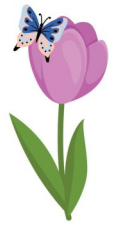




**TOWER  
ECHOES  
2025**



### **From the Pastor,**

Epiphany season is over. The time of seeing God's light shine in darkness and observing God in the simple, ordinary things in life. A star word was handed out at Grace to help one focus on God speaking to you in January and February.

Continue to let God speak to you through your star word. I will continue to "Be" in March. As in "Be" busy. Lent is a time when Pastors and churches add to their schedule but nothing is removed. My wife found it interesting that during the hectic holy week non-member friends would ask how her husband was holding up during this time while members were confused by the question. Non-members would point out that there was a lot of worship happening Holy Week. Members response was "Oh, yeah."

Sometimes we take each other for granted. But we also just do what we need to do to make the church run and offer the activities necessary to assist us in our faith. Don't forget to check in with each other in Lent. Some may be struggling with the Lenten discipline they chose to do this Lent. Some may be struggling with the extra time devoted to church in Lent. Some may be experiencing Lent for the first time with out their loved one.

For those with or without a star word, let us include the word "grace" as our Lenten star word. Lent is observed to prepare for Holy Week and the last Three Days. Lent is our time to prepare to receive God's grace coming off the cross. Let us focus on "grace" and how the word will speak to us in March and April.

Pastor Jim



### **Cultivating Love**

The theme for March is Cultivating Love through Response. We cultivate love when we respond to the gospel of Jesus in positive ways. God cultivates love in us through the Holy Spirit using the gospel to foster faith in us in God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Jesus instructs us to love our neighbors as ourselves. We do this as a response to the gospel. Sunday, February 23 the Gospel of Luke told us this love should even extend to our enemies. It is not always easy to respond to God's love by loving other people. Are there people in your life that make it difficult to respond to them in loving ways? Cultivating love is not always an easy thing to do. Just ask Jesus about that on April 18.

## *March Birthdays*

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Terry Panko  
Malia Ullrich  
2<sup>nd</sup> – Megan Moles  
3<sup>rd</sup> – Derrie Medina  
4<sup>th</sup> – Kristy Ebeler  
Darline Peters  
Briley Tams  
7<sup>th</sup> – Brenda Ullrich  
8<sup>th</sup> – Colleen Naber  
11<sup>th</sup> – Karen Cerny  
12<sup>th</sup> – Tim Weber  
Everett Bohling  
13<sup>th</sup> – Doug Armknecht  
14<sup>th</sup> – Todd Dorn  
15<sup>th</sup> – Bradie Medina  
Shyanne Thompson  
16<sup>th</sup> – Jay Ullrich  
22<sup>nd</sup> – Annika McDonald  
Cecelia Thompson  
24<sup>th</sup> – Arlin Brinkman  
27<sup>th</sup> – Mike Wiebke  
28<sup>th</sup> – Diane Wilken

## March Anniversaries

March 2nd - Rodney & Diane Roesener

March 15th - Robert & Judy Schmidt

## Lenten/Easter Offering

The offering for Lent has been designated to be sent to Oaks Indian Mission. The Easter Offering will go towards VBS.

## Candles for Mosaic

Mosaic in Beatrice is requesting candles, new or used, stick, pillar or glass-contained for an employment opportunity for their residents. The residents will melt the candles down and then add saw dust. Finally, the mixture is poured into small cups to cool and be sold as fire starters. The fire starters can be used in both fireplaces and fire pits. The price is \$5.00 for 20 cups.

## Lent in Antigua, Guatemala

Carl Purcell's cousin lives in Antigua, where they host the largest celebration of Lent and Holy Week in the world. This has allowed Carl and Sarah Purcell to participate in Antigua's solemn Lenten celebrations in March 2023 and 2024. Please join them on Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup> during fellowship for a presentation on the religious holy vigils, processions, carpets, and sculptures which make this event a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

***Don't forget to direct Choice Dollars®***

## Calling all Thrivent clients with membership!

Don't forget! If you're an eligible Thrivent client and have Choice Dollars® available to direct, you have till March 31<sup>st</sup> to Direct your final 2024 \$'s. For more info or to direct Choice Dollars, call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice." Or online at [thrivent.com/thriventchoice](https://thrivent.com/thriventchoice) or your local Agent at 402-269-3003.

If you have already directed your Choice Dollars—THANK YOU!

**Church Seasons:** The Church Season of Time After Epiphany ends with the Transfiguration of Our Lord March 2. The Lenten Season begins March 5 with the Ash Wednesday Service. The Lenten Season will run through April 13.

Church Seasons:    March 2 - Transfiguration of Our Lord  
                              March 17 - Patrick, bishop, missionary to Ireland, died 461  
                              March 19 - Joseph, Guardian of Jesus  
                              March 25 - Annunciation of Our Lord  
U. S. Holidays:    March 9 - Daylight Savings Time Begins  
                              March 17 - St. Patrick's Day  
                              March 20 - Spring Begins

### ***World Day of Prayer***

March 7, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. at St. Paul's UCC Osage Fellowship Hall, rural Cook, NE.  
Come join us for the afternoon. Guest speaker Chrissy Sheer will share information about her recent trip to Ambato, Ecuador. Everyone is welcome to attend—please bring a friend.  
Dessert & coffee will be served.

### **Midweek Lenten Services**

**March 5 Ash Wednesday** at Grace Lutheran Church including Holy Communion and disposition of Ashes.

We will use the Nebraska Synod material "Cultivating Love Through Call, Response and Conversation. A Lenten Journey" Themes are listed for each week.

The Thursday Luncheon Midweek Worship includes the worship and theme from the night before and lunch. People may begin gathering at 11:30 a.m. Worship will begin at 11:45 a.m. with lunch being served 11:47 a.m.—12:15 p.m. The service will continue following eating of the meal. People may arrive and leave as their schedules permit.

March 12 at Hope Lutheran Church—7:00 p.m.  
March 13 at Grace Gathering—begins @ 11:30 a.m.  
"We respond with our hands"

March 19 at Grace Lutheran Church—7:00 p.m.  
March 20 at Grace Gathering—begins @ 11:30 a.m.  
"We respond with our voices"


March 26 at Hope Lutheran Church—7:00 p.m.  
March 27 at Grace Gathering—begins @ 11:30 a.m.  
"We respond with our time"

April 2 at Grace Lutheran Church—7:00 p.m.  
April 3 at Grace Gathering—begins @ 11:30 a.m.  
"We respond with our talents"

April 9 at Hope Lutheran Church—7:00 p.m.  
April 10 at Grace Gathering—begins @ 11:30 a.m.  
"What is holding us back from responding?"

# March 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>2</p> <p>8:30 am Worship w/ Communion 9:30 am Sunday School</p> 	3	4 Piecemakers Blanket Making	5 8th Confirmation 6:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship @ Grace Lutheran 7:00 p.m.	6	7 World Day of Prayer @ St. Paul's UCC- Osage-2:00 p.m.	1
<p>9</p> <p>8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School Purcell Lenten Presentation</p>	10 Bible Study 2:00 pm	11 Piecemakers Blanket Making Sharing Salad Luncheon	12 Kids for Christ 4:00 pm Lenten Worship @ Hope Lutheran 7:00 p.m.	13 Thursday Lenten Gathering @ Grace Lutheran 11:30 a.m.	14	15
<p>16</p> <p>8:30 am Worship w/ Communion 9:30 am Sunday School</p>	17	18 Piecemakers Blanket Making Church Council 7:00 p.m.	19 8th Confirmation 6:00 p.m. Lenten Worship @ Grace Lutheran 7:00 p.m.	20 Thursday Lenten Gathering @ Grace Lutheran 11:30 a.m.	21	22
<p>23</p> <p>8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School</p>	24	25 Piecemakers Blanket Making	26 Kids for Christ 4:00 pm Lenten Worship @ Hope Lutheran 7:00 p.m.	27 Thursday Lenten Gathering @ Grace Lutheran 11:30 a.m.	28	29
<p>30</p> <p>8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School</p>	31					



## **Grace Lutheran Church**

### **February 17, 2025**

The regular meeting of the Grace Lutheran Church Council was called to order by President Cheryl Grundman at 7:00 pm. The members present were Cheryl Grundman, Sarah Purcell, Mike Carman, Robin Eggleston & Jody Wellensiek. Pastor Helgren led with an opening prayer.

Minutes of the January 2025 and Reorganizational meeting were reviewed. Sarah Purcell motioned to accept the minutes, Mike Carman second. Minutes approved.

**The Treasurer's report** was reviewed. Sarah Purcell motioned to accept the treasurer's report. Jody Wellensiek second, motion carried.

#### **Pastor's report:**

Visitation conducted with congregation shut-ins.

Linda Daniels has moved to Hillcrest Shadow Lake

Orchard Park visitation

Zoom meeting with mentor.

February 26th will lead worship at Linden View.

February 26th -Faith Forward coffee break scheduled

Faith forward grandparent workshop scheduled, mentor workshop, parent workshop.

Kids for Christ/Confirmation. Kaiden Dorn's date of confirmation change to 2/23/25 due to illness.

Signed up for 2/25 webinar, Cluster meeting.

Lenten meals will be served on Thursdays following Wednesday evening worship –  
beginning March 13th, 11:30 – 1:00. Meal, fellowship, brief message.

World Day of Prayer 3/7/25 at Osage.

Confirmation class cancelled past 2 weeks, due to weather. Confirmation is scheduled for 4/27/24.

#### **Correspondence reviewed:**

2025 Info for submitting resolutions for Synod Assembly.

Mission Share commitment form

2025 Leader Directory

Toolbox Leadership Training

#### **Committee Reports –**

##### **Property - (Robin Eggleston Chair)**

Snow removal, Thanks for Brian Mannschreck, Dave Smith, and Mike Carman

### **Worship, Evangelism & Fellowship ( Sarah Purcell Chair) –**

Green hymnals being taken out of church.

Senior Breakfast is schedule for Sunday May 4<sup>th</sup> – Kali Drake and Tucker Thomas.

New Liturgy Setting 10 will begin on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent.

Bulletin Board updates in progress. Thanks to Lisa Weber and Kids for Christ.

### **Parish Ed & young people – (Mike Carman Chair)**

Kids for Christ and Sunday School in progress.

### **Stewardship & Memorial – (Jody Wellensiek Chair)**

Wilken name plate received and installed – Thanks to Gene Ekhooff.

Information planned for designated offerings.

### **Old Business**

Worship Duty schedule reviewed – Members are asked to sign up to take a Sunday or two.

### **New Business**

Noisy coin offering and Lenten offerings – Sarah Purcell motioned and Robin Eggleston second to designate to Oaks Indian Center and then take a break from Noisy Coin.

Osagers 4-H club approved to use basement on 2/23/25.

Lenten schedule – Ash Wednesday at Grace, Maundy Thursday at Hope, Good Friday at Grace.

Wednesday Lenten Services alternate weekly. Pastor doesn't plan on participating in a round robin.

The Young People will provide fellowship following worship on 3/19/25 and 4/2/25.

Volunteer wanted to chair Sunrise Service.

**Thank-you to Anonymous Donors for generous donations of 8 office chairs, followed by 15 additional chairs, funds for Pastor's Discretionary Fund, and 25 new Hymnals.**

Next meeting – Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.

Meeting adjourned with Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Jody Wellensiek

**Oaks Indian Mission** provides a faith-based and nurturing environment for children and other vulnerable people to thrive within their communities. Grace has designated the Lenten Offerings to support the mission of the organization.

## **Confirmation for Kaiden Dorn**

The Rite of Confirmation was held on Sunday, February 23rd during the worship service for Kaiden Dorn. He has completed his 3 year confirmation program and was confirmed into the faith which he was baptized.

## **SAVE LABELS AND CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR COMMUNITY**

Clip and collect labels from Best Choice, Clearly Best Choice, and Best Choice Superior Selections for your favorite non-profit organizations.

The Save-A-Label program helps non-profit organizations and schools easily raise needed money. These labels need to be sent in the Best Choice Company in groups of 1,000 UPC symbols. Some items to look for are: canned goods, dairy items, baking products, cereals, etc. These products are carried by independent local grocers. These nearby grocers have them in stock: Tecumseh Central Market, Russ's Market in Beatrice, Super Savers & Russ's Market in Lincoln.

I will mark a container for the labels and have it in the church kitchen.

Thank you for your help.

Karen Cerny







## Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Jim Helgren: 402-864-2113

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