



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

Worship Service

10:30am & 4:30pm
Bible Class 9am, Sunday School 10:30am

Upcoming:

2/1 Congregation Meeting @ 11:45am
2/18 Soup Supper @ 6:00 pm

Ash Wednesday and Lent

Join us February 18 at 7:00pm as we begin the season of Lent. Ash Wednesday reminds us of our need for grace and the hope we have in Jesus. Let's walk together toward the cross and the joy of Easter.

FAITH
is the bird
that feels the **LIGHT**
and **sings** when the
dawn is still dark.

-Rabindranath Tagore

Pastor's Message

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the 40 days of Lent. Lent hints of spring, a time when the earth begins to awaken from a winter's nap, and new growth bursts forth all about us.

More personally, it is an opportunity to enter into a springtime for our spirit. For centuries Christians have used the 40 days of Lent to seek spiritual growth. Sincere repentance, a changing of heart, casting off old sinful practices and seeking to commune with our creator help us go in the right direction. Spending serious time in silence and prayer focuses our attention. Reading spiritual literature, becoming more knowledgeable about the New Testament, meeting in small groups with other Christians to share personal stories of faith can all be immensely stimulating. Joining with others to serve the helpless and hopeless can strengthen our spiritual life.

Lent is a time to let God do "spring cleaning" within us. It's our opportunity to allow God to help us toss out the "stuff" that hinders us

and then freshen up the "new creature" we are meant to be as followers of Christ.

God's love is never meant to stop with us; it's meant to flow through us. When we love others, we reflect his very heart. As 1 John 4:12 (NIV) reminds us, "If we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us."

This is a true mark of a Christian — love that reaches beyond comfort zones, opinions and differences. Jesus said in John 13:35 (NIV), "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

The world is watching, not to see how loudly we profess our faith but how deeply we practice it. Every act of compassion, every gentle word and every moment of grace reveals something divine — God's love at work in us. The more we give that love away, the more it grows within us, mirroring the heart of Christ, who gave Himself for all.

So ask yourself: Does the world recognize you as his disciple by the way you love?

Hello from preschool!

Over the month of January, we have been enjoying learning, playing, and a return to routine! We're introducing more letters of the alphabet, are trying to recognize and write the numbers 1-4, and having fun with wintry themed science projects. We're learning all about winter and hoping to get to play in some snow this season!

We spend the month of February 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!

From your Fellowship Committee

December and January found our committee hosting a potluck and chili luncheon which received lots of positive feedback. The fellowship and games were lots of fun and the food was wonderful. It was great to have the Sunday School children and their parents join us at the December gathering. Many thanks to all who assisted with the undecorating of the church, as they say many hands make the task so much easier.

On the horizon we have a number of events planned so please stay tuned for more info regarding:

A ladies tea in May

Movie and Game nights in June, July, and August
If you have any suggestions or ideas for fellowship events please let us know.

Upcoming events:

Sunday, February 1st, Congregation Meeting - Fellowship Committee will provide desert

Sunday, February 15th, Valentine's Day Treats provided by the Fellowship Committee

Wednesday, February 18th, Ash Wednesday - Soup Supper at 6:00pm a sign-up sheet will be posted

Looking forward to seeing you!

Lenore Onyon and Shirley Pukaluk -Fellowship Committee Co-chairs

Servants	February 1	February 8	February 15	February 22
ACOLYTES	Caeden	Caeden	Caeden	Caeden
ALTAR COMMITTEE	Pam & Linda	Pam & Linda	Pam & Linda	Pam & Linda
SCRIPTURE READERS	Dan Persse	Sandie Miller	Caeden	Kristi Galbraith
COMMUNION ASST.	Steve Roe		Dick Johnson	
PIANIST	Janet Mehus	Janet Mehus	Janet Mehus	Janet Mehus
ORGANIST	Brent Johnson	Brent Johnson	Brent Johnson	
USHERS	Caeden Dick Johnson	Dan Persse	Jon Huffman Bruce Shelton	Jay Pukaluk
SLIDES	Steve R.	Patty	Steve G.	Caeden

FEBRUARY 2026



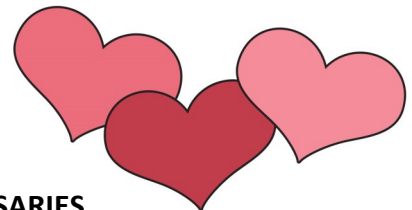
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00 Bible Study 10:30 Worship & Sunday School w. Communion Congregation Meeting 11:45	2	3	4 Women's Bible Study at 10:00 am Music Meeting 1:30pm	5 Men's Club 4:30pm	6	7
8 9:00 Bible Study 10:30 Worship & Sunday School	9 Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm	10 Preschool Prep 2pm	11 Women's Bible Study at 10:00 am Pastor at Conference	12	13 Secretary on Vacation	14
15 9:00 Bible Study 10:30 Worship & Sunday School w. Communion	16 Secretary on Vacation Pastor at Conference	17	18 Women's Bible Study at 10:00 am Soup Supper 6:00pm Ash Wed. 7:00pm	19 Men's Club 4:30pm	20	21
22 9:00 Bible Study 10:30 Worship & Sunday School	23 Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm	24	25 Women's Bible Study at 10:00 am	26	27	28

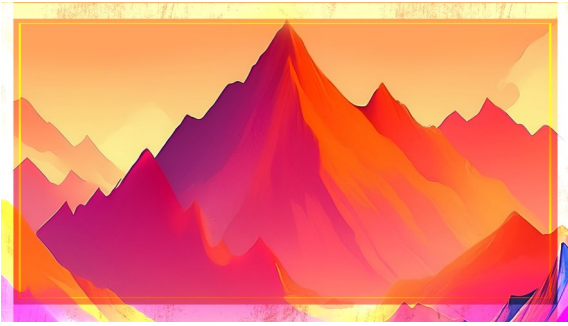
BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Magnus Gervol
Leif Johnson | 10 Jeff Kent |
| 2 Carrlyn Mouw | 21 Brent Johnson |
| 3 Bailey Wildermuth | 24 Gary VanderYacht |
| 4 Jacob Archer | 25 Dennis Wildermuth |
| 7 Rob Onyon | 28 Colleen Huffman |

ANNIVERSARIES

- | |
|----------------------------------|
| 8 Ann & Dick Johnson |
| 13 Jon & Colleen Huffman |
| 16 Tom & Lindsay (DeLong) Tucker |
| 17 Dale & Shannon VanderYacht |





In Matthew 17, we read a remarkable story about Jesus taking Peter, James and John up a high mountain. What seemed like an ordinary hike turned into a moment that changed their understanding of who Jesus really is. Matthew writes, “And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light” (Matthew 17:2, NASB). The disciples saw Jesus in a brilliant, heavenly glory — a glimpse of his true identity as the Son of God.

But that wasn't all. A voice from the cloud declared, “This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him!” (Matthew 17:5, NASB). Imagine the awe and holy fear those disciples felt. Just like many of us would, they fell to the ground, overwhelmed by God's presence. Yet Jesus didn't leave them trembling. He came close, touched them and said those comforting words we all long to hear: “Do not be afraid.”

After the moment passed, Jesus led them back down the mountain and into everyday life again. This powerful encounter reminds us that Jesus is truly the Son of God — radiant, holy and worthy of our worship. But it also shows us his heart: gentle, reassuring and near to us when we are afraid.

We may not stand on that mountain, but we can still experience our own “mountain-top moments” — times in worship, prayer or Scripture when we glimpse God's glory in a fresh way. And just like the disciples, we are invited to rise up, follow Jesus and listen to him every step of the journey.

Fasting from criticalness

Most fasting involves temporarily giving up something you enjoy. When you long for a cookie or a favorite show, you instead turn your attention to God, reorienting yourself to his best.

Catherine Marshall, in *A Closer Walk*, presents a different approach she calls fasting from “criticalness.” God dealt with her judgmental spirit by prompting her to spend 24 hours without criticizing “anyone about anything.” At first, Marshall felt rather empty when she didn't engage in a heated political debate. But friends and family didn't seem to miss her comments. Plus, God replaced the energy she'd spent attempting to correct others with energy and creativity to positively influence them.

A critical spirit can make us lose perspective, joy and even relationships. It also can prevent the good work God wants to achieve through us. Consider what could happen as a result of your own “criticalness fast.” Pray for God to do the correcting while you focus on building up others.

Drawn to God's Word—Bible Reading

Plan with Creative Prompts:

FEBRUARY—Love

Psalm 36:5-10

John 15:9-17

1 Corinthians 13:4-13

1 John 4:4-21

Draw or write some responses to God's unconditional, pure, just, and sacrificial love for you.

