

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

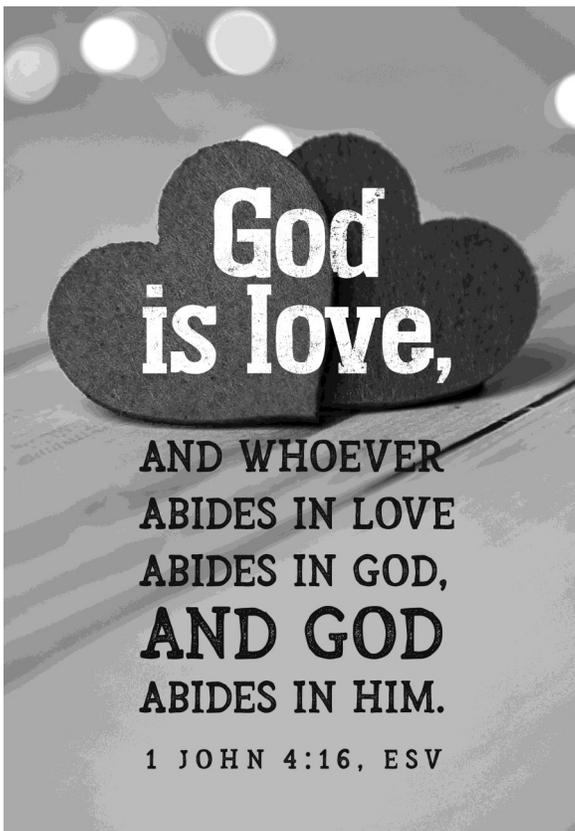
702 G Street Phone: (360)332-6589

P.O. Box 1646, Blaine, WA 98231-1646

www.blaine-grace-lutheran.org

Email: office@bglutheran.com

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Blaine, WA
Permit No. 41



Worship Service

Sunday 10:30 am

Sunday School and Bible Class
9am

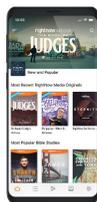
Upcoming:

2/7 Congregation Meeting 11:45am

2/17 Ash Wednesday Service 7:00pm

February 2021

rightnow
MEDIA™



The world's largest library
of Bible study videos—
available anytime,
anywhere.

ios android Roku Apple TV chromecast fire tv

For the 40 days of lent this year we are going to use the Red Letter Challenge book and video series by Zach Zehnder be our guide on Wednesday nights at 7pm. The service will be contemporary designed for the youth in our congregation and community. The youth will be helping select the music and Zach will provide the message for the evening. If the music is not for you or if COVID keeps you safe at home you can still watch each video at home and/or order the book to join us for this Lenten challenge.

Do you think you could improve in following Jesus? The Red Letter Challenge video series is a companion to the 40-day discipleship RLC workbook. In the Red Letter Challenge, you will be introduced, through the words of Jesus, to the five main principles of being a disciple: being, forgiving, serving, giving, & going.

If you are tired of checking religious boxes, if you know that you were made for something more, and if you want to make a greater difference in this world, the Red Letter Challenge is for you!

Text Code - It's so easy! All someone needs to do is text the number **41411** the code **RIGHTNOW GLCWA** to sign up for their free RightNow Media account.

Or type in the URL:

<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/CustomLibrary/21954>

Here is how Zach Zehnder describes his book. We've blown up the typical, boring book and teamed up with Plain

Joe Studios to create something fresh and fun. Inside the Red Letter Challenge (RLC) workbook is everything you need to go on a 40-day life-changing discipleship experience. Unlike any other workbook, this workbook is filled with innovative exercises, engaging images, and a space to journal, scribble, and draw your discoveries.

The RLC is unique because it takes Christ's literal words and gives you practical daily challenges based on those words. The RLC will give you targets to shoot for to help you measure how you are practically following after Him. RLC believes that Jesus followers want to be the best Jesus followers that we can be not out of obligation, but out of gratitude for what Jesus has done for us!

Do you have what it takes to really follow Jesus? To truly do what He said?

I believe you do!

The RLC will help you:

- 1) Have a deeper relationship with Jesus.
- 2) Receive God's forgiveness in your life and give grace to others.
- 3) Give you a greater heart of service.
- 4) Help you become more generous.
- 5) Give you confidence to speak about what Jesus has done in your life.

Ready to take the challenge?

Each book is \$19.99 but we get a discount if we order in bulk so call or email the church by February 2 to let us know if you want a copy. You don't need the book to join us for Wednesday night services during lent but of course the more you put into it the more you will get out of it.

Our Sunday service will be our traditional service and will not be connected to the Red Letter Challenge. No matter how you participate we pray that your Lenten journey is full of God's blessings.

Peace to you in Christ! Pastor

The God who sees me!

What is more loving than to see and know someone?

Last month we talked about meaningful connections. This month is February, the month of love (Eros) and in the Preschool it is specifically the month of friendship love (Philia). There is also God's love (Agape) and perhaps I will expound on that.

Well, ya see it's like this - Way, way back many centuries ago not long after the Bible began (does that line make you want to sing? It makes me want to... I digress!). A long time ago God told Abram (Abraham) he was going to have a child. Abram told Sarai (Sarah) and Sarai took matters into her own hands. She thought, "Hummm, I'm really old and there's no way I'm gonna be able to give him a kid (not really, but this is Kelley's translation of the story) so, I better figure something out!" And that she did. She said, "Abe, take my servant Hagar and do the deed." I would be remiss if I did not say that they did some wacky things back then regarding many things. That's probably another note for another time, but needless to say, it was a bit whack.

So Abe did, he slept with Hagar, she became pregnant and bitter. Then Sarai complained to Abe because Hagar was bitter and Abe said, "Do what you need to do." So, Sarai was mean to Hagar and Hagar took off. She fled into the wilderness. Then an angel appeared to her and they talked. Basically the angel said, "It's all good. Go back and have your baby, Ishmael, and you will end up having a huge family (a multitude of descendants). Then Hagar said, "You are the God who sees me." Genesis 16:13

For the rest of the story checkout Genesis 16 & 21.

Back to the point at hand, what is more loving than to see, know and accept someone as they truly are or to be seen, known and accepted by someone as you truly are? That is exactly what Hagar experienced throughout the whole wacky course of events. She was not in it alone. God had her back and even though everything seemed to be a complete and total wreck, God was with her, watching out for her, and helping her. That is exactly the same for you and me! He loves us! He sees us! He knows us! He accepts us exactly as we are! He watches out for us! He is with us and has our backs! He is never going to leave us or forsake us! We can f.r.o.g. & d.o.g.! That is **fully rely on God & depend on God.**

Talk about meaningful connection, someone seeing, knowing and loving you just as you are! That's Agape love and it flows over into Eros and Philia love. So during this February when we focus on love remember the God who sees us! He reaches out to us and longs to be with us! This is also when Lent begins, the forty days leading up to Easter. This Lent and from now on may we live our lives knowing we love a God who see and knows us! A God who loves us and watches out for us! May we share this love with everyone we meet! May we come and be filled to overflowing on Wednesdays as well as Sundays enabling us to share God's love with all!

May we all know we are loved and seen!

Kelley/Mrs. Z





Shining the Light of Christ into the Middle East

The Middle East and North Africa has the youngest population in the world, many who feel hopeless because of political turmoil, social instability, and high unemployment. When you factor in the ongoing effects of a global pandemic, the hopelessness for many in the region only continues to grow.

A new television series produced through Lutheran Hour Ministries' ongoing partnership with SAT-7, the first and largest Middle East and North African Christian satellite television network, is shining the light of Christ into the lives of these hurting people at a time when they need to hear this message more than ever. The program, titled *New Light*, debuted Nov. 20 and will air four times weekly on SAT-7's Arabic channel. This satellite television program has the potential of reaching tens of millions of viewers in more than 20 countries spanning from as far west as Morocco to as far east as Iraq and the Persian Gulf.

The new program is a 55-minute talk show that highlights a different topic or brings a different perspective to current affairs and matters affecting the target audience of viewers ages 17 to 30. Each episode includes multiple segments covering in-studio and on-the-street interviews with guests sharing opinions on the program topic as well as their motivating stories, musical guests or pre-recorded songs, spiritual devotions pre-recorded from an off-site location, and much more.

Given this demographic's preference for online media, the use of multiple segments

allows material created for this television program to be utilized and promoted in multiple ways through social media platforms. The program's young co-hosts walk the viewers through the segments and encourage in-depth discussion on the topic.

The goal is that this programming brings God's love and mercy to millions of young Arab viewers who are suffering and questioning their faith and place in society. Hearing about God and how He loves them and gives them hope for the future, from the privacy of their own homes, may be the only opportunity for many of these young adults to hear this message at all.

Now You Can Hear the Message of Hope When You Need It

Podcasting is an easy way to listen to your favorite Lutheran Hour Ministries programs and resources when you want. Podcasts are audio files you can download automatically, free of charge, to your computer or portable devices. Find out more and share: <https://www.lhm.org/podcasts/>

The Lutheran Hour weekly Gospel message is now airing on **Sirius - XM Family Talk 131** on **Sunday 10:00 AM Eastern time.**

LENT begins February 17 with Ash Wednesday. As with Advent, Lutheran Hour Ministries will have new Lenten devotional booklets available. Look for them at church.

An Interlocking Community

Christ distributes courage through community; he dissipates doubts through fellowship. He never deposits all knowledge in one person but distributes pieces of the jigsaw puzzle to many. When you interlock your understanding with mine, and we share our discoveries, when we mix, mingle, confess and pray, Christ speaks.

—Max Lucado, *Fearless*



INTERFAITH COALITION
Partners in faith. Changing lives.

WHO DESERVES TO BE HOMELESS?

Say this sentence out loud: "I believe some people deserve to be homeless."

How does that feel to say? Do you feel uneasy? Do you feel a sense of agreement? Do you feel a sense of agreement and *that* made you feel uneasy? The reality is, regardless of how it felt or of other thoughts that arose when you said it, you probably carry biases about those who are experiencing homelessness.

For example, how would you feel if you saw a mother and her toddler living in a car downtown compared with if you saw a man sleeping on cardboard boxes in a doorway downtown? What about a woman in a wheelchair surrounded by her possessions compared with a teenager sitting on the sidewalk asking for money? Do you feel and think differently toward someone who is experiencing homeless depending on their appearance? It's okay to say yes. We all do. We're human.

Here's the thing: Humans are discriminating. Homelessness is not. Homelessness is a situation, an affliction that can be treated and, hopefully someday, cured. But because we as humans are discriminating, we may not believe that everyone deserves that treatment.

Ryan Dowd, the unabashedly frank Executive Director of Hesed House, a large homeless shelter outside of Chicago, refers to this dichotomy of thinking that homelessness is bad, but only for some, as the "Deserving Poor" and the "Undeserving Poor." He writes:

"The 'Deserving Poor' supposedly deserve our help and generally include children (but only until they reach age 18), people with disabilities (unless they did something to

cause the disability), and elderly people (unless they could have saved more for retirement). The 'Undeserving Poor' supposedly do not deserve our help and generally include anyone who did anything to contribute to their poverty or did not adequately pull themselves up by their bootstraps."

Does that resonate with you?

When we see someone who is experiencing homelessness, we have the tendency to make assumptions about what led them there. If you think someone is living on the streets because they made bad decisions, are you more or less inclined to help them? What if you learned that they had to quit their job to take care of their terminally ill spouse and the medical care took precedence over their mortgage? Does that sway your likelihood of helping?

We know. These are uncomfortable questions. Yet we need to ask them of ourselves to move beyond making decisions about how we treat someone based on how they look.

This next month, when you see someone who is experiencing homelessness notice if you feel a shift in whether you view them as deserving or undeserving. With time, you may resonate more with these Interfaith Coalition's values: that all people have dignity, need to be treated with respect, and deserve to live in a safe, stable home.

(January 12, 2021 Blog post on the Interfaith Coalition website: www.interfaith-coalition.org)

The annual **Hope Auction** is our largest fundraiser of the year (one third of our income comes from this event). However, even though our virtual auction was a success last year, we have decided to do a different kind of virtual event this year on this date. Details are coming together, but **please save the date – April 10.**



FEBRUARY

2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6 MEN'S Bible Study 8 am
7 9:00 Bible Study 10:30 Worship w. Communion Congregation Meeting 11:45	8	9	10	11	12 Office Closed	13
14 9:00 Bible Study 10:30 Worship	15 Newsletter Deadline	16	17 	18	19	20 MEN'S Bible Study 8 am
21 9:00 Bible Study 10:30 Worship w. Communion Council Meeting 1pm	22	23	24 Lenten Service 7pm	25	26	27
28 9:00 Bible Study 10:30 Worship						



- 1 Magnus Gervol
Leif Johnson
- 2 Carrlyn Mouw
- 3 Bailey Wildermuth
- 4 Jacob Archer
- 5 Andy Higby
- 7 Rob Onyon
- 8 Jo Galbraith
- 10 Jeff Kent
- 14 Norma Thomasson
- 21 Brent Johnson
- 24 Gary VanderYacht
- 25 Dennis Wildermuth
- 27 Art MacArthur

- 8 Ann & Dick Johnson
- 16 Tom & Lindsay (DeLong) Tucker
- 17 Dale & Shannon VanderYacht

Preschool News

We are back from Christmas break and it is sure fun to be in the classroom with all of our friends again. Celebrating Epiphany was such a special way to come back from break!

January has been all about the season of winter. There are so many cool ice science projects we can do! We are kind of hoping it might snow again because that was sure fun over break and we have been talking all about what we like to do in the winter.

We are so thankful for healthy teachers and students so that we can continue to have in person learning this year and we are continuing to pray for the health of our classes as we enter the second half of the school year.

Celebrating love

For 80 years, a couple in Ecuador was an exceptional example of marital love. Julio Cesar Mora Tapia, 110, and Waldramina Maclovia Quinteros Reyes, 104, were wed on February 7, 1941. Until Julio's death last October, they were reportedly the world's oldest married couple.

Good News Network recounts: "Julio Cesar fell in love with Waldramina's beauty, her conversation, and her big heart." Meanwhile, she found in him "a poet with a young spirit." The couple says the formula for a lasting marriage is "love + maturity + mutual respect," as well as patience, compassion and hard work.

That calls to mind Paul's words, often read at weddings: "Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth" (1 Corinthians 13:4-6, ESV).

PUZZLE



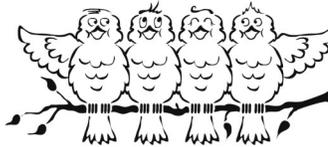
A famous friendship

In the Bible, Ruth and Naomi are known for their loving friendship.

Directions: Using the key, fill in the blanks to see what Ruth says to Naomi.

“

J Q U O W A E O E E E
 J E A A E E' U N O J Q U O W
 A E O N L U A E J E A A
 N L U A' A E O A N U E N A W
 J E A A E W F A
 N U E N A W U N O
 A E O A E E O
 F A E E O RUTH 1:16, NIV



W	A		E	T
B	U	H	D	O
G	R	L	Y	I
N	S		P	M

Loving embraces

Express your love and friendship with handcrafted bracelets.



What you need:

- Adult help
- Bowl of boiling water
- Wide wooden craft sticks
- Glass cup
- Markers, paint or decorative tape

What you do:

1. Pour about 3 cups of boiling water into a bowl. Soak sticks in the water about 30 minutes.
2. Remove sticks and slowly, gently bend them into a curve.
3. To maintain the shape, place curved sticks inside a glass cup overnight to dry completely.
4. Remove and decorate the bracelets, which make fun Valentine's Day gifts.

Answer: "Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God." Ruth 1:16, NIV