

Light of Grace

A monthly publication of:

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1120 17th street South, Moorhead, MN 56560-5752

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Vol. 35, No. 2

February 1, 2024

Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM

Children's Sunday School 10:15 AM

Greetings:

"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time." 1 Peter 5:6

The
Season
of
Lent



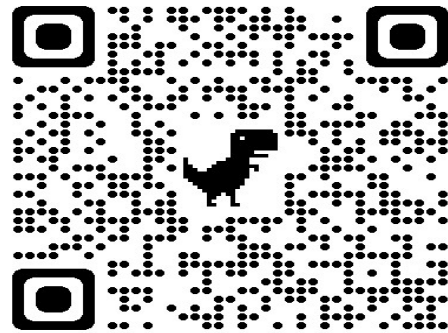
The Season of Lent is a time of self-reflection, of spiritual examination. While that is a healthy and necessary exercise, we don't examine ourselves in isolation. Instead, we are invited to lay our lives alongside the life of Jesus. That's a pretty daunting task considering we know what the end of Lent will bring for Christ. And yet, what we discover

in this examination of his life and ours, is not condemnation or accusations. Instead, the farther we go on this journey with him, the more we find ourselves overwhelmed by the depths of love he has for all of us. Lent is a time for getting our spiritual house in order, that is true. But above all, it is an invitation to once again commit to love like Christ loves.

Throughout this season we will both look forward to the hope we find in the resurrection, and recognize where we are at in our own journeys with one another. Take time during the week for intentional prayer, devotions, and self-reflection. Some unique opportunities during Lent will include our Wednesday evening services, digital discipleship opportunities through videos and a 10 minute, midday prayer time every weekday at noon on Zoom. You can use the QR code to get into the zoom meeting or

save this invite link: [https://us05web.zoom.us/j/89383410442?](https://us05web.zoom.us/j/89383410442?pwd=seehabqaO9j8RaaCW8CLePXcRF12rY.1)

[pwd=seehabqaO9j8RaaCW8CLePXcRF12rY.1](https://us05web.zoom.us/j/89383410442?pwd=seehabqaO9j8RaaCW8CLePXcRF12rY.1)
My hope is that no matter what practices you utilize during Lent, they would be approached with a humility that is covered with grace. That in emptying our hearts and spirits of the things that don't bring life, we would be renewed by the mercies and forgiveness of God. When we acknowledge our current state, we would be consumed with all that God has done, is doing, and will do for us! May our journey be a holy one as we walk together.



Pastor Taylor

THREE C'S OF LIFE

The three C's of life are **choices, chances** and **changes**. You must make a **choice** to take a **chance** or your life will never **change**.



**PRAYER LIST AT
Care Facilities**

Pat Walter (Elim)
Don Walter (Pioneer House)
Jim Jameson (River Pointe)
Will Wehrman (Eventide-Fargo)

PRAYER LIST hospitalized or home

Carol Devine Lynette Andel
Luann Larson Linda Gibson
Larry Possehl Jean Graning
Paul Kemper Eddie Ybarra
Rick Abel



Ministry TEAM Program. A Way of Being the Church at GUMC! The TEAM's mission is to provide ushers, greeters, opening welcome and readers to our congregation. TEAM #2 (Feb/Aug).

701-630-4343—R. & C. Abel
701-261-9009—M. Akin
218-236-0183—J. Anderson
218-790-9791—L. Dick
503-568-3285—M. & B. Eisen
218-233-6915—J. & K. Enkers
701-361-7571—B. & Z. Hanna
218-422-6586—T. & K. Johnson
218-236-7366—S. Mohr
218-236-5520—W. & M. Port
218-498-2312—S. Simmons
701-866-6884—D. Stead
701-200-4286—D. & W. Walseth



February Birthdays

- 1—J. Denny
- 2—L. Larson
- 4—R. Lofgren
- 5—C. Welsh
- 8—K. Baker
L. Gedrose
- 12—L. Romanyshyn
- 13—E. Brown
- 15—J. Anderson
- 16—G. Chandler
- 17—J. Miller
K. Beck
- 19—F. Hamm
- 20—L. Denny
B. Burkhardt
E. Fraundorfer
- 22—H. Hamm
R. Murray
- 23—D. Burkhardt

DONUTS



Homemade Buttermilk Donuts are being made on February 7th and 21st and will be available for \$10.00 a dozen. To place an order for donuts call the office, 233-1857, use the sign up sheet on the table in the Narthex, or on the website:

www.graceumcmoorhead.org/donuts.

**WORSHIP AT GRACE
10:00 A.M.**

WORSHIP SERVICES are livestreamed on Facebook and on the website: graceumcmoorhead.org

Offerings may be mailed to Grace UMC, 1120 17th Street South, Moorhead, MN 56560

Online giving available through Givelify! Go to graceumcmoorhead.org/give and click the button to make your one time or recurring gift.

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS



Contribution statements for 2023 were mailed out the middle of January. Please review your statement and call the office for any changes and/or corrections that need to be made

**SERMON SERIES
"Depths of Love"**

- 2-14: (Ash Wednesday) There Your Heart Will Be
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
- 2-18: Has Come Near—Mark 1:9-15
- 2-25: For the Sake of the Gospel—Mark 8:31-38
- 3-3: I Will Raise It Up—John 2:13-22
- 3-10: Loving the Light—John 3:14-21
- 3-17: Whoever Serves—John 12:20-33

SEARCH FOR GOD'S WHISPERS

Del Larson, CLM



I have shared God winks and whispers with you over the past few months. I hope you have realized how important it is to listen for God. Now start to look for how He works in your life, and puts you in places you are needed. I have been blessed and am thankful how

God has worked in my life. I want to share how God has directed my life at Grace.

Long before I became a Certified Lay Minister in 2013, God has guided me since I was a little boy without a father. There were many other adults who came into my life to help me stay on the right path. God connected me to the love of my life, and on through a wonderful career as an educator. God and I have had our disagreements, and I parted from Him at one point in my life, but it was Jim Jameson who showed me God has big shoulders, and welcomed me back when I was ready.

Over a year ago, I resigned from Grace's Leadership Team, not because I was disillusioned or angry. Rather, I followed what God was telling me. Our leadership team is doing great things that help our church and our mission grow, thanks to you, the people who love Grace, and call it their home. I needed to take more time for my wife and for myself. However, the most interesting part of this decision was God telling me it was time to step aside and let the two younger Lay Speakers, Angie Ybarra and Diana Stead, now carry on.

As I explained to Pastor Taylor, I'm not ending my ministry, but letting God guide me to where he needs me now. I still fill-in when called, but most of my ministry has now focused on caregiving. I was inspired by preparing services for God, but now that inspiration has grown with my work not only as a caregiver for my wife, but to help others who are caregivers.

In 2017, I started a public caregiver group here at Grace. When we were shutdown by Covid, I worked with Lutheran Social Services to combine our groups into a bi-monthly online opportunity that we continue to offer. In mid-2022, I started an email group for caregivers that couldn't meet online during the day with eight members. At this New Year, I had nearly 30 people in the group, double what I had the year before. God has put me in a place where I can best serve HIM. If you are a caregiver, or concerned about the health of a loved one, ask me about this group. I have many resources.

There is still more! As a caregiver coach to others and caring husband, I have to be cognizant of my own health. I have moved on from a young buck, to an old buck that may not be as fast, but still plenty smart.

Sixty percent of caregivers die before the care recipient. My back will always be a problem, but there are a lot of positive changes over this past year, especially with taking less meds. My depression is very low, and I have cut those meds by 60%. I don't get the headaches I once did, and have cut those meds in half. What for me is most fascinating is how God reminds me to zip my mouth shut and smile rather than say something I wish I hadn't. When that happens I smile and thank God for the reminder.

When God took me away from teaching to become a hardware manager in the early 80s, He had a purpose. Two years later, He brings me back to Moorhead, and I became a better teacher and leader. God has a plan for each and everyone of us, that is beyond our imagination. We must remember to trust and obey. Sometimes we don't understand God's plan, but we must have faith. You know it works. Just look back over your life to see what God has done for you. Our world, and especially our country are heading in the wrong direction. God needs each and every one of us to stop wondering if God is talking to us, and start listening. What is God saying to you? What are you missing?

Romans 10:17 - *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

If you are not hearing God whispers, start with studying the scripture and let it speak to you. That is exactly what happened with this scripture I shared, and what God instructed me to write. AMEN

ASH WEDNESDAY



Join us for worship on February 14 as we begin the season of Lent. There will be several opportunities for you to choose from to receive an ash that day. There is a service at 12 Noon and 6:00 pm. If you are unable to join us for worship and would like someone to come to your home or residence for an ash, please contact the church office to schedule a time. Please call by February 12th to get signed up.

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT



We are having soup suppers on Wednesdays starting on February 14. All meals are 'pay as you are blessed', and open for all! Meals will be served from 5-6pm, followed by a 30 minute worship service with song, prayer, and meditation.

Grace United Methodist

February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9:00 am Bulletin	2	3 10:00 pm Latter
4 10:00 am Worship w/Communion New Member Reception 10:15 am Children's Sunday School 12:00 pm Latter Rain	5 1:00 pm May- be Quilting	6 7:00 pm AA	7 6:00 am Donut Making 9:00 am Bible Study 5:00 pm Prayer Shawl 6:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Grace Youth Group 7:00 pm Latter Rain	8 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	9	10 10:00 pm Latter Rain Dance
11 10:00 am Worship w/ New Member Reception 10:15 am Children's Sunday School 12:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	12 1:00 pm May- be Quilting	13 7:00 pm AA	14 9:00 am Bible Study 5:00 pm Prayer Shawl (On a break) 5:00 pm Soup Supper 6:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm Grace Youth Group	15 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	16	17 10:00 pm Latter Rain Dance
18 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Children's Sunday School 12:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	19 1:00 pm May- be Quilting	20 7:00 pm AA	21 6:00 am Donut Making 9:00 am Bible Study 5:00 pm Soup Supper 6:00 pm Lenten Service 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm Grace Youth Group 7:00 pm Latter Rain	22 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	23	24 10:00 pm Latter Rain Dance
25 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Children's Sunday School 12:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	26 1:00 pm May- be Quilting	27 7:00 pm AA	28 9:00 am Bible Study 5:00 pm Soup Supper 6:00 pm Lenten Service 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm Grace Youth Group 7:00 pm Latter	29 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline		

#	Date	Psalms	OT	Epistle	Gospel
	Feb 1	am: 55, pm: 138, 139	Gen 18:1-16	Heb 10:26-39	John 6:16-27
	Feb 2	am: 24, 29, pm: 8, 84	Gen 18:16-33	Gal 5:13-25	Mark 8:22-30
	Feb 3	am: 56-58, pm: 64, 65	Gen 19:1-29	Heb 11:1-12	John 6:27-40
	Feb 4	am: 61, 62, pm: 68	Gen 21:1-21	Heb 11:13-22	John 6:41-51
	Feb 5	am: 72, pm: 119:73-96	Gen 22:1-18	Heb 11:23-31	John 6:52-59
	Feb 6	am: 70, 71, pm: 74	Gen 23:1-20	Heb 11:32-12:2	John 6:60-71
	Feb 7	am: 69, pm: 73	Gen 24:1-27	Heb 12:3-11	John 7:1-13
	Feb 8	am: 75, 76, pm: 23, 27	Gen 24:28-38, 49-51	Heb 12:12-29	John 7:14-36
	Feb 9	am: 93, 96, pm: 34	Gen 24:50-67	2 Tim 2:14-21	Mark 10:13-22
	Feb 10	am: 80, pm: 77, 79	Gen 25:19-34	Heb 13:1-16	John 7:37-52
	Feb 11	am: 78:1-39, pm: 78:40-72	Gen 26:1-6, 12-33	Heb 13:17-25	John 7:53-8:11
	Feb 12	am: 119:97-120, pm: 81, 82	Gen 27:1-29	Rom 12:1-8	John 8:12-20
	Feb 13	am: 146, 147, pm: 83, 85, 86	Gen 27:30-45	Rom 12:9-21	John 8:21-32
	Feb 14	am: 88, pm: 91, 92	Gen 27:46-28:4, 10-22	Rom 13:1-14	John 8:33-47
	Feb 15	am: 87, 90, pm: 136	Gen 29:1-20	Rom 14:1-23	John 8:47-59
	Feb 16	am: 66, 67, pm: 19, 46	Gen 29:20-35	1 Tim 3:14-4:10	Mark 10:23-31
	Feb 17	am: 89:1-18, pm: 89:19-52	Gen 30:1-24	1 John 1:1-10	John 9:1-17
	Feb 18	am: 97, 99, 100, pm: 94, 95	Gen 31:1-24	1 John 2:1-11	John 9:18-41
	Feb 19	am: 101, 109:1-30, pm: 19:121-144	Gen 31:15-50	1 John 2:12-17	John 10:1-18
	Feb 20	am: 105:1-22, pm: 105:23-45	Gen 32:3-21	1 John 2:18-29	John 10:19-30
	Feb 21	am: 102, pm: 107:1-32	Gen 32:22-33:17	1 John 3:1-10	John 10:31-42
	Feb 22	am: 107:33-43, 108, pm: 33	Gen 35:1-20	1 John 3:11-18	John 11:1-16
	Feb 23	am: 148, 149, 150, pm: 114, 115	Prov 26:1-23	2 Cor 3:7-18	Luke 9:18-27
	Feb 24	am: 25, pm: 9, 15	Prov 27:1-6, 10-12	Phil 2:1-13	John 18:15-18, 25-27
	Feb 25	am: 26, 28, pm: 36, 39	Prov 30:1-4, 24-33	Phil 3:1-11	John 18:28-38
	Feb 26	am: 95, 32, 143, pm: 102, 130	Amos 5:6-15	Heb 12:1-14	Luke 18:9-14
	Feb 27	am: 37:1-18, pm: 37:19-40	Hab 3:1-18	Phil 3:12-21	John 17:1-8
	Feb 28	am: 95, 31, pm: 35	Eze 18:1-4, 25-32	Phil 4:1-9	John 17:9-19
	Feb 29	am: 30, 32, pm: 42, 43	Eze 39:21-29	Phil 4:10-20	John 17:20-26



YOUTH SUB SANDWICH FUNDRAISER

Help Grace Youth raise funds for their mission trips. For just \$12 on Sunday, February 11th, our youth will make you a sub, with chips, and a cookie. Order forms are available at the Connection Center at church. The last time to place an order is by noon on February 9th. Payment will be due at time of pick up from 11am-12 noon on February 11th. Thanks for supporting Grace Youth missions!

CAMP MINNESOTA



Registration for summer camp thru the camp ministry of the Minnesota Conference is open and waiting for you to sign up. There are camps for all ages with incentives, discounts and camperships available. There are brochures on table in the Connection Center for the various dates and camps.



BAR SIGN UP

Please sign up to donate a 9 x 13 pan of bars during Lent to be served with the soup suppers on Wednesday nights before worship service. The sign up sheet is on the table in the Connection Center.

EASTER PLANT



To decorate the sanctuary during Easter, plants will be displayed. The congregation is invited to purchase these plants in honor of family or friends or in memory of loved ones. The cost of each plant is \$15.00. There are order blanks on the table in the Connection Center.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Grace United Methodist Church
1120 17th Street South
Moorhead, MN 56560

