

Grace Lutheran

179 Holiday Island Drive Holiday Island, AR 72631

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February 2023

We at Grace Lutheran Church are called to reach, teach and be the people of God, as stewards of the Word and gifts of God.

From The Pastor's Desk

As we make our way into the second month of the year, and my second month as Pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, Holiday Island I want to thank the members of Grace for the great turnout for my Installation Service on Sunday, January 8th. And also, a special thanks to the ladies of Grace for the nice meal following the service. I heard wonderful complements aimed toward the dinner and those whose hands were put to the task of providing it all, and serving the same. Thank you again for the loving and welcoming way that I have been received.

Along with preparing for the Sunday Divine Services, and the Bible Studies offered here at Grace, I have been busy attempting to organize the Pastor's Study and gain

access to the various programs and subscriptions that our computer age demands. As you know the combination of technology and old age has a way of making some things more difficult than they should be. I'm also learning about what our office staff (the Rev. Ken Haydon) needs from me each week so he is able to continue to serve Grace by formatting and printing the weekly bulletin, monthly newsletter, and the many other items he produces and provides for the members of Grace. I can be a slow learner 😊 .

With the arrival of February, we find ourselves in the middle of the season of Epiphany. During the season of Epiphany we learn more and more about the person and work of the child born on that first Christmas. Epiphany answers the

question, "Who is this child?" This will conclude with Transfiguration Sunday, February 19th. That's the day we find Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration as we hear the voice of the Father say: "This is My Son, listen to Him."

The Epiphany Season is followed by the season of Lent beginning With Ash Wednesday on February 22nd. The Season of Lent answers the question, "Why did The Father send His Son?" The Penitential Season of Lent reminds us of our need of a Savior from our sin. The simple answer to the question, "Why did The Father send His Son?" is that I am a sinner in need of a Savior. It is in the person and work of Jesus that we find our salvation.

See you next Sunday! If not before.

Paster Schultz



MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES BEGIN ON FEBRUARY 22ND WITH ASH WEDNESDAY

The Detroit Lions—a largely hapless NFL franchise—have as one of their cheers, "Restore the Roar!" The Book of Amos has this as its singular goal: to restore the rightful roar from *the* Lion, Lord Yahweh, the God of Israel. The temptation is to put our hands over our ears to drown out His roar. The world, the devil, and our old Adam tempt us to clip the claws on the Lion and clean up His bloody Passion we are called to follow. But the Bride of Christ is called to holy reverence before the LORD, the King of the universe.

Beginning with Ash Wednesday we will listen and learn from the Lion using the Book of Amos.







Men's Fellowship

Meets the second Monday of the month in the fellowship hall. We enjoy time together, breakfast, and a program. We welcome all our men to join in this time and share.



The Officers and Council were installed into office by Pastor Schulz.

Grace Lutheran Women's Guild

The Women's Guild met on January 17, 2023. 10:00 AM

There were 11 women present along with 3 children. President Terri Herman opened the meeting with prayer.

Devotion by Sharon Schultz (Psalm 91: 1-2, The Soldier's Psalm from the book:

Words of Peace & Protection, by Deb Burman.

November Minutes – approved as presented. **Treasurers Report** approved as presented.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- **Mission & Purpose** Is now hanging on the wall in the Fellowship Hall.
- Missions
 - Bernie gave a report on the status of Flint Street Food Bank.
 - Terri asked if anyone had any Mission Project of interest.
 - Barbara presented the GLWG Annual Year in Review - Summarized below:

We held 7 monthly meetings; Planned and carried out 12 events: Including hosting 5 meals, Rummage Sale, Car Parking in ES, Organized Angel Tree giving for 7 students, Provided Mission support for several Projects and one Seminary Student & family along with Christmas for an "Into the Light" -trafficking survivor. We thank & praise the Lord for all His gifts and the opportunities He provided us to share his Love in a variety of different ways. All we achieved is by His Grace alone.

"Into the Light" – Barbara shared with the group the items provided for our Adopted Trafficking Survivor, through "Into the Light".

• **GLWG Cookbook** – Tabled.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Valentines Dinner arrangements discussed.
 - o "DEPOT DINER" 23032 Brushy Lane Golden, MO. Monday February 13, 2023. Watch for carpool and time information. \$36.00 per person or 72.00 per couple (incl gratuity).
- **Spring Outing-** Discussion and planning underway. Tentative date of May 16, 2023. Ladies, mark your calendars. Keep your eyes and ears open for more details as they are established.
- Lenten Meal Our Ash Wednesday Service will be held February 22, 2023. A Taco Bar will be provided after the service. Come join us in the fellowship hall for this meal and fellowship.
- **Easter Sunday** April 9, 2023. Mark your Calendars.

REMINDERS:

Next Meeting. February 14, 2023 10:00 am Fellowship & 11:00 am Meeting

Mite Box Collection: \$ 62.65. Thank you to everyone that dropped your change and bills into the Women's Guild, Mite Box. These Mites will be utilized for Mission projects in the future. May God Bless you for your generosity.

All women of the congregation are invited to attend the Guild Meetings. Our meetings are normally held the 3rd Tuesday of the Month. Fellowship at 10:00 with the Meeting starting at 11:00. If you have questions, please ask a Guild member.

Respectfully Submitted: Barbara Herring, Secretary

If He does not support us, not one of us is safe from some gross sin. On the other hand, no possible degree of holiness or heroism which has ever been recorded of the greatest saints is beyond what He is determined to produce in every one of us in the end. The job will not be completed in this life: but He means to get us as far as possible before death.

From: Mere Christianity by CS Lewis

Church Words: Sanctification



When we talk about <u>Justification</u>, we talked about the very good news that Jesus <u>saves</u> us by <u>grace</u> alone, through <u>faith</u> alone for Christ's sake alone. When God declares us "not guilty" from his throne, we really are "not guilty" for our sins and will not be punished for them. This is because Jesus was punished in our place on the cross. We are now holy in God's sight as if we had never sinned in the first place.

There is one problem — we still sin. In one of the settings of the Divine Service in the *Lutheran Service Book*, we recite to each other during confession a passage from the First Letter of St. John, which makes this clear. We're

fooling ourselves if we think we don't sin. (1 John 1:8-9) St. Paul discusses the war within himself between his new Adam and his old Adam in Romans 7. God solves this problem by sending his Holy Spirit to make us holy. This process is called sanctification.

The word is borrowed directly from the Latin word that means, "to make holy." Lutheran theologians use it two ways. In general, sanctification includes everything the Holy Spirit does to make us holy from when he uses baptism and the preaching of the gospel to create faith in our hearts to the day we die or Christ returns and he purges sin from our lives forever. Because Catholics believe a person isn't fully saved until sin is completely gone from their lives, including time in purgatory after death, Lutheran theologians prefer to use it in a more specific way to everything the Holy Spirit does after God justifies us.

When we talk about sanctification this way, we talk about it as a process. Using God's word and the Lord's Supper, the Holy Spirit changes our hearts. Now we want to please God — not to bribe him to save us, but to serve God because we love him. We now do truly good works and these in turn help us in the battle between our sinful self and our saintly self. Even then these works are not strictly ours — God prepares them for us to do in the same way a teacher prepares homework for us to do. (Ephesians 2:10) This struggle lasts all of our lives, but is complete the day we die. On that day, Jesus will greet us and say, "Well done, good and faithful servant!" and welcomes us into his eternal kingdom.

Rev. Robert E. Smith Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne, Indiana

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CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

is the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God's family, the church, in managing all of life and life's resources for God's purposes.



Pastor Schultz getting started!

As we welcome Pastor Schultz, please keep him and the work of our congregation in your prayers.