

GRACE



LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE GOOD NEWS OF GRACE

February 2023

A Newsletter for Members and Friends of
Grace Lutheran Church
1408 Washington Street
Wenatchee, WA 98801-2555
Volume 7 Issue 1



“Since we are justified through faith, we have peace with God through Jesus.”

From Romans 5:1

Faith and Effort

People of Grace;

Life and faith are integrated. Father Thomas Keating said, “Faith is constitutive of human nature itself.” This also means (as I understand it) that faith is not so much something I struggle to hold onto after achieving. Rather, faith is a way to interpret all of life. Faith is a way of looking at things. Faith is a “way of being” that we surrender into.

We enter school to study a field of interest after graduating out of a school that teaches general knowledge. Not all of us go that route. Many will watch and learn and practice by accompanying someone who has lived and worked longer in a particular field. Each of these paths toward self-sufficiency are valuable. All of us, I hope, have opportunities to follow our curiosities into vocations that help us have meaning and purpose, as well as means to provide for self and others.

Moving from one “place” to another in faith, unlike taking up a new skill or body of knowledge, feels like a return. In life’s moments, we can recognize that God in Christ has been ever-present. Faith understands what it means to return to an ever-present God.

We can be peacemakers and peacekeepers in our various callings. This is good work for the sake of the wellbeing of the neighbor. The peace we have with God through Jesus, because of faith, is something that is mysteriously effortless. I have a hard time really believing that, but faith instructs me that it is true. May the Spirit of Christ protect us from wanting to make faith an effort.

This is important for us as a congregation as we live out our callings. As our life continues together this year, let’s find ways to celebrate the effortless of faith, which clings to us in every living moment.

Pastor James Aalgaard

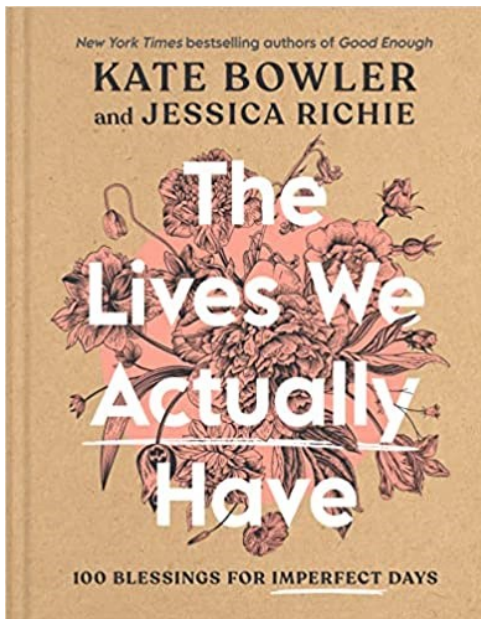
THE MISSION OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH



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.

Lent 2023

- Ash Wednesday is February 22. Our worship service, including the imposition of ashes, will be at 6:30 p.m. We are extending an invitation to our church neighbors of Washington Street, (St. Luke's Episcopal Church and First United Methodist Church).
- There will be a book study opportunity, reading and reflecting on "The Lives We Actually Have: 100 Blessings for Imperfect Days" by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie. Please see the announcement below for more information.
- A signup has been posted for Lenten midweek soup and bread suppers. Please sign up to help provide the meals. Mealtimes will be 6:00 p.m. No programming is planned yet, but please stay tuned.
- Are you interested in taking up a Lenten discipline or practice this year? There is an "idea board" in the hall near the church office. Please treat this as an idea exchange. You might have an idea to share that another person would like to practice. The more ideas, the better!
- A note about Holy Week 2023: Our Maundy Thursday service will be April 6th at St. Luke's Episcopal Church. More details will be shared as the plans take shape.



Lenten Devotional Opportunity

Join us for a Lenten Devotional featuring "The Lives We Actually Have" by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie. You can use this book for your personal devotion or join our weekly small group and talk about it together. Plans for the group are still being finalized, please contact Suellen Harris ([by email](#) or 509-264-0299) or Jen Gale ([by email](#) or 509-393-8897) if you are interested in learning more. More details will be coming soon regarding the meeting time and place.

This book will be released on February 14 and is available for pre-order on Amazon. Devotional guides, both for individual and group use, are available. You can contact the church office for more information about purchasing the book or the devotional guides.

About the Book: We live in a world that demands relentless perfection. Happy marriages and easy friendships. Bucket list-level adventures and matching family photos. But what if our actual lives don't feel very #blessed? Might our everyday existence be worthy of a blessing too? Even an average Tuesday?

Kate Bowler (New York Times bestselling author, Everything Happens podcast host, and Duke University Professor) and Jessica Richie (co-author of the New York Times bestseller Good Enough, the executive director of the Everything Happens Project at Duke Divinity School, and the executive producer of the Everything Happens podcast) offer creative, faith-based blessings that center gratitude and hope while acknowledging our real, messy lives. These heartfelt blessings are a chance to exhale when we feel everything from careworn to restless, devastated to bored. Let's have a reminder that we don't need to wait for perfect lives when we can bless the lives we actually have.

Christian Education Idea Session

Monday February 6, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., you are invited to join a zoom meeting in which we will discuss some ideas for our faith formation ministry at Grace. Here is the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5092640962>. Meeting ID: 509 264 0962. Part of our conversation will be about what topics would be engaging for the people of Grace, and what level of involvement people would like to have whether they be families with young children, youth, or adult. We will also talk about leadership possibilities. Hope to see you there.



Sunday Funday February 12

Join us for Sunday Funday February 12 at 12:15. Our menu: mac 'n cheese with fruit. We will have a Valentine's themed craft and talk about God's love for the world. See you there!

Calling for Palm Branches!

Ash Wednesday is February 22, with worship at 6:30 p.m. If you have Palm Sunday branches at home from previous years and would like them to become part of the ashes for the service, please bring them to Grace and leave them in the narthex. Thank you!



Lenten Soup Suppers

Join us for our weekly Lenten Soup Suppers, each Wednesday during Lent, beginning March 1. Volunteers are needed to provide soup and bread or rolls. Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board across from the church office. Meals will be served at 6:00 p.m.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

Tuesday, February 21

5:30 - 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

A free will donation will be taken - proceeds will benefit the youth program at Grace.





Valentines



Each year we send Valentines to college students, military personnel and other far-flung friends of Grace. The valentines will be in the narthex on Sunday, February 5, 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.

Flower Chart

Please note that we have a flower chart in the narthex. If you wish to share a flower arrangement for Sunday worship, please sign up. You can specify the chosen date is a memorial, anniversary, birthday, etc. if you wish. Thank you for participating with your flower offering.



PEOPLE OF GRACE

Happy Birthday Dorothy!

Dorothy Thompson is turning 90 years old on February 1st. Per her request there will not be a celebration, but she does enjoy cards, calls and visits. Her address is 300 S. Elliott Ave. #15 Wenatchee, WA 98801 and her phone number is (509) 663-6520. Thank you from her children Sue, Kris and Steve.

Susan Salley Memorial Service

Interment services will be Sunday February 5th, immediately following our 10:30 a.m. regular worship. Everyone is invited to a reception in the fellowship hall afterwards.

Beth and Rich Smallbeck Address Update

2409 Keiser Court
Las Vegas, NV 89134

LECTIONARY READINGS

February 5 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]
Psalm 112:1-9 [10]
1 Corinthians 2:1-16
Matthew 5:13-20

February 12 Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Psalm 119:1-8
1 Corinthians 3:1-9
Matthew 5:21-37

February 19 Transfiguration of Our Lord

Exodus 24:12-18
Psalm 2
2 Peter 1:16-21
Matthew 17:1-9

February 26 First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
Psalm 32
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11

ANNA & MIRIAM CIRCLES

Anna Circle will meet on Tuesday, February 21, at 10:00 a.m. at Grace. If you have questions, feel free to call Linda Sinnet at 509-699-8256 or Faye DeJong at 509-663-4590.

Miriam Circle will meet Tuesday, February 21, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Nancy O'Donnell.

Together at Grace

Please join us on the 2nd Wednesday of each month for our community meal!

- February 8, 6:00 p.m. - Meal hosted by Morning Prayer participants

PRAYERS OF GRACE

Arlene Kang & Christine Kang (relatives of Joe Trowbridge) – prayers for health and well-being>

Family of Susan Salley - prayers for peace and comfort.

Dave DeJong – for healing after surgery and for favorable test results.

Family of Roy Hendrickson – for peace and comfort as they mourn the death of Susan Hendrickson's father, Roy.

Family of Don Evenhus – prayers for peace and comfort.

To submit a prayer, please call (509-663-2189) or email our church office 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.

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.

COUNCIL CORNER

1. Befriender training is complete and two new Befrienders have joined the team
2. The Council accepted a generous memorial gift from the estate of Sylvia Lyons
3. Draft Budget adopted for presentation to the Congregation on 1/29/23
4. A Choir Director has been found for February first through Easter Sunday
5. Michele Sandberg has accepted the position of Fox Visioning Chair
6. The Charter for the Fox Visioning Team has been extended to 2/27/2024

TREASURER TALK

12/31/22 Results

2022 offerings total \$387,736. This is (\$12,264) under budget. Expenses are \$471,093, (\$14,585) under budget. Resulting Net Operating Deficit (\$83,357) compares to projected budget deficit (\$85,678).

| | Jan-Dec 2021 | Jan-Dec 2022 | 2022 Budget | Variance |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|------------|
| Total Offerings, Misc | \$383,394 | \$387,736 | \$400,000 | (\$12,264) |
| Operating Expenses | (457,577) | (471,093) | (485,678) | 14,585 |
| Net Margin (Deficit) | (\$74,184) | (\$83,357) | (\$85,678) | \$2,321 |

Cash on hand \$159,830 includes Treasurer Reserve \$40,500 and IRS Employee Retention Credit received in Sept \$104,980. IRS Employee Retention Credit supported the (\$83,357) yearend loss.

| | 1/1/22 | 12,31/22 |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Cash Surplus Position | \$96,646 | \$ 14,350 |
| Treasurer Reserve | 40,500 | 40,500 |
| Employee Ret Credit | | 104,980 |
| Total | \$137,146 | \$159,830 |

[Gwen Sparks](#), Treasurer. 630-4239.

2023 TEAM & COMMITTEE LEADERS

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

2023 CHURCH COUNCIL

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| President: | Suellen Harris |
| Vice President: | Dave Coe |
| Treasurer: | |
| Secretary: | Jody Marquardt |
| Members-at-Large: | Riva Morgan |
| | John McQuaig |
| | Paula Salter |
| | Tami Woolsey |

SOCIAL CONCERNS TEAM

Looking back on 2022 with regards to the Social Concerns Team, one cannot help but think of all the random acts of kindness that were accomplished in hopes that we will impact a lifetime of change.

From helping Afghan Refugees, and Ukrainian Families start a new life in the Wenatchee Valley, to helping those with food insecurities and homelessness, the Social Concerns Team had an opportunity to make a positive impact on the lives we helped and our own lives at the same time.

Besides helping Afghan and Ukrainian Families relocate here in the Wenatchee Valley, we also sorted, tagged, and distributed 1,000 Coats for Kids, delivered gifts to the homebound, gave Christmas gifts to three Ukrainian families, made 45 Christmas gift bags for homeless high school students, did a school supply drive, supported Packing Friendship, and operated the Little Free Pantry.

Packing Friendship delivered more than 1400 bags of food to students in 2022 and put in 400 volunteer hours. The Little Free Pantry relied on eight volunteers that put in approximately 468 volunteer hours in 2022 and distributed approximately \$6,000 worth of food to those experiencing food insecurities.

Our beneficiaries' monies supported two students' tuition at the Lithuanian Christian College, supported the Tanzania Companion Synod, Women's Resource Center, and Powerhouse Ministries.

“Unexpected kindness is the most powerful, least costly, and most underrated agent of human change.”

– Bob Kerrey ELCA.

The team would like to say a special thank you to the staff at Grace. Especially Pastor James, Roxanne Whitmire, Jen Pearson-Gale, Beth and Rich Smallbeck. Without their assistance some of our giving would not have happened.

Below is a list of all the organizations and the amount of giving the Social Concerns Team was able to distribute in 2022. Again, words cannot express enough how much the team appreciates the support of the congregation, council, and staff.

Packing Friendship Update

Packing Friendship is our weekend backpack program, providing food to local students who live in food-insecure households. Grace Lutheran is currently providing food for 59 students each week at Washington Elementary, Foothills Middle School, and Pinnacles Prep. If you would like to support the program, we are grateful for all donations. You can either make a financial contribution (note “GLC Packing Friendship” in the memo line) or donate any of the following foods:

- **Cans of tomato or chicken noodle soup**
- **Tuna**
- **Instant oatmeal packets**
- **Macaroni and cheese**
- **Fruit cups**
- **Ravioli or other canned pasta**
- **Pudding cups**
- **Applesauce cups**

Please label donations “Packing Friendship” and bring to church on Sunday mornings or during office hours. If you would like to learn about volunteer opportunities, please contact Jen Gale (509-393-8897 or [email](#)).

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

| | | | | | |
|------------------|------|----------------------|------|------------------|------|
| Mary DeMarce | 2/1 | Kate Gregg | 2/11 | Kathy Jo Evans | 2/21 |
| Tony Fisher | 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 | 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 |

February Worship Assistants

| | Greeters | Ushers | Lector | Altar Guild | Tech | Communion Assistant |
|-------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| 2/5 | | | Joyce Owens | | Marlena La Paz | |
| 2/12 | | | Dee Ann Gregg | | Chad DuLac | Karen Zanol |
| 2/19 | | | Joyce Owens | | JJ Dippel | |
| 2/26 | | | Gary Otheim | | Phil Gregg | Gary Otheim |

February 2023

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|---|---|--|-----------|
| | | | 1 11:00 a.m. Lectionary Study 7:30 p.m. Voices of Grace | 2 7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer 1:00 p.m. Befrienders | 3 9:00 a.m. Quilters 6:30 p.m. Bingo | 4 |
| 5 10:30 a.m. Worship Susan Salley Memorial Following worship 6:30 p.m. Jr./Sr. High Youth | 6 7:00 p.m. Appleaires | 7 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting 7:00 p.m. Apollo Club | 8 11:00 a.m. Lectionary Study 6:00 p.m. Together at Grace (TAG) 7:30 p.m. Voices of Grace | 9 7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer | 10 9:00 a.m. Quilters | 11 |
| 12 10:30 a.m. Worship 12:15 p.m. Sunday Funday 3:00 p.m. Recital 6:00 p.m. Jr./Sr. High Youth @ YWCA | 13 6:00 p.m. Youth Team 7:00 p.m. Appleaires | 14 10:00 a.m. Building and Grounds 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting 7:00 p.m. Suicide Loss Sup- port Group 7:00 p.m. Apollo Club | 15 11:00 a.m. Lectionary Study 7:30 p.m. Voices of Grace | 16 7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer | 17 9:00 a.m. Quilters 5:00 p.m. Recital | 18 |
| 19 10:30 a.m. Worship | 20 Newsletter Deadline 7:00 p.m. Appleaires 7:00 p.m. Compassionate Friends | 21 10:00 a.m. Anna Circle 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting 5:30 p.m. Pancake Dinner 7:00 p.m. Miriam Circle 7:00 p.m. Apollo Club | 22 Ash Wednesday 11:00 a.m. Lectionary Study 6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship 7:30 p.m. Voices of Grace | 23 7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer 6:30 p.m. Recital | 24 9:00 a.m. Quilters 6:30 p.m. Recital | 25 |
| 26 10:30 a.m. Worship 6:30 p.m. Jr./Sr. High Youth | 27 9:00 - 6:00 Piano Adjudications 7:00 p.m. Appleaires | 28 9:00 - 6:00 Piano Adjudications 5:00 p.m. Church Council 7:00 p.m. Apollo Club | | | | |

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

pastor@glcwen.org

Judy Olson, Organist

olsonjm@nwi.net

Jen Gale, Office Administrator

office@glcwen.org

Roxanne Whitmire, Finance Manager

finance@glcwen.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP

10:30 a.m.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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

CONTACT

(509) 663-2189

office@glcwen.org

WEBSITE

www.glcwen.org