

**We believe that God loves us without regard** for our race or culture, national origin, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, relationship status, physical or mental health, life circumstance or socio-economic situation. Therefore, we extend that same grace-filled love to you.

**The work of welcome is hard;** the way of love is always a work in process. But we're committed to the biblical call of reconciliation and to change what we need to, both personally and as a community, so that we – all of us together – become a living sign of God's extravagant grace.

**In Christ's name, all are welcome here.** We are honored by your presence and by your participation in helping us make this vision of welcome a reality for all people.

*Our VISION is*

*"to be a Christ-centered*

*Community who welcomes all, grows in faith, and reaches out in love."*

*Our MISSION is*

*"to follow Christ into our community and world manifesting with caring hearts and helping hands the good news of the Kingdom of God."*



**Whoever you are, Whatever your past,  
However you live, Whomever you love –  
You are welcome here.**



## **The Cup of Our Life: A Guide for Spiritual Growth by Joyce Rupp**

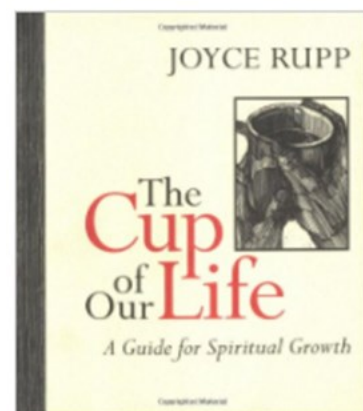
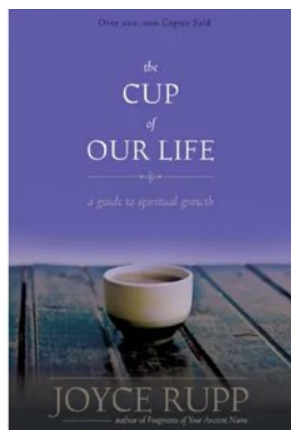
During the Lenten season Pr Dorothy is leading a six-week spiritual growth journey called *The Cup of Our Life*, by Joyce Rupp. The book is a daily guide for this retreat with a cup as the image of our life. Each day's practice includes Scripture, prayer, reflection, and journaling over six days, with the seventh day for gathering (via Zoom).

If you are interested in participating in this six-week journey, please contact Pr Dorothy. You will need a book, which can be obtained online ([abebooks.com](http://abebooks.com), [alibris.com](http://alibris.com), [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) or order through the Book Bin (Blue cover is newer, beige cover is earlier edition). The book cost is between \$4 to \$15, depending on where you purchase. You will also need to select a cup or mug as your companion for this journey, and a journal or notebook for writing.

The start date will be in the week of Feb 8-11, but is yet to be determined. Pr Dorothy is looking at Tuesday afternoons or Thursday evenings for the weekly gathering reflection time (1.5 hours). Please indicate which works for you. All are welcome. Invite a friend.

Contact Pr Dorothy at [prdorthy@grace97330.org](mailto:prdorthy@grace97330.org) or call 541.377.1354

More information will follow once you express interest.



## Prayers

*This prayer list is a compilation of the requests we have received at Grace throughout the month of December. For a more timely update to the prayers, send your email address to [prayers@grace97330.org](mailto:prayers@grace97330.org), and ask to be part of the prayer list.*

## Prayers

- ⇒ Helen Hildebrandt
- ⇒ Darlene Leklem
- ⇒ Ruth, Wendell's mother

### Death:

- ⇒ Karen, friend of Martha
- ⇒ Ian, family friend of Wendell
- ⇒ Marion, Steve's Mother

### Births

- ⇒ Clementine, granddaughter to Mary Ann and Gordon

## Giving at a Glance Support the many ministries of Grace

### Contributions as of January 14, 2021

Contributions for the Month of January: \$ 24,995;  
January's Budget: \$ 32,200;  
Last 2 Weeks Giving: \$ 4,512;  
Weekly Budget: \$ 8,050;  
YTD contributions: \$24,955;  
YTD budget: \$ 32,200

## Grace Personnel

**Interim Pastor**—Dorothy Nielsen

**Bookkeeper** - Robin Comforto

**Custodian** - Outside Contractor

**Director of Discipling Ministries** - Donna King

**Director of Music Ministries** - Bryson Skaar

**Facebook Administrator** - Rebekah Hadlock

**Financial Secretary:** Mary Stephens

**Nursery** - Mackenzie & Rachel Burnett,  
Christina Lundahl, Katie Olsen & Melissa Smith

**Office Administrator** - Andrea Barnhurst

**Office Assistant** - Jody Parker

**Organist/Pianist** - Sunghee Kim

**Percussion** - Kelsey Bleck

**Prayer Chain** - Cathy Mueller & Bruce Stephens

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If you would like a visitation or to schedule an appointment with a member of the ministerial staff, please call the office at 541.757.1600. You are welcome to leave a message on the answering machine at any hour.

Visit our Grace web page at: [www.grace97330.org](http://www.grace97330.org)

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### Teams & Committees

**Property Committee** - Ron Larson, 541.752.0754

**Communications Committee**

Bob Keith, 541.990.2883

**Sunday Hospitality**

Dayle Christensen, 541.602.2818

**Events Hospitality**

Molly Hallgrimson, 541.753.8581

**Christian Education Team**

Deaconess Donna King, 541.757.6636

**Altar Guild** - Linda Samuels, 541.929.4222

**Worship & Music Committee**

Michael Beachley, 541.754.5501

**Finance Committee** - Hal Brauner, 541.753.0023

**Personnel Committee** - Nancy Strohlein,  
541.926.5747

**Hospital Visitation Team** - Dale Weber,  
541.757.3043

**Healing Prayer Team** - Sue Davis, 541.924.2922

**Mission Groups** - Bob Saathoff, 541.929.3045

**Stewardship Committee**

Dave Lundahl, 541.757.1358

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### Campus Ministry at Luther House

Mike Ostrom, Pastor, 541.753.5213

**Volunteer Interfaith Caregivers**

Norma Moody, 541.754.2555

Dear People of Grace,

As God continues showing us who God is, may you be enlivened by Christ's light in our dark days of pandemic.

This article was submitted LATE! I make a public apology to Andrea for holding things up! She makes every publication look great, and she gives me the prod- ding I need these days to kept on track. She is a blessing to you and me.

Lent is just upon us; Ash Wednesday is February 17<sup>th</sup>. This penitential season has traditionally been somewhat somber, which has its place. In the early Church this was a time of preparation for baptism during Easter Vigil, a time of recalling God's covenant made with us through water and the Word. An un- breakable bond has been forged between God and us, beloved children.

Reclaiming out baptismal identity is a good focus for this Lenten season. On Ash Wednesday we will hear again the prophet Joel's call to return to God, who is gracious and merciful...Since repentance (Grk: *metanoia*) is about changing direction, returning to God seems to be a good direction to go. Right?

So, what if you were to change direction on some thing in your life. What would that look like? How about adding in some quiet time with God? Some people enjoy devotions with God in the morning, while others pre- fer in the afternoon or evening. Over 25 years ago my quiet time was commuting to Berkeley from the Penin- sula—37 miles. With the radio off, the tape deck off, I could drive and listen for God. That time kept me grounded, as I was also working in San Francisco. My car became my place of prayer and listening. I am get- ting back to that quiet time with God during my twice a week commute from Silverton to Corvallis.

What I have discovered over and over is this God who has come close enough to listen to all the beloved chil- dren. With practice it gets easier to listen for God's voice to speak. What do you hear God saying to you? Maybe God speaks to you through a song. Or a poem. Or a bird's happy chirping. God uses all kinds of means to speak to us, if we quiet our lives a bit to listen, to connect.

Some people have chosen to sign off from social media, as a fast, for the season of Lent. In the past a few have decided to completely stop their use of social media once Easter comes. Several very artistic people I know have created special artwork during Lent, even on social media, posting only their work, which inspires the rest of us.

If we were to take some time to chat over coffee, tea, or soda, there could be a whole host of ideas for Lenten disciplines. Learning something new, or reconnecting with something that has been meaningful and helpful can help in developing one's spiritual life in Christ Jesus.

The spiritual retreat using *The Cup of Our Life*, by Joyce Rupp, is one of those special resources for me. Each day has new moments with God where I can reconnect with my baptismal identity as one of God's be- loved children.

Lent is another of those "new beginnings" for us. Like September return to the usual schedule, or January 1 begins the new year, Lent gives us a time of new beginning, or beginning again. Lent is a gift of reconnecting with God, of grounding our lives so that we can listen and learn and know that we are profoundly loved.

I invite you into the Lenten season to rediscover your life in Christ, or maybe even discover it for the first time. Our God is the One who makes sacred promises to us and keeps them.

Listening, watching, and connecting with the One who loves us,

Pr Dorothy+

**Pastor Dorothy Nielsen**

*Contact Information*

Cell: 541-377-1354

Email:

[prdorothy@grace97330.org](mailto:prdorothy@grace97330.org)

*Pastor Dorothy's*

*On Site Working Days*

*Thursday & Sunday*

*Off Site Working Days*

*Monday - Wednesday &  
Saturday*

## A Blessing from My Father

It has been a blessing to serve on the stewardship team now for over ten years. I have learned so much from my fellow teammates. Yet, it was my father, Rev. Stuart Lundahl, who taught me the most.

My dad was an ELCA pastor. Many of you knew him as my parents worshiped many times at Grace before he passed away 5 ½ years ago. I learned through his words and his deeds. He was the most giving person I've ever known. He said that stewardship was not about money. For him, giving was an act of joy. I remember him often going out of his way to help neighbors, parishioners and sometimes complete strangers (many times secretly) to lend a hand. As a result, I know his life was abundantly rich, not in terms of money, but in giving to others. Serving, helping, comforting, teaching, contributing, loving and blessing.

In these difficult times, there is so much we can do to give assurance where there is uncertainty, comfort to those in grief, and acts to foster peace through this time of unrest. I am thankful for my blessings and the many blessings that come from being part of the Grace community. I think back to my dad who taught me the joy of giving. May you also.

Dave Lundahl, Stewardship Chair

## Thanks to everyone who participated in Grace's first Empathy workshop!

Local retreat leader and spiritual director Cammie Bella and our own Wendy Geist did a wonderful job leading our first Empathy workshop. In just an hour, they led us into better listening through empathy rather than sympathy. If you'd like to see one of the videos from the workshop, check out "The Power of Empathy," narrated by Dr Brené Brown (3 minutes.) It's memorable!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jz1g1SpD9Zo>

## When should Grace Reopen?

The Reopening Steering Committee will soon be looking for your input on when Grace should reopen its doors to in-person worship services. To this end, the Committee has been working on a survey which will help us understand the thoughts and feelings of our congregation about returning to in-person worship in the current Covid-19 situation. In the coming weeks, a letter and survey will be mailed and emailed to members of the congregation. Please fill out the survey and return it via mail or email. The decision to reopen will be based on guidance from the State of Oregon and the Oregon Synod as well as the opinions of our members. Our priority, as always, is the safety of our members and all those who attend our services.

Thank you from the Reopening Steering Committee

Nancy Hemming  
Bob Keith  
Ron Larson  
Andrea Barnhurst  
Rebekah Hadlock

## If you go to the hospital . . .

It used to be that our pastors and the members of our Hospital Visitation Team could go to the hospital and see if any of our members had been hospitalized. In these days of Covid-19, however, we are unable to go into the hospital lobby. Neither can we receive information over the phone. So, if you become aware that any of our members or family of our members have been hospitalized, the pastor would greatly appreciate you sharing this with them. Also, please know that we will respect any and all requests for confidentiality.

### Connecting via Phone



Thanks to those members of Grace who have taken on a ministry of checking in on some of the more isolated members of our community during this time of “sheltering at home.” Given this, there may still be a need for conversation that we have not anticipated. If you’re someone who would like to be assigned a “phone friend,” please call the church office, 541-757-1600, and leave a message to let us know. We will make sure someone gets in touch with you.



### Address Change

Former Grace Pastors Netsie Griffith and Wendell Hendershott have now settled in their new home. Please contact the office if you are interested in receiving their new address.

## January Council Minutes

January Council Minutes, Executive Committee meeting, and other interesting items can be found in a binder on the church office counter. Should you want them emailed to you, please just notify us at [office@grace97330.org](mailto:office@grace97330.org). You are also welcome to attend council meetings, should you want to know what is going on or have something you would like to talk about.

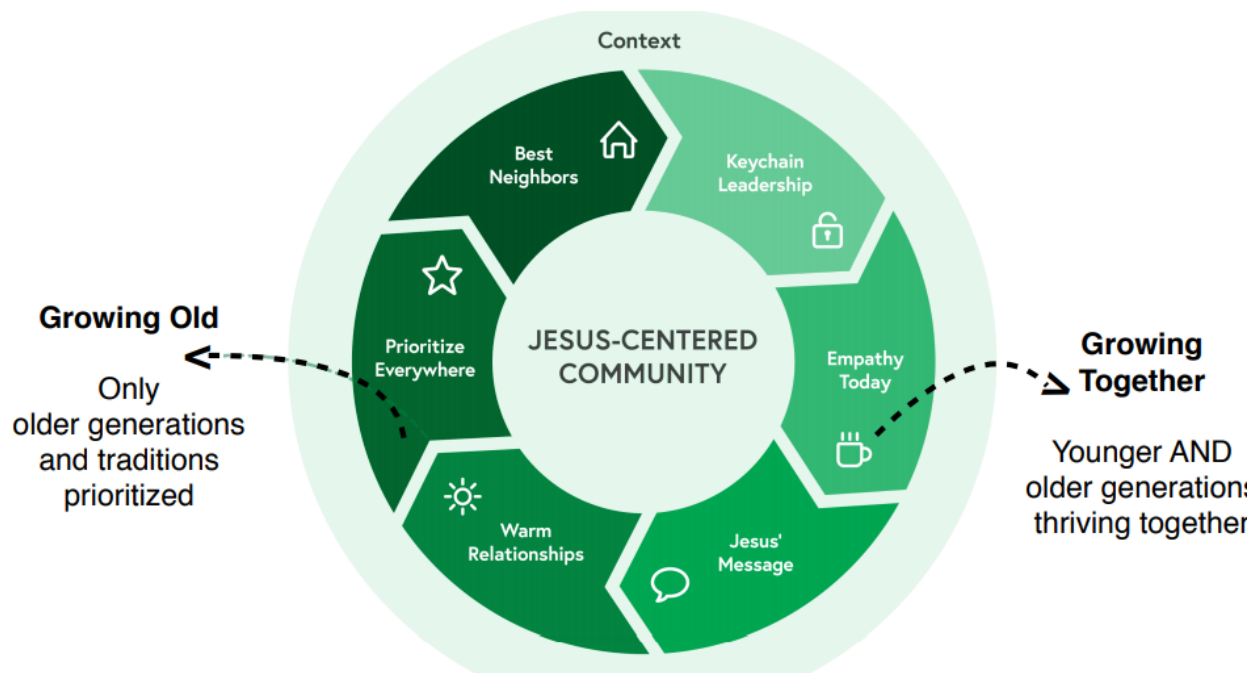
January Meeting Minutes can be found online at:  
<https://grace97330.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Council-meeting-minutes-01-11-21-00000002.pdf>

*Church Council Reports are  
always available in the  
church office for you to read.*



**President:**  
Bob Keith  
**Vice President:**  
Rebekah Hadlock  
**Secretary:**  
Nancy Hemming  
**Treasurer:**  
Hal Brauner  
**Financial Secretary:**  
Mary Stephens  
**Council Members:**  
Meredith Junge  
Jim Leklem  
Dave Lundahl  
Pr. Dorthy Nielsen  
Anne Schroeder  
Sandie Williams  
Kendra Wollert  
Vacant: 2 Spots

## Growing Young Means Growing Together!



In retrospect, the researchers say they might have changed the name: Growing Young really means Growing Together. “Everyone rises when younger generations are included.”

While it is true that most churches’ average age is growing older and older, Fuller Youth Institute (FYI) studied 250 congregations who are doing well engaging young people in ministry. These strategic churches are discovering that the generations really can grow together. Wouldn’t this be a wonderful future for Grace?

Grace’s Christian Education Committee finds this research so promising that we’ve joined a cohort of teams from congregations around the world who are spending a year learning how to put Growing Young into practice.

The researchers tell us that the pivot point comes when congregations “prioritize young people (and families) everywhere. Instead of giving lip service to how much young people matter, look for creative ways to tangibly support, resource, and involve them in all facets of your congregation.”

It might not need to be said, but this means something different than getting young people to do things the way we’ve always done them. It also means something different than letting go of the past and looking to young people to have all the answers. What it does mean is honoring the space between us, and Jesus in the midst of it. It means engaging our differences and similarities – hearing one another’s voices, really listening for God calling...

Here’s a challenge: This month have a conversation with someone from a different generation. Really listen. Share your dreams, your hopes for the world. Don’t evaluate. Don’t correct. Just listen. Pay attention. Who knows where God is calling us?



## Birthday Blessings!

*Please let the office know if there is a birthdate listed incorrectly, or if we have omitted someone in error.*

David Triebes	02/04
Bob Zwang	02/04
Michael Franklin	02/05
Ron Olson	02/07
Bobbie Kelly	02/09
Ardis Koester	02/09
Donna Wernz	02/09
Sue Musil	02/13
Linda Roberts	02/14
Bonnie Zwang	02/19

Brenda Beck	02/21
Debbie Zeller	02/21
Toney Logan	02/23
Jerrold Koester	02/24
Katie Olsen	02/24
Gloria Werth	02/25
Joy Martin	02/27
Brandy Greeley	02/28
Noel Vineyard	02/28

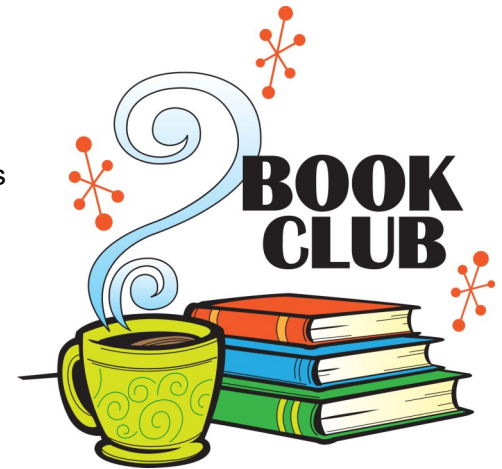
## February meeting of the Grace Globaliers

The Grace Globaliers will be meeting Thursday, Feb. 4, at noon on Zoom. This month's book is "Red Bricks" by Anne Muccino. We are fortunate that the author will be able to join us. The discussion will be led by her sister, Marcie Nairn. The book is set in New Mexico in the 1930's. A young ranch hand loses everything and heads west hoping to find a young woman he met, but lost. He encounters danger and ugly human trafficking as he makes his way to the barrios of Juarez. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Mary Ann Matzke at [maryann.matzke@gmail.com](mailto:maryann.matzke@gmail.com) for the Zoom link.

### Upcoming Books

**March 4** - "The Refuge: An Unnatural History of Family and Place" by Terry Tempest Williams and led by Carol Erickson

**April 8** - "The Hate U Give" by Angie Thomas and led by Marilyn Works



# Grace Gatherings

While the church is closed, printed copies of Grace Gatherings are available by request. Please contact the church office to request a printed copy of Grace Gatherings to be mailed to your home.

## Ways to view Worship Services

The different ways to view the worship service has expanded over the pandemic. We have moved from prerecorded videos, to live stream worship videos and are excited to announce that weekly services are now being broadcast on Channel 29 on Sunday at 10 am. See the list below for all the ways to view the service and spread the word to others.

- Click the link through the worship email
- Go to our website [www.grace97330.org](http://www.grace97330.org) and find that week's worship information
- Subscribe to us on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcu6Umlkeegd9g4UuZ0ksqg> and watch the live worship at 10 am on Sundays
- Tune into Channel 29 on Xfinity (Comcast) to watch the previous weeks Worship Service. Broadcast will occur on Sundays at 10 am.



## Ways to log your attendance.

- Printed Attendance Sheets: Printed attendance sheets can be found in the printed copies of grace Gatherings or by request. Please return this sheet via mail or email to the church office
- Electronic Attendance Sheets: An electronic version of the attendance sheet can be found in the newsletter email and at the link below. Print a copy and either mail or email it to the church <https://grace97330.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Service-Attendance-Sheets.pdf>
- Web-based Google Form: Please fill out the web-based Google form to record your attendance. <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfUoE7Ch3eWxqudwLfFoHm-eqUtXG-X2kQ1kt8d65ToTTBtRA/viewform>
- Email the Office: Email the church office at [office@grace97330.org](mailto:office@grace97330.org) with your attendance.
- Call the Church Office: Call the church office at 541-757-1600 and let Jody or Andrea know your attendance.
- Comment: Comment in the Live Stream or in the Comment section of the upload you watched. If you have questions on how to do this, please contact Andrea in the office.

## New Giving Method: Give+ Mobile

We have a new method of giving available using your smartphone and the Give+ Mobile app. With Give+ Mobile, you can use your smartphone to make secure, convenient one-time or recurring donations to Grace Lutheran Church in 3 easy steps:

1. Search for the church name
2. Select a fund and amount to give
3. Provide your checking/savings account information

In addition, you can choose to create a Give+ account to save your information for future donations, manage your giving and review your donation history — all from your phone.

Go to the App Store or Google Play and search "give plus church" or click below to download now.



## Adult Bible Study December 2020, January and February 2021

We will continue to email to those that wish until we are able to meet together again. Contact Frank or Sue at [fssndavis@msn.com](mailto:fssndavis@msn.com) if you wish to get the Bible Study lessons or ZOOM with our class on Wednesdays at 6 pm. Stay well.

### Call in the New Testament

During this quarter we will examine God's call in stories found in the New Testament. Of course, the greatest call came to Jesus. The other calls in the new Testament led to the extension of Christian ministry into the known world.

The call stories of the Old Testament are probably better known than those in the Christian scriptures, the New Testament. We can name Moses' call in the burning bush story. We remember that Isaiah's call in the temple resulted in his saying, "Here I am, Lord, send me." We may recall from Sunday school days the call of the young Samuel in Eli's house in the middle of the night. And the lineup of Jesse's sons that ended up with David being anointed as the future king has shaped our expectations of what God's call looks like.

While it's true that the Old Testament narratives of call have a bit of drama, they are not the only way God calls people. Jesus taught his disciples that everyone brings something to the table when it comes to bringing God's realm to everyday life. And God doesn't call only those who are qualified. Quite the opposite – often God empowers the very people we would not expect.

From foreign wise men to rich women to gentle old men, God provides what is needed through ordinary people like you and me. We have our own unique calls to bring the good news of God's love to our friends, families, neighbors, and coworkers.

The goals of this study include developing a broader and deeper understanding of God's call and an appreciation for the ways people respond positively to that call. We will gain familiarity with several books of the New Testament and the call stories found there.

### Our Writer

Chip Borgstadt is called husband, dad, and grandpa and is also blessed to be called pastor of Bethesda Lutheran Church in Moorhead, Iowa, and St. John Lutheran Church in Dunlap, Iowa. He and his wife love to travel, garden, and spend time with family.

### Luther House Campus Ministry

Luther House is open again and meeting with OSU Students.

See Luther House's facebook and website for the latest update.

Luther House can be found at:

<https://www.facebook.com/lutherhouseosu/>

<http://www.luther-house.org/>





## Camp Lutherwood

### Mark the Calendar!

The Annual Meeting of the Camp Lutherwood Association will be held on Saturday, February 6th at 9:30am on Zoom. Each Association congregation (those who give to camp during the calendar year) receive one vote. All are invited to attend and take part in the dedication of the brand new bridge and dining hall at camp which will take place during the meeting. Attendees register now: [REGISTER HERE](#) For questions please contact the camp office at 541-998-6444 or [office@lutherwoodoregon.org](mailto:office@lutherwoodoregon.org)

### Now Hiring for Summer 2021

2021 Summer Staff applications are now available online at [lutherwoodoregon.org/employment](http://lutherwoodoregon.org/employment). Staff members must be at least 18 years of age by June 1, 2021 and willing to serve in a variety of roles this summer. For questions contact the camp office at [office@lutherwoodoregon.org](mailto:office@lutherwoodoregon.org) or call 541-998-6444

### COVID-19 & Camp Lutherwood Oregon

At this time camp is open to guests by private appointment only. Please contact the office to make arrangements to ensure that we are able to accommodate all safety requirements at 541-998-6444 or [office@lutherwoodoregon.org](mailto:office@lutherwoodoregon.org) for more information and to make your request.

## Grace Center News

As you all know, Grace Center has been closed for our regular programming because of the Corona Virus. Rules have limited the number severely so that our beautiful building has hosted mostly staff with outreach to our participants. They have done some very creative things. However, with the good news that our new vaccines have been available, there is hope that the center could restore some services because all of our staff is being vaccinated. The Benton County Health Department had reached out to Grace Center to align them with the vaccine project who in turn, vaccinated our staff at no cost to the center or the staff. The majority of the Grace Center staff has received the COVID-19 vaccine, and there is opportunity for the rest of the staff to do so as well. Grace Center is working closely with the health department in the direction of re-opening the center to more clients. Keep your good thoughts with it. The Grace Center is looking up!



## The Season After Epiphany

### Sunday, February 7, 2021 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

#### **Introduction**

In Isaiah the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars also strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service (diakonia). Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted up and healed to serve. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.

#### **Readings and Psalm**

Isaiah 40:21-31

*The creator of all cares for the powerless*

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

*The Lord heals the brokenhearted. (Ps. 147:3)*

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

*A servant for the sake of the gospel*

Mark 1:29-39

*The healing of Peter's mother-in-law*

#### **Prayer of the Day**

Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
Amen.



### Sunday, February 14, 2021 Transfiguration of Our Lord

#### **Introduction**

The Sundays after Epiphany began with Jesus' baptism and end with three disciples' vision of his transfiguration. In Mark's story of Jesus' baptism, apparently only Jesus sees the Spirit descending and hears the words from heaven. But now Jesus' three closest friends hear the same words naming him God's Beloved. As believers, Paul writes, we are enabled to see the God-light in Jesus' face, because the same God who created light in the first place has shone in our hearts to give us that vision. The light of God's glory in Jesus has enlightened us through baptism and shines in us also for others to see.

#### **Readings and Psalm**

2 Kings 2:1-12

*Elijah taken up to heaven and succeeded by Elisha*

Psalm 50:1-6

*Out of Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth in glory. (Ps. 50:2)*

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

*God's light seen clearly in the face of Christ*

Mark 9:2-9

*Revelation of Christ as God's beloved Son*

#### **Prayer of the Day**

Almighty God, the resplendent light of your truth shines from the mountaintop into our hearts. Transfigure us by your beloved Son, and illumine the world with your image, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
Amen.



TRANSFIGURATION  
— S U N D A Y —

Find the Bible online at [bible.oremus.org](http://bible.oremus.org)

## Sunday, February 21, 2021 First Sunday in Lent

### **Introduction**

On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.

### **Readings and Psalm**

Genesis 9:8-17

The rainbow, sign of God's covenant

Psalms 25:1-10

Your paths, O Lord, are steadfast love and faithfulness. (Ps. 25:10)

1 Peter 3:18-22

Saved through water

Mark 1:9-15

The temptation of Jesus in the wilderness for forty days

### **Prayer of the Day**

Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
Amen.

First Sunday in

*Lent*

## Sunday, February 28, 2021 Second Sunday in Lent

### **Introduction**

The second covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the one made with Abraham and Sarah: God's promise to make them the ancestors of many, with whom God will remain in everlasting covenant. Paul says this promise comes to all who share Abraham's faith in the God who brings life into being where there was no life. We receive this baptismal promise of resurrection life in faith. Sarah and Abraham receive new names as a sign of the covenant, and we too get new identities in baptism, as we put on Christ.

### **Readings and Psalm**

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

God blesses Abraham and Sarah

Psalms 22:23-31

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord. (Ps. 22:27)

Romans 4:13-25

The promise to those who share Abraham's faith

Mark 8:31-38

The passion prediction

### **Prayer of the Day**

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
Amen.

Second Sunday in

*Lent*