



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Greetings of joy and peace in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus, the Christ.

The beginning of February announces that we are in the midst of winter, and we were made aware of that fact in the middle of January when temperatures plunged to -17° with a wind chill factor of -45° mixed with swirling snow. But, the days are becoming longer with more and more light. We are also about to begin the Journey to Calvary with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The word "lent" comes from an old Anglo-Saxon word **Lencten** which means the lengthening of the days as spring approaches. The coming of spring announces new life as nature seems to come alive after being dormant throughout the winter. We see God's grace active in the new life of nature and the new life that is ours as a result of our Lord's journey to Calvary, His death and resurrection.

We hear the word grace used often in our society. The bank gives us a grace period. The seedy politician falls from grace. Musicians speak of a grace note. We use the word for hospitals, baby girls, kings, and pre-meal prayers. We sing the beautiful hymn "Amazing Grace. God's grace centers on the work of our Lord, especially seen during the Lenten season and Holy Week. God's grace is illustrated in the following:

"When the learned and wealthy John Selden was dying, he said to Archbishop Usher, 'I have surveyed most of the learning that is among the sons of men, and my study is filled with books and manuscripts (he had 8,000 volumes in his library) on various subjects. But at present, I cannot recollect any passage out of all my books and papers whereon I can rest my soul, save this from the sacred Scriptures':

"The grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for the blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the greats God and our Savior Jesus Christ; who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." (Titus 2:4)

Using an outline gleaned from Max Lucado's book "Grace" the Sunday services will center around the theme "The Power of Grace." The jacket covering the book "Grace" has the following "Grace comes after you. It rewrites you. From insecure to God secure. From regret-riddled to better – because –of-it. From afraid-to die to ready to fly. Grace is the voice that calls us to change and then gives us the power to pull it off."

Join us during this Lenten season for our Mid-Week Worship (to be announced by our Circuit Visitor) and our Sunday Worship as we walk with our Lord to Calvary and the empty tomb. Join us as we hear "The Lion of Judah Roar" and grow deeper in our understanding of God's grace.

May our gracious Lord continue to bless you and yours always surrounding you with His grace.

In Christ,
Pastor Raether.

Pastor Raether

Stewardship Defined: "Therefore"

According to the King James Bible Dictionary, the word "therefore" is used 1,237 times in the Bible. The most prominent use of the word "therefore" in Scripture is a "reaction or a response to what has happened in the past." It serves to connect a truth with a proper response. Understanding that "therefore" connects action or response to a truth, could we not use the single word "therefore" as a definition of stewardship? Is not stewardship faith in action! Stewardship is all we do after God enables us to say, "I believe." Through faith, we know that God loves us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to the cross for the forgiveness of our sins, so we can enjoy the abundant life now and life eternal with Him. Through faith, we believe what Jesus has done for us; "therefore" we will serve and obey Him. "Therefore" is the link between knowing and doing. There are many wonderful definitions of stewardship, but, if we attempt to simplify our understanding of stewardship and define stewardship with just one word, the word "therefore" is as brief and concise as we can get.

In Romans 12:1, we find one of the hundreds of verses that uses the word "therefore": "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God..." In the chapters preceding this verse, Paul repeatedly references God's abundant mercy to us. Using the word "therefore," Paul directs us, in light of God's mercy, to "present [our] bodies as a living sacrifice." Having received God's mercy, we are motivated to live as faithful stewards. God wants us completely and totally. Everything that we are and have should belong to Him. "Therefore," God wants all of us.

In our daily routines, we tend not to take this notion of giving everything to God too seriously. However, God's Word clearly wants us to think more about how we can use our lives and our bodies in service to Him. The question to consider is, "Do we use our bodies in ways that honor God? Let's consider our hands. Do we use them to serve only ourselves or do we use them in service to God? Do we use our eyes, ears, brains, mouths, etc. in service to God? God says every part of us is to be used as an act of worship. "Therefore...by the mercies of God" each of us should do whatever God puts before us and do it cheerfully.

May the word "therefore" remind of us of the importance of faithful stewardship, and, with the help of the Holy Spirit, we can be the stewards God has made us to be.

FROM: Stewardship Advisors

SUNDAY LENTEN WORSHIP
"The Power of Grace"

Our Sunday worship during Lent will center around "The Power of Grace". The theme is developed from one of Max Lucado's books simply titled "Grace." The book is introduced with the following words, "Grace is simply another word for God's tumbling, rumbling reservoir of strength and protection. It Comes at us not occasionally or miserly but constantly and aggressively, wave upon wave. We've barely regained our balance from one breaker, and then bam, there comes another. "Grace upon grace (John 1:16). The theme "The power of Grace" will be developed during the Lenten Season. Pastor Meyer will lead our worship on the third Sunday of the month as Pastor Raether joins him in exchanging pulpits once a month. Following is a tentative schedule:

- Feb. 18 First Sunday in Lent – Pastor Meyer —Galatians 2:20 – Ecclesiastes 36:20 "A New Heart."
- Feb. 25 Second Sunday in Lent – Holy Communion Celebrated – John 8:10-12 – "The God Who Stoops."
- Mar. 3 Third Sunday in Lent – Romans 3:24, 25 – "Grace and the Sweet Exchange" Pastor Raether leads worship at both Prince of Peace and St. Paul Lutheran
- Mar. 10 Fourth Sunday in Lent – Holy Communion Celebrated - Exodus 6:6 –"You Can Find Rest"
- Mar. 17 Fifth Sunday in Lent – Ruth 4:14 – "Grace on the Fringe" Pastor Meyer will lead our worship.
- Mar. 24 Palm Sunday – Holy Communion Celebrated – 2 Corinthians 12:9 –"Fear Dethroned"
- Mar. 31 Easter – Holy Communion Celebrated. – John 6:39 – "Grace and Heaven Guaranteed."

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES
"Be Gracious to Me"

Fort Dodge area LCMS pastors will exchange pulpits during the Midweek Lenten season. The pastors will develop a common theme, "Be Gracious to Me", for the season of Lent. Prince of Peace midweek services will begin at 1:00 pm on Wednesdays. "Be Gracious to Me" centers around Psalm 41 where God's grace wells up and King David exults God, tracing the flow of divine grace from the source to its believers. He watches the current flow and spring forth in the lives of all believers through Baptism. Discover how Christ's sufferings are your sufferings, and more importantly, how David's words in Psalm 41 have become your reality through Christ. In the day of trouble, the Lord delivers you. The Lord protects you and keeps you alive. You are called blessed in the land.

- Feb. 14 Ash Wednesday – "Mutual Consideration" – Psalm 41:1-2 – Pastor Raether
- Feb. 21 Midweek Lent 1 – "I have Sinned" Psalm 41:4 – Pastor Thackery
- Feb.28 Midweek Lent 2 –"Empty Words" Psalm 41:6 – Pastor Haney
- Mar. 6 Midweek Lent 3 – "Soon and Never" Psalm 41:5 – Pastor Raether
- Mar. 13 Midweek Lent 4 – "Susatined in Sickness" Psalm 41:3 – Pastor Benson
- Mar. 20 Midweek of Lent 5 – "Vindication" Psalm 41:7-8 – Pastor Meyer

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS (10:15 am)
"The Miracles of Lent"

The theme of this study is the several miracles and miraculous signs performed by God during the Passion of Jesus Christ. The important and significant miracles and miraculous signs that God the Father performed to set apart His Son's death from absolutely all others were performed to help spread the Good News, which is centered in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ in the face of opposition. Due to illness and cancellation, the schedule for "the Miracles of Lent" has been delayed. Following is a tentative new schedule for this study:

- Jan. 28 – "The Miraculous Darkness" Matthew 27:45
- Feb. 11 – "The Miraculous Tearing of the Temple Curtain" Matthew 27:51a
- Feb.18 – "The Miraculous Earthquake" Matthew 27:51b
- Feb. 25 – "The Miracle of the Splitting Rocks" Matthew 27:51c
- Mar. 3 – No class – pastor leads worship at St. Paul and Prince of Peace
- Mar. 10 – "The Miraculous Raising of the Saints from Death" Matthew 27:52,53
- Mar. 24 – "The Miraculous Faith of the Roman" Soldiers Matthew 27:54
- Mar. 31 Easter – No Class
- Feb. 4 - No class – pastor leads worship at St. Paul and Prince of Peace
- Apr. 7– "The Miracle of Good Friday" 1 Peter 3:18
- Apr. 14 – "The Miracle of Christ's Decent into Hell" 1 Peter 3:18,19
- Apr. 21 - "The Miracle of Easter" Matthew 28:1–10

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY (10:00 am)
"God Never Gives Up on You"

We will conclude the Bible Study, "God Never Gives Up on You" the first part of February. The two remaining sessions are as follows:

Jan. 31 – "Wrestling With God" Genesis 32:1-33:20

Feb. 7 – "Returning Home" Genesis 34:1-35:29

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS
"You Are never Alone"

In You Are Never Alone Video Bible Study, Max Lucado walks you through John's Gospel and explores Christ's miracles and how He's still at work in our lives today! In this six session video study, you'll discover you're stronger than you think because with Jesus in our lives, we are never truly alone. Tentative schedule:

Feb. 14 "God is With You in the Ordinary"

Feb. 21 "God is With You When You're Stuck"

Feb. 28 "God is With You in the Storm"

Mar. 6 "God is With You in the Dark"

Mar. 13 "God is With You in the Valley"

Mar. 20 "God is With You When You Need Grace"

Board of Education

January 3, 2024

Members: Rhonda Waddell, Jill Davis, Sue Macek, Pastor Raether

Library: We have a new book written by Dr Michael Youssef titled, "How to Read the Bible (as if your life depends on it)". The Bible starts from Genesis to Revelation which tells one story of man's rebellion against God and God's redemptive love for us. There's no book like the Bible and Dr Youssef explains why you should read it as if your life depends on it.

St. Paul: School resumes January 3rd, Jan 21-27 is National Lutheran School Week, and Jan 26th is Special person day.

Confirmation report: Will start January 10th.

Sunday School report: Wish to thank the Ron Brown family for supplying the Christmas sacks once again on Christmas Eve. Anxious to get back into the swing of things of studying stories of the Bible. We are on the 8th commandment.

Family Fellowship report: The date is set for February 11, 2024. Discussed food items. Will check with Northern Lights on food items. Continue discussion at our February meeting. Will include games and crafts.

Wednesday and Sunday Bible Study: Sunday session will be "Miracles of Lent" and Wednesday will be a new video on Max Lucado's series on "God Never Gives Up on You" (the life of Jacob).

Cradle Roll: none

Old Business: The VBS curriculum has been ordered.

New Business: none
Next meeting is February 7, 2024.

Sue Macek, Chairman

Lutheran Women's Fellowship

January 4, 2024

The Lutheran Women's Fellowship met on January 4, 2024 at 1 p.m. Seven members attended the meeting. Sally Zuspahn called the January meeting to order with prayer "Testing" and prayer for members not attending due to illness. The minutes of December 6, 2023 were given out, were read and approved.

Committee reports:

Treasurer, Card Counter, and Funeral Fund reports were all approved.

Old Business:

Shut-Ins Birthday: Delores Dencklau.

New Business:

February Funeral Committee: Connie Tyrrell & Jean Martinson.

Women's Fellowship Year Book: Members present reviewed 2023 book and made changes for 2024.

January 14: Christmas trees and decorations will be taken down to be stored.

Birthdays: Nancy Herzberg, Carol Locke, Connie Tyrrell.

February 1 Hostess: Noon Potluck.

Mites Devotion: Sally Zuspahn had devotion "What Happens In Heaven When We Pray". Sally Zuspahn closed meeting at 2:07 PM, with Mites Prayer, Lord's Prayer, and Table Prayer.

LaVonnie Peters, Secretary.



Jill Davis -(2/1), Emma Davis -(2/2), Alexis Malm -(2/2), Gavin Valley -(2/2), Alyssa Valley -(2/8), Bruce Heistand -(2/10), Nancy Kuebler -(2/17), Larry Hughes -(2/20), Euvon Miller -(2/23), Brenley Wertz -(2/23), Gerald Mason -(2/25)

Membership Report for January 2024

GAIN

Confirmed +

Baptized +

LOSS

Confirmed -

Baptized -

Kathleen Nelson
-deceased

Communicant =163-1=162
Baptized (not confirmed) = 46
Total baptized souls = 208

Financial Report January 2024

Income (Offerings)

Home/Current \$7,660.00, Missions Budget \$137.00, Loose Offerings \$88.92, Lutheran Witness \$58.25, Special Offering \$276.00, Miscellaneous \$240.00, Organ Fund \$100.00.

Total Offerings \$8,560.17

Expenses

Pastor \$2,125.00, Payroll \$1,039.57, Organist \$180.00, Television Ministry \$38.26, Office Supplies \$687.54, Computer/Internet \$389.30, Water \$105.78, Pest Control \$39.00, Gas & Electric \$643.00, Snow Removal \$900.00, Sanitation \$40.66, Property Repairs \$889.18, Miscellaneous \$975.70, W/H Tax \$149.32, Missions \$137.00, Charities \$276.00, Advertising \$296.00.

Total Expenses \$8,911.31

Net Income -\$ 351.14

ATTENDANCE

| <u>Sunday</u> | <u>Worship</u> | <u>Communion</u> |
|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| 1/7 | 41 | |
| 1/14 | cancelled | |
| 1/21 | 46 | |
| 1/28 | 44 | 43 |

The Voters of Prince of Peace, unanimously approved the recommendation:



PIPE ORGAN REPAIR & UPGRADE

The Voters of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church voted (January 21, 2024) to accept the bid from Levsen Organ Company of Buffalo, Iowa, to repair and upgrade our pipe organ. This company has been tuning the organ and did a complete review of the organ's condition. They recommended that the relay in the organ be replaced because it is a fire hazard, new stops on the existing pipes, a program to record the service and hymns (in case the organist is gone), and a number of upgrades which have come about over the years, all which will improve our organ. The cost of the repairs are quoted at will \$85,000.

The contract with Levsen, the congregation agrees to pay 20% of the cost when the agreement is signed, 40% at the start of production, 30% while in production and 10% when installation is complete. Once the agreement is signed, we will go on their schedule for the repair which will not take place until later this summer.

The Foundation has agreed to pay for the initial cost of \$85,000. Members of the congregation are encouraged to contribute to the "Organ Repair and Upgrade Fund" which will be used to reimburse the Foundation. The special gifts can be made in honor of a birthday, anniversary, or from receiving a special blessing from the Lord. Special envelopes are being prepared to be used for this project along with a barometer to indicate the progress being made to help reimburse some of the cost to the Foundation.

The Lord has blessed Prince of Peace with our pipe organ and organist which has enhanced and added beauty to our worship. We have been able to enter our Lord's presence with joy and praise.