the preacher.
- ◆ "Bodies." What does the body communicate in the sermon? Does the preacher's body take issue with the words that are spoken, or is there an integration of the body and the message? "The hardest sermon you will ever preach is the one you preach with your life." Without the presence of the body, there is no embodiment of the Gospel. "Sometimes the best preaching is done without words."
- ◆ Dr. Powery integrated old spirituals with his presentations. He sang with such heart and beauty. The music that went through his voice (and the rest of his body) sent shivers all up and down our spines. It was a wonderful way to stir up emotion in the room.

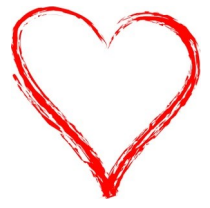
Epiphany is the Calling Season. We learn more from the teachings of Christ, and we also have an invitation to follow, to catch people with a life-giving word, to participate in the era of the Spirit, to preach with our life. Thank you for the opportunity to learn more about pastoring among you.

Pastor James Aalgaard

THE MISSION OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH



To proclaim and celebrate the gospel of Jesus Christ through word and sacraments so that a community of believers is created, trained, nurtured, and sent into mission.



GLC Valentines

Each year we send Valentines to college students, military personnel and other far-flung friends of Grace. The valentines will be in the **Fellowship Hall** on Sunday, February 9, for you to sign. Please take a minute to add a greeting or simply sign your name. We'll add some treats and send the love to our siblings in Christ who are away from home.



Voices of Grace sing carols at Lighthouse Christian Ministries.



Bells of Grace accompany a Christmas carol sing-along at Blossom Creek.



The Christmas tree-hunting crew



Undecorating post-Christmas



Friday Night Out
presents

Music from Ireland

and neighboring Isles

Friday, March 14
7:00pm

featuring regional musicians

Connie Celustka
Kathryn Castrodale
Mark Boersma

Sherry Krebs
Kara Hunnicutt
Ruth Anderson

Instruments include hammered dulcimer, harp, piano,
cello, recorders, drum and guitar.

Come celebrate St. Patrick's Day at this FREE concert.
Donations accepted at the door.



Grace Lutheran Church, 1408 Washington Street, Wenatchee



Friday, February 21
6:00-8:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

Do you like to play board games, card games, dominoes, Bunco?

We invite you to join us for **Family Game Night** on **Friday, February 21, from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a snack and your favorite game to share. **EVERYONE** is invited to an evening of fun and fellowship!



All are welcome! Please park in the lot just off of Elliott street and use the East Entrance.



You are invited to join a Drum Circle

Saturday, February 22nd, 2025

2 p.m. -- 4 p.m.

Grace Lutheran Church, Wenatchee

This event is free.

Grace Lutheran invites you to join us for a Drum Circle on Saturday, February 22. This event will focus on prayer and meditation and is open to the congregations of First United Methodist, St. Luke's Episcopal, and Celebration Lutheran. People 16 years of age and up are invited to participate.

Please wear comfortable, non-restrictive clothing. Water will be provided. Feel free to bring your favorite drum to the circle. If you do not plan to bring a drum, our music department will provide a limited number of drums for use on site.

Please mark out a two-hour time in your schedule for this event. We may not use all of the two-hour allotment but will definitely use 90 minutes. We plan to start promptly at 2 pm, so please arrive on time. This is an opportunity to cut yourself off from the world. We ask that phones not be in use during the event. Drum Circle will take place in our Fellowship Hall.

There will be a small introduction at the start of Drum Circle and the majority of the session will be spent in verbal silence. As we drum together in unison, prayers and repeated phrases will be in mind. Some may instead delve into a silent mind. Occasionally Pastor Patton Boyle, as the Holy Spirit moves him, will offer spoken words from scripture that can serve to inspire and refresh our thoughts and prayers as we continue to drum. Call **509-663-2189** to **sign up**.

Direct questions to event coordinator, Marlena La Paz, at the number above.



DID YOU SEE THE NOTICE ABOUT BeFRIENDER TRAINING?!

Well, let me tell you a bit about that.

I have always enjoyed listening to people's stories, and for some reason people want to tell me their story or just want to talk. So, the BeFriender ministry spoke to me. I thought maybe this would be a good fit for me.

The training to participate in BeFriends was lengthy, and I discovered that my desire to listen needed some tweaking – well more than a little bit. What I learned was a whole new discipline of caring, listening and understanding, and the training provided that.

Our BeFriender ministry is available for anyone going through a serious transition. This could be a serious health issue, loss of a spouse, a job or independence. This is a powerful ministry in the mission of Grace, and anyone is welcome who would like to learn about “active” listening or become a BeFriender. All who participate in the training are welcome to join BeFriends, but you are not obligated to do so.

Training sessions are planned for February 6, 7 and 20 from 9:00 to noon, workbooks, snacks and beverages are provided. We all have a part to play in the wellbeing of those around us. Please sign up on one of the sheets in the narthex or call me. I am glad to answer your questions.

Jan Herman
BeFriender Ministry
509-630-7878

SOCIAL CONCERNS TEAM



Nearly 1-in-10 people – 733 million – in our world are hungry.

As members of the ELCA, we are called to respond. We are a church that rolls up our sleeves and gets to work.

Working with and through our congregations, in the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands Lutheran churches overseas and other partners, ELCA World Hunger is uniquely positioned to reach communities in need. From health clinics to microloans, water wells to animal husbandry, community meals to advocacy, your gifts to ELCA World Hunger make it possible for the ELCA to respond, supporting sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty. (*Source: www.elca.org*)



You can help support ELCA World Hunger this spring with our Noisy Offering!

Please start saving your loose change for our annual World Hunger Noisy Offering collection day on Sunday, April 13. The Social Concerns Team will have Noisy Offering boxes available in March. Fill them up with your loose change and bring them back to church on Palm Sunday, April 13.

Packing Friendship

Packing Friendship is our weekend backpack program that provides food for local students who live in food-insecure households. Each week, we pack bags for 43 students. We are so thankful for our volunteers who help sort, pack, and deliver the food every week. If you would like to support the program, we are grateful for donations of food (see below) as well as financial contributions (indicate “Packing Friendship”). If you would like more information or want to learn about volunteering, please contact [Jen Pearson-Gale](#).

We could especially use donations of:

- Canned tuna
- Kid-friendly soups like chicken noodle or tomato
- Fruit and applesauce cups or pouches

ANNA & MIRIAM CIRCLES

Anna Circle will meet on Tuesday, February 18, at 10:00 a.m. at Grace. If you have questions, feel free to contact [Linda Sinnet](#) or [Faye DeJong](#).

Miriam Circle will meet on Tuesday, February 18, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Nancy O'Donnell. If you have questions, please contact the church office.

February Worship Assistants

	Greeters	Assisting Minister	Lector	Altar Guild	Tech	Communion Assistant
2/2	Dennis and Lisa Burgett	Joyce Owens	Dee Ann Gregg	Rose Applegate	Chad DuLac	Karen Zanol
2/9		Phil Gregg	Tami Woolsey	Tami Woolsey	Eric Olson	
2/16		John Hergert			Phil Gregg	
2/23					Chad DuLac	

Seeking Worship Helpers

Volunteer helpers make our worship run smoothly. We would love to expand our volunteer pool. [Here is a link to a "google sheet"](#) where you can put your name on an open slot. If you are having a hard time navigating the google sheet, please call (509-663-2189) or email our [church office](#) or [Pastor Aalgaard](#) and we can help.

Please note! The google sheet is a single document that can be changed (and added to) by anyone who has the link. You are very welcome to add your name to a slot that's empty, but please do not remove others' names or otherwise change the form.

LECTIONARY READINGS

February 2 Presentation of Our Lord	February 9 5 th Sunday after Epiphany	February 16 6 th Sunday after Epiphany	February 23 7 th Sunday after Epiphany
Malachi 3:1-4 Psalm 84 Hebrews 2:14-18 Luke 2:22-40	Isaiah 6:1-13 Psalm 138 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Luke 5:1-11	Jeremiah 17:5-10 Psalm 1 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 Luke 6:17-26	Genesis 45:3-11, 15 Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50 Luke 6:27-38

Morning Prayer

We invite you to Morning Prayer, meeting Thursday mornings at 7:00 a.m. (as an effort to accommodate people's work schedules). The following is a description of our typical morning prayer routine:

- + a time of reflecting/sharing together about the upcoming scripture for Sunday
- + lighting candles during a time of informal prayers, which can be offered aloud or silently
- + light refreshments and fellowship afterward at approximately 7:40 a.m.

It's a great way to start the day! Hope to see you there.

PRAYERS OF GRACE

- ◆ **Shari Carter (friend of Ann Bartlett)** - for healing of blood clots in her lungs.
- ◆ **Mim Schwich (Jody Marquardt's mother)** - receiving end of life care.
- ◆ **Dan Martinson (Ann Bartlett's brother)** – prayers for healing from a benign brain tumor.
- ◆ **Bonnie Howeler** – Declining cognition and recovering from recent falls.
- ◆ **Jim Wurl** – healing from a fractured hip.
- ◆ **Paul Arndt** – pulmonary fibrosis which is untreatable.
- ◆ **Patty Christensen** - receiving hospice care.
- ◆ **Erling Rivedal** – receiving hospice care.

To submit a prayer, please call (509-663-2189) or email our [church office](#) or [Pastor Aalgaard](#). Please share with us details that are pertinent to the request. If you are asking us to pray for a person other than yourself, please seek that person's permission. Prayer requests are published for four weeks. You are welcome to resubmit your request if you would like it to remain on the list longer. Updates are welcome, also. We will do our best to help your request have a balance of privacy protection and sharing information. The ministry staff at Grace reserves the right to edit requests.

2025 TEAM & COMMITTEE LEADERS

Arts:	<i>Open</i>
Building & Grounds:	Dave Coe, Tom Gausman
Endowment:	Karen Zanol
Faith Formation:	<i>Open</i>
Fellowship:	<i>Open</i>
Graceful Garden:	Linda Sinnett
Pastoral Support:	Julie Banken
Staff Support:	Ernie Bentsen
Social Concerns:	Kay Fisher
Stream Team:	Marlena La Paz
Worship:	Kathy Gavin
Youth & Community:	Sue Coe
Memorial Garden:	<i>Open</i>

2025 CHURCH COUNCIL

President:	Suellen Harris
Vice President:	Dave Coe
Treasurer:	Dennis Burgett
Secretary:	Chad DuLac
Members-at-Large:	Tory Schmidt
	John McQuaig
	Paula Salter
	Tami Woolsey



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Mary DeMarce	2/1	Isaiah Banken	2/13	Mary Henson	2/23
Dorothy Thompson	2/1	Gabe Stefanides	2/13	Shannon Salter	2/23
David Bentsen	2/2	Emily Tilger	2/14	Carl Sjoberg	2/23
Barry Heminger	2/3	Ted Crum	2/16	Rose Applegate	2/24
Lynn Heminger	2/3	Deborah Dormaier	2/16	Alan Olson	2/24
Monte Vogt	2/3	Alex Henning	2/16	Alora Martinez	2/25
Judy Johnson	2/6	Sarah Kintner-Thorpe	2/18	Nancy Spurgeon	2/25
Sara O'Daffer	2/6	Cole Godfrey	2/19	Sarah Eisert	2/26
Collin Paiva	2/7	Denise Miller	2/19	Mark Lee	2/26
Tilly Bates	2/8	Patty Christensen	2/20	John Applegate	2/27
Dee Griffith	2/8	Joe Trowbridge	2/20	Tom Gausman	2/27
Matt Tilger	2/8	Dawn Aalgaard	2/21	Debbie Lapo	2/27
Peggy Swanson	2/10	Pat Brown	2/21	Jen Pearson-Gale	2/27
Kate Gregg	2/11	Kathy Jo Evans	2/21		

Growing In Grace—Faith Formation for Children

We invite the children of Grace (and friends!) to Growing in Grace. Two 45-minute meeting options are offered: Wednesday at 4:30 pm, and Sunday at 9:15 am. The Wednesday class will be repeated the following Sunday morning. Music, faith practices, Bible stories, liturgical education and other activities will typically be part of the lesson. Ages 3 to 5th grade. See you there!

Together at Grace Meals

Join us for our weekly “Together @ Grace” (T@G) meal, Wednesdays at 5:15 PM. This is a great opportunity to share a meal and get to know one another. Donations are accepted to help defray the cost of the meal.



And the walls came tumbling down!



Out came the cement floors.



Construction workers pour cement for the new restrooms while Pastor James observes.



TREASURER TALK:

12/31/24 Results

2024 offerings total \$519,491. This is \$69,491 over budget. Interest income was \$78,126. Expenses are \$504,713, (\$53,879) under budget. Resulting Net Operating Margin \$14,778 compares to projected budget deficit (\$108,592).

	Jan-Dec 2023	Jan-Dec 2024	2024 Budget	Variance
Total Offerings, Misc	\$401,706	\$519,491	\$450,000	\$69,491
Operating Expenses	<u>(443,560)</u>	<u>(504,713)</u>	<u>(\$558,952)</u>	<u>54,239</u>
Net Margin (Deficit)	(\$41,854)	\$14,778	(\$108,952)	\$123,730

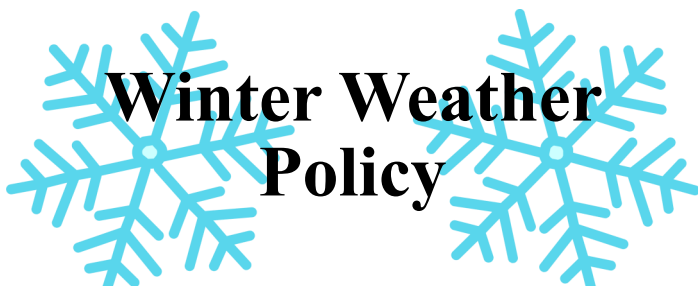
Cash on hand \$177,804 includes Treasurer Reserve \$40,000.

	12/31/23	12/31/24
Cash Surplus Position	\$ 80,789	\$137,804
Treasurer Reserve	40,000	40,000
Deficit Reserve	41,500	
Total	\$162,289	\$177,804

[Gwen Sparks](#)

COUNCIL CORNER

- Donations in excess of \$13,000 were accepted by Grace for Social Concerns, the McQuaig Scholarship, and the Music Outreach Fund.
- Tami Woolsey and JuLee Fiebelkorn has volunteered to renew and supply youth bags for children during service.
- Grace will be revising the Member Directory book Spring/ Summer of 2025.



Midweek programming for our congregation should be a safe experience for all participants. At times, we must consider road conditions. When Wenatchee schools cancel activities due to inclement weather, Grace Lutheran Church will respond in kind and cancel or postpone all activities. We will communicate these decisions to the congregation and the public to the best of our ability.

February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:15 a.m. Growing in Grace 10:30 a.m. Worship	3 7:00 p.m. Appleaires	4	5 11:00 a.m. Lectionary Study 4:00 p.m. Confirmation 4:30 p.m. Growing in Grace 5:15 p.m. Together @ Grace 6:15 p.m. Bells of Grace 7:30 p.m. Voices of Grace	6 7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer 9:00 a.m. BeFriender Training	7 9:00 a.m. Quilters 9:00 a.m. BeFriender Training	8
9 9:15 a.m. Growing in Grace 10:30 a.m. Worship 6:30 p.m. Recital	10 7:00 p.m. Appleaires	11 2:00 p.m. Arts Team 3:30 p.m. Building & Grounds Team 6:00 p.m. Youth & Community Team 6:30 p.m. Social Concerns 6:30 p.m. Ukulele Group	12 11:00 a.m. Lectionary Study 4:00 p.m. Confirmation 4:30 p.m. Growing in Grace 5:15 p.m. Together @ Grace 6:15 p.m. Bells of Grace 7:30 p.m. Voices of Grace	13 7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer 10:00 a.m. BeFrienders	14 9:00 a.m. Quilters	15
16 9:15 a.m. Growing in Grace 10:30 a.m. Worship	17 Newsletter Deadline 7:00 p.m. Appleaires	18 10:00 a.m. Anna Circle 3:00—6:30 p.m. Piano Class 6:00 p.m. Church Council 7:00 p.m. Miriam Circle	19 11:00 a.m. Lectionary Study 4:00 p.m. Confirmation 4:30 p.m. Growing in Grace 5:15 p.m. Together @ Grace 6:15 p.m. Bells of Grace 7:30 p.m. Voices of Grace	20 7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer 9:00 a.m. BeFriender Training 5:00 p.m. Graceful Garden Team	21 9:00 a.m. Quilters 6:00 p.m. Game Night	22 2:00 p.m. Drum Circle
23 9:15 a.m. Growing in Grace 10:30 a.m. Worship	24 8:00 - 6:00 Piano Adjudications 7:00 p.m. Appleaires	25 8:00 - 5:00 Piano Adjudications 5:30 p.m. Drum Circle 6:30 p.m. Ukulele Group	26 8:00 - 5:00 Piano Adjudications 11:00 a.m. Lectionary Study 4:00 p.m. Confirmation 4:30 p.m. Growing in Grace 5:15 p.m. Together @ Grace 6:15 p.m. Bells of Grace 7:30 p.m. Voices of Grace	27 8:30 - 6:00 Piano Adjudications 7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer	28 8:30 - 5:30 Piano Adjudications 9:00 a.m. Quilters 6:00 p.m. Recital	

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Evangelical Lutheran Church In America
1408 Washington Street
Wenatchee, WA 98801-2555
(509) 663-2189

Return Service Requested

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF

Pastor James Aalgaard Pastor
pastor@glcwen.org

Deacon Ruth Anderson Director of Music Ministries
deacon@glcwen.org

Jen Gale Office Administrator
office@glcwen.org

Ann Martinson-Bartlett Office Assistant

SUNDAY WORSHIP

10:30 a.m.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Friday: 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

CONTACT

(509) 663-2189
office@glcwen.org

WEBSITE

www.glcwen.org