

GRACE



LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE GOOD NEWS OF GRACE

February 2022

A Newsletter for Members and Friends of
Grace Lutheran Church
1408 Washington Street
Wenatchee, WA 98801-2555
Volume 6 Issue 1



Pastor's Message

Dear friends,

The Via Francigena is a trail of ideas, and it helps to walk with eyes open—otherwise you miss the bread crumbs of epiphany along the way.

Egan, Timothy. A Pilgrimage to Eternity (p. 327). Penguin Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

Bread crumbs of epiphany. Being on a pilgrimage, a journey, whether you are walking an actual trail, can have bread crumbs of epiphany. What is your trail of ideas? Where is the trail bending for you, now? I have been thinking a lot about pilgrimage and my sabbatical theme of “Grace’s Table”. I have been worried about whether covid will let me have sabbatical as I have been planning.

Here is one way you can help me. Here is one way you can accompany me. Would you write a prayer that I can take along with me on sabbatical? Here are the guidelines:

- Write the prayer so that when I pray it, I am praying first-person. So rather than “Jesus give Pastor James new inspiration today”, it would be “Jesus give me your new inspiration today”.
- Once you give me a prayer, I will hand copy it on an index card. I want to add your name to the prayer card so I can also think of you while on pilgrimage.
- I might use one card per day, or several, depending partly on how many prayers I receive.
- The prayer you write must be seven words. Keep it to seven. You may find this a difficult, or creative, or imaginative exercise, or all of the above.

My sabbatical begins May 9. There is time. Please do not have undue anxiety about this invitation. I would love to take your prayer with me. I would love to pray a prayer you have given me. I would love to pack you along through that simple little gift.

My days off in February: February 4, 11, 18, 25. Presidents’ Day will be a staff holiday.

Together! 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.

From the Desk of Intern Anna

What Grace Lutheran has taught me so far

Well, we are coming up to the 6-month mark of my internship year and I wanted to take some time to reflect on the lessons you all as Grace Lutheran have taught me so far this year. As a student, I am still learning what it means for me to be a pastor, something I hope to continue to do even with my first and however many other calls I get afterwards. Here are a few of an exceptionally lengthy list of things I have learned or have been reminded of so far during my time at Grace.

- 1. Effective communication is hard but needed:** This is something that has been a major importance for me the last few years, especially with all things COVID, whether that is getting information out to the congregation about quick changes or events coming up, communicating to my colleagues, or listening to the needs and stories of the congregation. And doing it well can be hard and may never be perfect.
- 2. Flexibility is key:** Sometimes we suddenly need to switch to online. Sometimes a gas leak means we need to cancel things and reschedule them. Emergencies come up and as a pastor, I need to be able to respond to them. So, making sure that I am not overscheduling myself so that I can have time to respond to the sudden changes that come up is important and being flexible is the name of the pastoral game.
- 3. I love working with youth:** From the many youth activities that happen here at Grace, I am reminded again I have a passion for working with kids. I have done it a lot in my past, in my home congregation, at camp, in the AmeriCorps program I served with after college, and with the congregation I served with in Minnesota. I am always drawn to help with the youth programs and have met many awesome youth ministers along the way that I have looked up to and Beth is no exception.
- 4. I have a passion for worship, preaching, and teaching:** Some of the projects that I have most looked forward to doing are the couple of classes I have taught and the worship services I have planned and led. I have found I like preaching which a younger me with a fear of public speaking would have been very confused about.
- 5. We crave community:** I have seen here at Grace that there is a call for reinvigoration in community, especially with COVID. I have heard from many people that they want to be together and in community with each other. My plan for my internship project is to respond to this need in the church (more information to come. Be on the lookout and get excited.)

In looking at this small sampling of the lessons of this year, I also wanted to take a moment to thank Pastor James for all his work, to guide and reflect with me, to show me how he does things and talk through how I may do them, for supporting me and being one of the many in the cloud of witnesses I have with me. I also want to thank the staff here for their support and help. And finally, I want to thank you all as a congregation. Thank you for teaching me so much, thank you for your love and support of me and my pastoral formation. Thank you for all you do, not only for me as an intern, but also for every intern that walks through these doors. Thank you all for the last 6 months and I am excited to see what the next 6 have in store for us.

My days off in February are 2/5, 2/7, 2/12, 2/14, 2/19, 2/21, 2/26, and 2/28.

Worship at Grace

Sunday Morning Worship

Our current plan for our worship is to continue with online only until further notice. This will be the plan for worship until at least February 13. We encourage you to connect with our online worship through our [Facebook page](#) or our [YouTube channel](#). Please join us at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays.



Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is March 2nd. We are planning to hold an Ash Wednesday service at 6:30 pm that evening. If it looks like we cannot worship together in-person, please watch for an invitation to come to church that evening to receive the imposition of ashes and spend time in meditation. Personal meditation materials will be provided.



Lenten Soup Suppers

Mark your Calendars! Starting Wednesday, March 9th, we will be offering an opportunity for Midweek soup and meditation. Soup supper will be held outside starting at 5:30 p.m. with a meditation to follow at 6. More information will be sent out as we get closer to Lent.



Morning Prayer

Thursday mornings, at 7:00, you are invited to join us in the sanctuary. Our morning prayer will typically involve reading of scripture, then a time of prayer, then finish with the Lord's Prayer.

A Message from Beth and Intern Dane

At present, there are two distinct projects (though, at times interconnected). The first is the Wenatchee Youth Community (WYC), and the second is the Inclusive Youth Drop-in Center (which we will call ‘the drop-in center’ but has also been referred to as a ‘youth house’). Given that these projects are the organic outgrowth of genuine relationships and mutual desire for wellness in our community, it has taken us some time to gain clarity on how these groups are organized. **Here’s what we know so far!**

Let us know if you would like to be involved in these ministries.

Thank you,
Dane and Beth

Wenatchee Youth Community:

Currently, several main-line protestant churches within Wenatchee/East Wenatchee are gathering their middle/high school youth together monthly to create an inclusive space for LGBTQ+ teens and allies to belong in community and learn about and participate in socially just movements. This relational, ecumenical youth community is needed due to queerphobic sentiment circulating within several more conservative churches in Wenatchee. We currently meet the Second Sunday of each month from 6pm-7:30pm at the YWCA.

The WYC is collaboratively run by an Ecumenical & Community Leadership Cohort which includes staff from four churches and leaders from the community. All ecumenical and community leaders are background checked and each congregation maintains their own distinct youth ministry whose youth are invited (not required) to participate. There are potential future partners, but here is a list of who currently participates:

Grace Lutheran Church:

First United Methodist Church Wenatchee:

St. Luke’s Episcopal Church:

New Song Community Church of East Wenatchee:

Community Leaders



Inclusive Youth Drop-in Center:

Currently, there is a visioning team which is working dedicated to the formation of a safer space for marginalized youth (especially those who are LGBTQ+, BIPOC, differently abled, and/or experiencing housing insecurity or unsafe home environments) in Wenatchee. This visioning team (also called ‘the brain trust’) includes congregational member and local realtor Kelly Thompson, Wenatchee Valley Intern Dane Breslin, Intern Anna Ferro, Community Member Dusti Mahoney, High School Senior Molly Salter, Youth & Family Ministries Director Beth Smallbeck and Pastor James Aalgaard.

This visioning team has been working to create a safe place for marginalized youth to find safety, resources, friendship, guidance, and welcome. Due to there being hurt and distrust toward churches among the population we wish to serve, it is imperative that this space not be housed in a congregation. Beth and Dane have been in communication with the city, our ecumenical partners in the valley, and the youth that participate in our monthly community youth program- there is excitement and support on all three fronts! Given the nature of this project, there is great potential for diverse and sustainable avenues of financial support via grants, gifts, and other resources.

To date we have toured 6 properties varying in size, location, and cost. There has been a great deal of excitement around most of these properties only to encounter obstacles from city codes, logistics of remodeling, or cost. The visioning team has spent a great deal of time discussing our demographics, programs, staffing, and possible community partners. Potential partners have been identified and expressed real interest (including FUMC, the Children Home Society of Washington, we have two individuals, Dusti Mahoney and Kelsi Davis, with experience in Grant writing and willingness to do so, and others).

A great deal of passion, time, and energy has been focused on this project with the running assumption that the Fox Trust funds could/would be used to help secure a property as there is great need in this community for this resource. We are actively seeking ways to move towards the creation of this space and in lieu of purchasing a property are considering lease options in order to provide a necessary safe space for youth who are in need.



This month's Prayer Shawl meeting will be hosted by Sue Garness at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 24.

SOCIAL CONCERNS TEAM

Funding Application Benevolence Notifications

Applications for Benevolence Funding from the Social Concerns Team went out on December 15, 2021. The area of focus for 2022 will be Food Insecurities, Homelessness, and Education. Applications are due January 31, 2022, and applicants will be notified by March 15, 2022.



WHS Students Experiencing Homelessness Christmas Presents

The Social Concerns Team along with Grace Lutheran Church's congregation collected gift cards for the Students of Wenatchee High School experiencing homelessness this past Christmas.

Enough gift cards were collected that the team was able to fill fifty-two gift bags with \$150 worth of gift cards.



A special thank you to the congregation for helping support this project. We were able to make fifty-two students' lives a bit better by knowing that someone cared enough to get them something for Christmas.

Projects

The Social Concerns Team is always looking for projects to do to help individuals in our community. If you have a project or know of someone that needs assistance, please contact Kay Fisher at 509-669-3220 or by [email](#).



Packing Friendship Update

Packing Friendship is our weekend backpack project that provides food to students living in food-insecure households. We are currently providing 43 bags of food each week to students at Washington and Columbia Elementary Schools and Foothills Middle School. We have eight regular volunteers who help sort, pack, and deliver the food each week. Many people also support us with financial contributions and donations of food. If you would like to donate, you can make checks out to Grace Lutheran noting "GLC Packing Friendship" in the memo line, or see the list of suggested food items below. As always, we are grateful for the support of our congregation!

Packing Friendship Food Items:

- Canned pasta (ravioli, etc.)
- Granola Bars
- Instant oatmeal packets
- Fruit and applesauce cups
- Macaroni and cheese

Food items can be brought to church during open office hours (10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday), on Sundays once we resume indoor worship, or you can contact [Jen Gale](#) in the church office to make other arrangements.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Mary DeMarce	2/1	Isaiah Banken	2/13	Kathy Jo Evans	2/21
Tony Fisher	2/1	Gabe Stefanides	2/13	Mary Henson	2/23
Dorothy Thompson	2/1	Emily Tilger	2/14	Shannon Salter	2/23
David Bentsen	2/2	Ted Crum	2/16	Carl Sjoberg	2/23
Barry Heminger	2/3	Deborah Dormaier	2/16	Rose Applegate	2/24
Lynn Heminger	2/3	Alex Henning	2/16	Alan Olson	2/24
Monte Vogt	2/3	Sarah Kintner-Thorpe	2/18	Alora Martinez	2/25
Judy Johnson	2/6	Cole Godfrey	2/19	Nancy Spurgeon	2/25
Sara O'Daffer	2/6	Denise Miller	2/19	Sarah Eisert	2/26
Collin Paiva	2/7	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 Fenhaus	2/10	Pat Brown	2/21	Jen Pearson-Gale	2/27
Kate Gregg	2/11				

MIRIAM CIRCLE

Miriam Circle will meet on Tuesday, February 15, at 7:00 p.m. Please contact Melanie McQuaig for further information (509-670-2733).

2022 TEAM & COMMITTEE LEADERS

Arts:	Phil Gregg
Building & Grounds:	<i>Open</i>
Endowment:	Karen Zanol
Faith Enrichment:	<i>Open</i>
Fellowship:	Shirley Leslie
	Jan Romey
Intern:	Nancy Boersma
Pastoral Support:	Julie Banken
Staff Support:	Ernie Bentsen
Social Concerns:	Kay Fisher
Worship:	Kathy Gavin
Youth:	Cheryl Salter
Memorial Garden:	Jane Dunbar

2022 CHURCH COUNCIL

President:	Chad DuLac
Vice President:	Dave Coe
Treasurer:	Gwen Sparks
Secretary:	Suellen Harris
Members-at-Large:	Riva Morgan
	John McQuaig
	Trina DeCamp
	Sara O'Daffer

Jonah, Ruth and Esther: Some Short Stories of the Bible

In this Bible Study, we are looking at the stories of the Bible that are contained in their own books, Jonah, Ruth, and Esther. This study is to look at the stories individually and see what they are telling us about themselves, about God, and about today.

The idea behind this is to have smaller sections that people do not need to attend every single one to know what is going on. We would only spend 2 weeks on each book so you can come to learn and study one, two, or all three books.

The Bible Study will take place Thursday evenings, from 7:00-8:30 PM on Zoom. Bring a Bible, paper, and a writing utensil if you like to take notes and something to do with your hands if you would like (yes you can knit during class.)



Schedule:

January 20th and 27th: Jonah
 February 3rd and 10th: Ruth
 February 17th and 24th: Esther

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://luthersem.zoom.us/j/97253343134?pwd=WVJKOGJPSW4xUWFMT0tBaTFuNE5Odz09>

Meeting ID: 972 5334 3134

Passcode: 2189

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,97253343134# US (Tacoma)
 +13462487799,,97253343134# US (Houston)

February Worship Assistants

	Greeters	Ushers	Lector	Altar Guild	Tech
February 6			Riva Morgan	Hollie Olson	Chad DuLac
February 13				Peggy Fenhaus	Phil Gregg
February 20					Marlena La Paz
February 27			Dee Ann Gregg		Chad DuLac

COUNCIL CORNER

1. A Proposed budget was approved to be presented to the congregation at the semi-annual congregational meeting January 30, 2022.
2. The lighting project in the choir loft will be completed the week of January 24, 2022.
3. The Council accepted a \$1,000 donation from congregation members directed to Packing Friendship.
4. The council accepted a \$10,000 donation from congregation members as a restricted gift to the Lutheran College Scholarship program.
5. The council discussed ways to enhance the communication with non-digital users, particularly if council is making decisions about information. Pastor has a list of people who would likely need written or verbal communication. Others can be added by request. Discussion and ideas were discussed for increased participation in the semi-annual congregational meeting.
6. The council is seeking ways to publish committee and council member names for the congregation.

TREASURER TALK

12/31/21 Results. Offerings reported at \$383,394. This is the lowest level since 2013. Deficit is (\$74,184) for the year. 2021 approved budget did consider a deficit with anticipation from SBA PPP loan \$56,244. The loan was forgiven and helped reduce year-end loss to (\$17,940).

	Jan-Dec 2020	Jan-Dec 2021	2021Budget	Variance
Total Offerings, Misc	\$439,059	\$383,394	\$440,000	(\$56,606)
Operating Expenses	<u>(460,222)</u>	<u>(457,577)</u>	<u>(497,736)</u>	<u>40,159</u>
Net Margin (Deficit)	(\$21,162)	(\$74,184)	(\$57,736)	(\$16,447)

12/31 Cash Position. Cash position improves from 1/1/21 due to: forgiveness of SBA loan assisted in covering deficit, and \$31,721 release of monies held for Special Projects. These funds were unused.

Gwen Sparks, Treasurer. 630-4239.
Gwen101@nwi.net

	1/1/21	12/31/21
Cash Surplus Position	\$103,566	\$63,629
Treasurer Reserve	<u>44,500</u>	<u>41,500</u>
Total	\$148,066	\$105,129
2021 Special Projects	<u>(25,000)</u>	<u>31,721</u>
Adjusted YE Cash	123,066	136,850

You're not imagining it, nobody seems to want to talk right now.

Messages are brief and replies late.

Talk of catch ups on zoom are perpetually put on hold.

Group chats are no longer pinging all night long.

It's not you.

It's everyone.

We are spent.

We have nothing left to say.

We are tired of saying 'I miss you' and 'I cant wait for this to end'.

So we mostly say nothing, put our heads down and get through each day.

You're not imagining it.

This is a state of being like no other we have ever known because we are all going through it together but so very far apart.

Hang in there my friend.

When the mood strikes, send out all those messages and don't feel you have to apologise for being quiet.

This is hard.

No one is judging.

PRAYERS OF GRACE

We are seeking a new coordinator for our prayer ministry. If you would like to help, please contact Pastor James at pastor@glcwen.org.

Long Term

Bonnie Howeler - *continued adaptation to visual impairment, and isolation*
Carol Sunada (Dir. of The Compassionate Friends) - *illness, and recent death in her family*
Tony Fisher - *cancer diagnosis and related seizures*
Dale Olson (Hollie Olson's father-in-law) - *prayers for health and peace*
Don Evenhus - *continued prayers for health*
Jackie Carmichael - *for comfort and strength with a chronic health issue*
Jared Senn (Diane Senn's son) - *metastasized colon cancer*
Sarah Jones (Mary Henson's sister) - *prayers as she undergoes radiation and chemo treatments, and prayers that she and her husband are able to find child care for their young son*
Kris Durr - (nephew of Linda and Bill Sinnett) - *extended and aggressive treatment for cancer*
Mim Schwich (mother of Jody Marquardt) - *debilitating ailment, now in a care facility in the Chicago area*
Lillian Welton - *chronic back pain, and grieving the death of husband Mel*
Leslie Hole - (daughter-in-law of Nancy Hole) - *for healing*
Martha Ann Hames - *Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma*
Susan Salley - *for healing as she lives in long term care*

Short Term/Other

Kyrie (Smallbeck) Blue - *son of Hannah Smallbeck - prayers for continued healing*
Ken Machtley - *healing after heart surgery*
Curt Gavin - *for healing*
Eija Beebe Boyle - *for healing from knee surgery*
Dorothy Dennis - *comfort for Dorothy's family. Dorothy died Sunday, January 23*
Joanne Hanson - *for comfort as she lives with stage four lung cancer*
June Bright - *sister of Linda Sinnett - entering fulltime long term care*

Global/National/Local Concerns

Global - *for all involved in mounting tensions between Ukraine and Russia*
Our country and region - *for our communities to seek reconciliation with one another*
For the Wenatchee Valley - *for all trying to fill in the gaps that COVID has left in the workforce and those who are caring for the sick.*

LECTIONARY READINGS

February 6 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 6:1-8 [9-13]
Psalm 138
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Luke 5:1-11

February 13 Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Jeremiah 17:5-10
Psalm 1
1 Corinthians 15:12-20
Luke 6:17-26

February 20 Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Genesis 45:3-11, 15
Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40
1 Cor. 15:35-38, 42-50
Luke 6:27-38

February 27 Transfiguration of Our Lord

Exodus 34:29-35
Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12--4:2
Luke 9:28-36 [37-43a]



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 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 3:00 p.m. Staff Meeting	2 10:00 a.m. 10@10 (FB) 11:00 a.m. Lectionary Study (Zoom)	3 7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer 7:00 p.m. Bible Study	4	5
6 10:30 a.m. Worship 6:30 p.m. Jr./Sr. High Youth	7 10:00 a.m. 10@10 (FB)	8 10:00 a.m. Memorial Garden	9 10:00 a.m. 10@10 (FB) 11:00 a.m. Lectionary Study (Zoom)	10 7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer 7:00 p.m. Bible Study	11	12
13 10:30 a.m. Worship 1:00 p.m. Sunday Funday 6:00 p.m. Jr./Sr. High Youth @ YWCA	14 10:00 a.m. 10@10 (FB)	15 3:00 p.m. Staff Meeting 7:00 p.m. Miriam Circle	16 10:00 a.m. 10@10 (FB) 11:00 a.m. Lectionary Study (Zoom)	17 7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer 7:00 p.m. Bible Study	18	19
20 10:30 a.m. Worship 6:30 p.m. Jr./Sr. High Youth	21	22 3:00 p.m. Staff Meeting 6:00 p.m. Council	23 10:00 a.m. 10@10 (FB) 11:00 a.m. Lectionary Study (Zoom)	24 7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl 7:00 p.m. Bible Study	25 Confirmation Retreat February 25 - 27	26
27 10:30 a.m. Worship 1:00 p.m. Sunday Funday 6:30 p.m. Jr./Sr. High Youth	28 9:00 - 4:00 Piano Adjudications 10:00 a.m. 10@10 (FB)					

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

Rev. James Aalgaard, [Pastor](#)

Anna Ferro, [Pastoral Intern](#)

Dane Breslin, [Wenatchee Valley Intern](#)

Beth Smallbeck, [Minister of Youth & Family](#)

Judy Olson, [Organist](#)

Rich Smallbeck, [Facilities Maintenance Manager](#)

Jen Gale, [Office Administrator](#)

Roxanne Reindl, [Finance Manager](#)

SUNDAY WORSHIP

10:30 a.m. - at the time of publication we are worshipping online due to the recent COVID surge in our area. Please join us on our Facebook or YouTube page. See inside for more details.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
Tuesday - Thursday 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

CONTACT
(509) 663-2189
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WEBSITE
www.glcwen.org