



Praying the Psalms, Seeking Wisdom

We live in a remarkable time in history where new information that we can access is being created at an amazing speed. In the past, if you wanted to learn something new, you had to find an encyclopedia or someone who knew. More often than not, the answer to your question could not be easily found. But today the world is different.

Today we have access to what seems like endless information. If we are wondering which team won the World Series in 1989, we don't rack our brains and try to remember. We just punch the question into Google and we have the answer in milliseconds.

Here are a couple interesting statistics that I found about Google. On average, Google processes about 63,000 searches per second. On average, Google users run about 3-4 searches per day. While working on this newsletter article alone, I conducted 6 separate Google searches!

All of this has led to an enormous societal shift. We have moved away from a world where people collect information that we remember and use to help us operate in the world. Today, we no longer collect information; instead, we develop our ability to sort which information is important and helpful. What seems most needed today is not more information but more wisdom and discernment.

This Lenten Season we are inviting everyone to gather around our shared seeking of wisdom. As people of faith, we challenge ourselves every single day to tune in to the mysterious workings of God in our lives and the world around us.

One way we do this is through prayer and, more specifically, time spent listening for God's Spirit to stir something within us. Using the Psalms as our guide, we will be focusing this Lent on seeking God's wisdom for our lives and for the world.

Please make plans to gather for worship each Wednesday evening during Lent. The services will provide a time for reflection and prayer. We also have found a great daily devotional resource based on the psalms. It is actually called an "Intentional" because the focus is on both listening to God and answering the challenge to put our discipleship into action. (<https://waytolead.org/lent-intentions-2019/>).

Join us this Lent as we pray the Psalms and seek the wisdom of God.

Pastor Steve

MARCH FAQ's

The Council continues to be hard at work building on the energy coming out of our retreat held in January. One of our goals this year was to help the congregation embrace our purpose and to get the news out to our wider community about what it is that makes Grace such a special place! Specifically, this has taken shape with a few projects that Council members are going to help lead. Below is a brief list of those projects and what we are hoping to accomplish. If you feel the spirit stirring you to help with one or more of these projects, please let me know and I will help you get connected.

Property and Facility Signage — We have a couple of Council members along with the Property Team who will be looking into how to make sure that when folks come to Grace they feel like they are welcomed and that we are excited that they are here. One way to do that is to ensure that we have enough proper signage around the property and within the facility.

Narthex Update — Most people enter our church for the first time through the Narthex. We are hoping to update that space so that it helps people to feel welcome and also communicates more clearly our sense of purpose. One little change we've already made is to the lighting in this space. Previously, the lights were dim and yellow. Now we have brighter bulbs which give off a wide array of light and help to brighten the Narthex so that it matches the brightness of the Sanctuary and other ministry areas. This project has several Council members plus the Property and Welcoming Teams all working together.

Website and Publication Language — There is a small group of leaders working on updating the language on our website and in our publications to ensure that we are telling others about who we are as clearly as possible.

Video Project — A couple of Council members are working on a project to capture our ministry in a series of short videos that can be added to the website or played on the screen in the Fellowship Hall. They are hoping to highlight all the most important ministries and help people make a connection to how these ministries grow out of our sense of purpose.

Outside Marketing — A couple of Council members are considering how we can best get the news about Grace out into the wider community. We believe that this is a special place and that God is up to something here. Our goal is for others in the community to know more about Grace!

Again, if there is a project that you'd be interested in helping with, please let me know. We are very excited about all of the energy at Grace right now as we ***share God's love so that all are served and supported!***

Pastor Steve

From the Vicar



- 1) Facade of the Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth
- 2) Close-up of the Holy Family's house, with an altar in front
- 3) Statue of Mary outside the basilica
- 4) Ground floor of the basilica, with portions of earlier churches on the site visible, and the Holy family's house in the center



Greetings! Though we have entered the season of Lent, there is a lesser festival this month that has more to do with Advent. The Annunciation of our Lord (Mar. 25) commemorates the appearance of the angel Gabriel to Mary in the town of Nazareth, to tell her that she would have a son. It seems fitting, then, that I use this month's article to tell you about my afternoon in Nazareth, along with my visit to the Basilica of the Annunciation.

We went to Nazareth in the afternoon of our group's very first day in Israel. After lunch in a local restaurant, we walked to the Basilica of the Annunciation. It is built around what remains of a first-century house - said to be the house where Gabriel appeared to Mary, and where Mary, Joseph, and Jesus lived later. There was a long line of people curving along

the inside wall of the church, waiting their turn to stand in front of the house. Waiting in line, I marveled at the rest of the church around me - parts of which dated from Crusader, Byzantine, and even Roman times.

Finally, it was my turn to stand in front of the house. I looked through the gate and peered inside as well as I could. I tried to imagine toddler Jesus walking through the rooms. But I also tried to imagine an angel appearing to Mary within these walls. What was Mary doing that day when Gabriel appeared? Working on some project? Cleaning the house? Thinking about how she was soon to be married?

Mary had plans, you know, and her life was going along just fine when Gabriel came to her. She was in the middle of "doing life" when all those plans were interrupted, put on hold, changed. In the midst of her own personal busy-ness, she said yes to what God was calling her to do, even though it was not what she had planned at all, and completely unexpected.

Outside the church, there was a statue of Mary with her arms held out. I noticed that her fingers seemed discolored, and I wondered why. Moments later, a group of people walked up and held hands with the statue as they prayed. I suppose the paint has worn off Mary's hands after being held by thousands of people as they pray.

My prayer for us is that we may have the same dedication to God's plans that Mary did - that we may say yes to God's call in our lives, even when we're already "busy," or we have other plans. Because, God's plans tend to interrupt our lives when we least expect it!

-Vicar Christopher

Libby's Lyrics

Our Lenten Journey is a very personal journey each of us must take. The songs of Lent can help inspire, encourage, and lead us along our way through our 40-day journey of preparation. What is our Lenten discipline? Do we fast, sacrifice something, or add something...perhaps becoming more consistent with daily Bible study, attending midweek Lenten services, attending Sunday School, collecting items to help the poor and hungry in our community, joining a choir...(there's always room in the choir for you!!!), participating in a small group Bible study. Regardless of what discipline we choose to help us along our Lenten journey...., we sing to God, asking him to bless our journey and take us to where faith is found.

*Bless Now, O God the Journey that all your people make,
The path through noise and silence, the way of give and take.
The trail is found in desert and winds the mountain round
Then leads beside still waters, the road where faith is found.* Hymn 326 ELW

"This is pure grace that God tells us how we can speak with God and have fellowship with God."

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer on praying the Psalms

"Praying the Psalms" is the theme for the midweek Lenten services. Pastor Steve and Vicar Christopher will lead us through a different psalm each week.... allowing us to reflect and meditate on each psalm and to bring our prayers around the cross. *The psalms are intended for singing as their use in worship throughout the ages testifies. Martin Luther considered the psalms the summary of all scripture, speaking to many situations and allowing the expressions of a wide range of human response, such as adoration, praise, thanksgiving, lament, confession, intercession, and teaching. The psalms proclaim hope and faith yet make room also for deep distress and questioning* (ELW pg. 335). We will sing the psalms, sometimes with leaders and refrains, other times chanting responsively.

On Sunday mornings we will worship using ELW Setting Five. This is a very somber liturgy that is appropriate for the season of Lent. This setting also provides for chanting the Lord's Prayer. While that may be a bit different at first.... singing this prayer together will help us discover anew the depth, beauty, and power of the prayer Jesus taught us to pray. It is our hope that your Lenten journey will be enhanced as we learn and worship together using this beautiful setting.

Tree of Life and awesome mystery, in your death we are reborn;
though you die in all of history still you rise with every morn.
Christ, you lead, and we shall follow, stumbling though our steps may be.
One with you in joy and sorrow, we the river you the sea. Hymn 334 ELW

May the songs of Lent bless all of us along our Lenten Journey, our journey of faith.... our journey to life!

Soli Deo Gloria,
Libby

Faith Formation

1. Thursday 03/05/20 @ 7:30 a.m. – High school youth are invited to gather at Bojangles for breakfast and devotions with Pastor Steve.
2. Sunday 03/08/20 - Grace Night on the Slopes! The Moretz family has generously offered to host a Grace Night at Appalachian Ski Mountain again this year. Church members will receive a free lift pass and equipment rental for the evening session (5:00 p.m.-to-close) on Sunday, March 8th, if you sign up in advance to attend. Please contact the office if you would like to go!
3. Tuesday 03/10/20 @ 7:00 p.m. – Parents, organizers and group leaders for Faith Formation meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. The Faith Formation Team will be gathering at Ransom to plan future ministry activities for the coming year. You won't want to miss out on this night of fun & fellowship!
4. Wednesdays @ 5:30 p.m. – Wednesday nights during Lent are Connect Nights! Join us for a fun evening with dinner served @ 5:30 p.m.; groups then break out at 6:00 p.m. for discussions around the church. High school youth will meet in the Youth Room upstairs and Confirmation will meet with their Lenten Mentors. Later, at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary, we will close the evening with a midweek Lenten worship service.
5. Upper Room Sunday School – the Adult Faith Formation class will hold a special Lenten study with David Holden in the Chapel during the Sunday School Hour starting Sunday, March 1st; it will continue throughout the season.

Altar Guild

- Mark your calendar for Palm Sunday and bring your Easter basket! Join us at 9:00 in the Fellowship Hall on Palm Sunday and make a set of "Resurrection Eggs" to tell the story of Holy Week. All are welcome.
- What might your Lenten Intention look like? We invite you to consider baking a batch of communion bread as a contemplative opportunity. The recipe is incredibly simple and we furnish all you need (with the exception of a dozen eggs). If you would like to take part in this ministry, sign up in the Fellowship Hall or be in touch with the church office or Beth Reavis for details.

Dorcas Wild Women Weekend

Dorcas will be heading to Lutheridge in Arden, NC for their Wild Women Weekend retreat March 6-8. There is still room available but please contact Kathy Griewisch at griewischfam@gmail.com as soon as possible if you are interested in going. The theme for the weekend is the "I AM Statements" in the Gospel of John. We look forward to a wonderful (WILD!) weekend at Lutheridge.

Guatemala Mission Trip 5th Sunday Breakfast

The Guatemala Mission Trip team will be hosting the 5th Sunday Breakfast on Sunday, March 29th from 8:45-9:45 a.m. All donations will go to help support the mission trip to Guatemala June 5-13, 2020 where we will be running medical clinics, working with children in their school and helping with construction projects. Please make checks to Grace Lutheran Church with Guatemala Mission Trip on the memo line. Thank you for your support!

Reading Between the Wines

Join Grace's book club that meets the third Tuesday of each month. We will meet to discuss the book, "The Day the World Came to Town" by Jim Defede on Tuesday, March 17, at 6:00 p.m. at Casa Rustica. If you want to read ahead for April, we will be reading "The Girls of Atomic City" by Denise Kiernan and for May we will be reading "Becoming" by Michelle Obama. See you there!

Visitation Team Training Session

Greetings, everyone! I have recently been working on my internship project and I need your help. My project is to reorganize a visitation team for the purpose of connecting all of the people who will make visits to those who are at home, in facilities, or in the hospital. Team members will also deliver communion. The purpose of this project is not simply to assist Pr. Steve, Pr. John, and me with seeing all the people on the visitation list. Rather, the larger goal is to build and strengthen relationships and to foster a sense of connection among all our church members, including those who may not be able to make it to church often or at all. To that end, there will be a training session for anyone who is interested in being on the visitation team on Saturday, March 21st, from 9-12 in the Fellowship Hall. Rev. Melanie Childers, the head chaplain at WMC, will lead a session on the basics of how to visit people - the "DOs and DON'Ts." Some training on how to deliver communion will follow. A schedule will be set up for future team meetings, and planning issues will be addressed. Don't miss out on this great opportunity to be a part of the wonderful ministry of caring for people! If you are interested, have any questions, or would like to help, please come see me. Thanks!

-Vicar Christopher

Mary-Martha.

Mary-Martha Circle met February 15th. The Circle discussed the upcoming WELCA Blue Ridge Mountain Conference scheduled for May 9th hosted by Grace. Many suggestions and ideas were submitted for consideration. Mary-Martha will coordinate with the Lizzie Estelle Circle. The Circle agreed to host a coffee hour, date to be decided. The circle will purchase palms for Palm Sunday at Grace. The program was "The Courageous Heart." The next meeting will be Saturday, March 14th, 1:00 p.m. at the home of Judy Wellborn.

Lizzie- Estelle News

We had a wonderful February meeting and were actually able to enjoy a delicious brunch. In March, we will have a Bible study led by Lynne Mauney. Hostess will be Ruth Daggett or another member! We will meet on Wednesday, March 11, at 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall. We look forward to our Lenten journey as we have opportunities to hear David Holden on Sunday mornings and enjoy some centering on Wednesday evenings in the Sanctuary. Rejoice as we look forward to springing forward and having a little longer daylight in the evenings! Spring is coming in just a few more weeks!

Hospitality House Update

The next meal will be served on March 11th at the Hospitality House. All meal sign-ups are on the SignUp Genius website. There is a link available on the ministry pages of the Grace website. If you have any questions, please contact: Rebecca Ungerer, rebeccaungerer@gmail.com. Thank you!

Grace Builders WANT AD

WHY?

Because we "WANT YOU" to be informed about what is coming up in our Service Projects and Wood Ministry Activities. We hope this will encourage you to join us in Christ's service work. We do many "911" type projects such as rush wheelchair ramps or broken toilets that cannot wait. These will be handled by e-mails or direct contact. Mostly, we will use this to make you aware of work that has time to be scheduled. This can include the Adopt-A-Projects.

SO... each time you see these, PLEASE READ them as they may look similar, but will probably have new information.

RIGHT NOW, we need lots of help with the Wood Ministry. We have a variety of work that can be done by volunteers who don't have experience in "fire wood" production. There are jobs that do not require heavy lifting. If you have a truck or trailer, you could haul raw wood INTO the Wood Lot, or DELIVER firewood to our clients who cannot pick it up. We always have need of people who are experienced with chain saws. We can easily teach anyone 18 years or older to run a wood splitter. PLEASE JOIN US!!

CONTACT me or other team members if you have questions or want to let us know you will help with one or more of the projects. Thanks and Blessings, Harold Stophel, (For the Team) Cell (828) 789-9127--Home (828) -963-4195 -- Church Off. (828) 264-2206

March Birthdays

(1) Jensen Moretz, Grace Tillery; (2) Victoria Goss; (4) Anne Bolyea; (5) Maura Gragg, Theresa Hoppach, Jeanne Kaudelka; (6) Kathryn Haas; (7) Sherry Conlan, Geoff Graham; (8) Kenneth Hubbard, Abbey Mosteller; (9) Mark White; (10) Ella Bridgeman, Doug Carson, Cathy Pinson; (11) Cara Ray; (12) Jan Moretz; (13) Susan McKay; (14) Hester Cowan, Laura Just, Kate Ryan, Rachel Hymes; (15) Wriston Hoke, John Sullivan; (16) Robin Ray, Fred Smith, Warren Walka; (19) Catherine Templeton, Danielle Woerner; (20) John Butler, Aaron Hrozencik, Angela Ramsdell, Sophie Speckmann; (22) Emily Gray, Sophie Mae Trew; (23) Megan Drake, Kyle Griewisch; (26) Ira Vasgaard; (27) Twila Ingwersen; (28) Kerri Brown, Kathy Graham, Marjorie Hyatt; (29) John Drake; (30) Mike Dotson, Landon Johnson, Luke Johnson, Divera Lutabingwa; (31) Kathryn Kearsse, Lynn Mosteller.

March Anniversaries

(20) Janice and Jeff Voss; (29) Jennie and Jim Hallsey;

March Baptisms

Charles Mauney, Harold McKinney, Kathy Griewisch, Kara Hubbard, Kate Ryan, Jill Eller, Cathy McKinney, Macey Rubel.

BUDGET REPORT

Income & Spending Report as of January 31, 2020

	JAN Actual	JAN Budget	Year-to- Date Actual	Year-to- Date Budget
General Fund Income	Giving	Giving	Giving	Giving
	\$27,156.00	\$25,000.00	\$128,245	\$125,000.00
	Other Income	Other Income	Other Income	Other Income
	\$4,511.83	\$5,550.00	\$20,978.05	\$27,750.00
	Total	Total	Total	Total
	\$31,667.83	\$30,550.00	\$149,223.05	\$152,750.00

General Fund Spending	Total	Total	Total	Total
	\$28,904.28	\$30,634.23	\$141,203.84	\$153,171.15
Surplus / (Deficit)	\$2,763.59	\$-(84.23)	\$8,019.21	\$-(421.15)
	<i>*Councill House Principal Balance ~ \$141,614.09</i>			

Council Meeting

The next regular Council meeting will be held on March 16th; remember, Council meetings are open; speak to an Executive Team member about adding your item to the agenda. The Executive Team will meet Monday, March 9th, at 5:30 p.m.

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GLC www.facebook.com/GraceLutheranChurchBoone

Children & Youth Facebook by Invitation Only

Grace Staff

Pastor Steve Troisi, Senior Pastor

Pastor John Bollinger, Volunteer Visitation Pastor

Deacon Stacey Troisi, Campus Ministry Coordinator

Vicar Christopher Shealy, Seminary Intern

Libby Brown, Director of Music Ministry

Lauren Johnson, Interim Children's Choir Coordinator

Susan Frank, Organist

Vera Barnett, Administrative Secretary

Jennifer Stamey, Facilities Manager

Kathy Griewisch, Financial Secretary

Jeff Voss, Treasurer

2019-2020 Congregation Council

Mary Ballard ~ President, '21~ Learning Liaison

Gail Lund ~ Vice President, '21~ Supporting Liaison

Janice Koppenhaver ~ Secretary '22~ Supporting Liaison

Alan Hauser ~ Member, '22~ Worshiping Liaison

Robin King ~ Member '20~ Serving Liaison

Laura McArthur ~ Member, '20~ Serving Liaison

Sandy Moretz ~ Member, '21~ Welcoming Liaison

Carol Norris, ~ Member, '20~ Learning Liaison

Beth Reavis ~Member, '22~Learning Liaison

John Smyre ~ Member, '21~ Supporting Liaison

Charlie Wallin ~ Member, '22~ Welcoming Liaison

Morgan Wright ~ Member, '20~ Serving Liaison