

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

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PAID

Blaine, WA

Permit No. 41

Worship Services

Sunday 10:30 am

Bible Class & Sunday School 9am

Contemporary 4:30 pm

Upcoming:

February 11—Annual Congregation Meeting after church.

February 14 —Ash Wednesday Service @ 7pm.

February 18 —Family Dinner after 4:30pm service

February 18 —Youth Group

Beginning next month the newsletter will be sent via e-mail. You may pick up a paper copy at church.



2024

Happy February Everyone,

As I write this, we have just celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. Day. I watched the commemorative service on the holiday, and it made me think about a number of things that I have thought about before, but it was beneficial to reflect on anew. How far have we come after all these years since the "I Have a Dream" speech of August 28, 1963? How united are we with our fellow man? Politically we seem more divided than ever before. Religiously too. How many of us treat one another equally regardless of race, economic status, gender or various other factors? If you ask one person, they will say we have come along way, and another will say hardly progress at all has been achieved. One more topic for us to be divided over.

One of the speakers said we should live together as brothers and sisters instead of die together as fools. How true but how difficult to do it seems. How do we do it? Some of the thoughts offered were to control our impulsiveness. Defeat injustice without destroying each other. Defeat ignorance. Teach interdependence. Improve interconnectedness. Take courageous action. Speak up for the benefit of others. Maintain dignity. We are called to build up instead of tear down. Insure peace for all through nonviolence. People who have no vision are prone to division. We must stand together. Where there is division, we perish. This got my attention. That is scriptural. I Corinthians 12:24-26 says, "But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together."

One of the speakers said, know the truth and the truth will set you free. That one got my attention too. That is scripture again (John 8:32). That is truth we can rely on. John 17:17 tells us, "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. That is truth that can and does transform society. So why is society slow to transform? Sadly, one main reason is so many reject the truth of scripture. God's truth has

been there for us since the beginning of time. Psalm 25:5 says, "Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation..." The truth was there for us in the flesh at Jesus time. John 1:14 says, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." Jesus was willing to sacrifice everything as truth to save us. Before Pilate he said in John 18:37, "For this purpose (death on the cross) I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world - to bear witness to the truth.

Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice." The truth is here for us today and for our future. John 16:13 says, "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come." We all need a heart full of grace. Truth crushed to the earth will rise again.

May your struggles keep you near the cross. May your troubles show you that you need God. May will all travel together in unity. Praise the Prince of Peace.

Pastor



God called Abram to be the father of many! Abram was faithful & followed God. He believed God that he would be the father of many nations. He did, however, feel the need to help God out, which was completely unnecessary, because God was & still is in control! Even though Abram took matters into his own hands, God still used him! God gave Abram a new name, Abraham, & a new son named Isaac! We are his children too & we sometimes refer to him as Father Abraham! You can check out the entire account of Abram, turned, Abraham beginning in Genesis 11!

May we too be reminded that we are called by name & that God still uses us even though we mess up! Grace, Mercy & Peace!

Mrs. Z

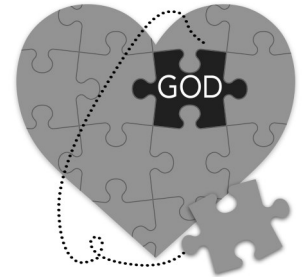
Hello from preschool!

Over the month of January, we have been learning all about winter. We even got to experience a tiny dusting of snow at the beginning of the month, and play in it before it melted! The kids were thrilled that we got to experience what we were talking about. We're introducing more letters of the alphabet, are trying to recognize and write the numbers 1-4, and continue to practice writing names. Our kids have been doing a great job as they work toward becoming "Whole Body Listeners" when we have group time.

February we are spending the month learning about friendship. We will do lots of group crafts and activities, talk about the qualities that make a good friend, and of course practice being great friends! We will even get to celebrate friendship in the middle of the month with a Valentine's party!

We are grateful for this wonderful church - your volunteer time and prayer support are so appreciated! Thank you!

Miss Sandy



Have you ever neared the completion of a jigsaw puzzle, only to discover that a piece or two is missing? That's an apt visual for what it's like to live without God. Blaise Pascal, a 17th-century philosopher, observed: "There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of each man which cannot be satisfied by any created thing but only by God the Creator, made known through Jesus Christ."

Centuries earlier, St. Augustine proclaimed "Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in thee." And in the Old Testament, the writer of Ecclesiastes expounded on the meaninglessness of earthly striving and material pursuits. Only God's Spirit can fill our emptiness and satisfy our eternal longings.

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full," says Jesus in John 10:10 (NIV). He alone provides the solution for emptiness. What comfort to be filled with — and to find our fulfillment in — our Savior!

Servants	February 4	February 11	February 18	February 25
ACOLYTES	Caeden	Caeden	Caeden	Caeden
ALTAR COMMITTEE	Pam & Linda	Pam & Linda	Pam & Linda	Pam & Linda
SCRIPTURE READERS	Joan Gregory	Kristi Galbraith	Caeden Chambers	April Mouw
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Steve Roe		Jon Huffman	
PIANIST	Janet Mehus	Janet Mehus	Janet Mehus	Janet Mehus
ORGANIST	Brent Johnson	Brent Johnson	Brent Johnson	Brent Johnson
USHERS	Dick Johnson Jon Huffman	Jay Pukaluk	Dan Persse Dick Johnson	Jim Higby

♥♥♥ FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Men's Bible Study 8am
4 9:00 Bible Study & Sunday School 10:30 Worship w. Communion 4:30 Contemporary	5 Mom's Group 7pm	6	7	8	9	10
11 9:00 Bible Study & Sunday School 10:30 Worship 4:30 Contemporary Congregation Meet.	12 Ladies' Bible Study 7pm	13 Pastor <u>Circuit Mtg.</u> Preschool Prep 2pm	14 Ash Wednesday Service 7pm	15	16	17 Men's Bible Study 8am
18 9:00 Bible Study & Sunday School 10:30 Worship w. Communion 4:30 Contemporary Family Dinner Youth Group	19 Mom's Group 7pm	20	21	22	23	24
25 9:00 Bible Study & Sunday School 10:30 Worship 4:30 Contemporary	26 Ladies' Bible Study 7pm	27	28	29		

BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Magnus Gervol | 24 Gary VanderYacht |
| Leif Johnson | 25 Dennis Wildermuth |
| 2 Carrlyn Mouw | 28 Colleen Huffman |
| 3 Bailey Wildermuth | |

ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------------------|
| 4 Jacob Archer | 8 Ann & Dick Johnson |
| 7 Rob Onyon | 16 Tom & Lindsay (DeLong) Tucker |
| 10 Jeff Kent | 13 Jon & Colleen Huffman |
| 21 Brent Johnson | 17 Dale & Shannon VanderYacht |

