

2021

# Grace Notes

# March



# *On the Road Again! Just Can't Wait to get on the Road Again...*

Willie Nelson wasn't singing about Lent, but he could have been. Lent began as a time of preparation for baptismal candidates before the Easter Vigil, when they would be baptized and welcomed to Holy Communion for the first time. As the centuries passed, Lent became a penitential season for all believers, a time for self-examination as the Church journeyed with the Lord to the events in Jerusalem. Lent is the symbol of daily life: in the company of friends, surrounded by the great cloud of witnesses, we each journey through these "Lenten lands" until we come to our true home and receive a welcome so joyous that words cannot describe it.

Our March newsletter "On the Road Again," takes a look at how we are called to walk with Jesus our Lord both through Lent and through life. Pastor Brooks' monthly article follows up from February and asks us to be careful of how our current times make us more "tribal." Articles and essays from Chris Wethman, Bev Hudgins and Jean Pochert look at the problem of "grass growing underfoot" from different angles, and encourage us all to "get moving!" We have news from Duke Lutherans, and an update on the results of the Samaritan's Purse Christmas Child program. Plus plenty of information on what's happening in our parish, so that we can keep Walking The Way of GRACE!

We hope this month's edition will be a good companion to you as you and your loved ones find yourselves on the road again with the Lord Jesus!

~The Editors



## What's My Tribe? Modern America and the Church

This month's newsletter article is a follow-up to February's essay. You may recall that I talked about how modern media is essentially propaganda, positioning information in order to encourage we take action in response, even if the action is nothing

more than continuing to click, watch, share, or tweet. Modern media needs to cultivate an audience so that they then have something to sell to their real customers. I outlined in that essay the twin dangers of propaganda: the "silo" effect and the inducement to immediate action.



As your pastor, I worry about the effects of these twin dangers because I see them being very corrosive to our common life as the Church. We are brought together by God, and our life together serves the purposes of the Gospel in the world. St. Paul says in Ephesians that through Christ the

“wall of hostility” between God and humans and between the varieties of humans has been torn down (Eph 2:11-22). We should no longer treat each other as strangers nor dwell “far off” from each other but rather share our lives. Our modern world of propaganda media disrupts that process, teaches us to distrust each other and rebuild the walls that divide us. As we retreat into our “silos,” only allowing information that confirms our viewpoint, we become susceptible to what St. Augustine described as the “desire/lust to dominate.” This desire means, among other problems, that we assume those with whom we disagree are motivated by bad faith, that we will “privilege our side” in any debate, and that we will undermine agreement on basic facts or truths because otherwise our “opponents” will gain an advantage.

In other words, we act as members of a tribe, where success of *our tribe* is also our personal success, and the defeat of *other tribes* is paramount.

We see more and more of this kind of thinking in our society. In the world we have created, men and women are living lives apart and alone, taught that the past is poison and the future uncertain. People are desperate for hope and purpose—*what can I do to give my life meaning?* Having an opponent or enemy allows people to organize themselves into tribal communities that are self-evidently “good” because they are mobilized against the forces of evil. As Christians, we are not immune to these pressures and mobilizations, because we are a part of this culture. We bring our tribal behavior into the Church, the Body of Christ, and the Body suffers because of it.

As we continue through Lent and arrive at Easter, I hope that you will consider the concerns I have outlined and, at a minimum, commit yourself and your household to the following goals:

1) *Be mindful* of how you receive “news,” and remember that the information you gather day by day is produced to ensure **profitability for the media company**. Take time to notice how the information is presented. Are there heroes? Villains? Is there context to what is presented, or is the information free-floating, untethered to history or to other current events? When you have finished reading or listening or watching, do you sense yourself more knowledgeable or filled with feeling, especially feelings of fear, anger or

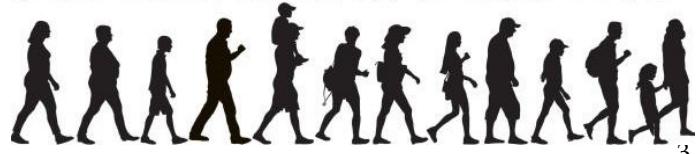
anxiety? If you sense you need to take action, *is the action related to your plans for the day?* Or are you simply induced to watch more, click on through, or put an opponent into his or her place?

2) *Consider how your news source* presents information regarding a topic about which you have some knowledge or expertise. Is the source fair or clear about your topic? Does it leave out important context, vital facts, or even turn things upside-down? If your source is that careless or (perhaps) devious about a topic that you understand, be skeptical about their presentation of other topics as well.

3) *Remember/recover our family story!* This last one is maybe most important. We tell ourselves stories to understand our place in the world, fire our imaginations and give us a sense of purpose. Many of the stories in our world right now lead us away from the peace and joy that are found with the Lord Jesus, and, as I’ve already noted, tempt us to rebuild the walls that separate us. The best way to combat a slide toward tribalism is to invest ourselves in learning the stories of the Bible and of the Church down through the ages. This includes both the Old and New Testament, the lives of those heroes many call the saints, and of our brothers and sisters down through time. If we know the story of the Jedi or of Harry Potter’s wizard world, or the story that modern media presents with its heroes and villains better than we do of Jesus, or Moses, or Peter and Paul, or Augustine and Brigid and down to our own day, we will find ourselves drawing on “wisdom” that is not of the Kingdom of God. The story is the map, the answer to “how can my life have meaning?”

Most of all, have confidence in God! He is trustworthy and true, a sure and present help, the dear friend, the strong protector, the faithful companion on the road, the answer to all questions. You and I are surrounded by friends, real brothers and sisters who are as near to us as any person can be. Do not be afraid, but be ready, for God is on the move!

~Pr. Dave Brooks



# Don't Let the Grass Grow Under Your Feet

Whenever I read the Gospel of Mark the saying, “Don’t let the grass grow under your feet” comes to mind. The saying means to not stand still or be idle. By continually moving, there is less chance of grass growing under your feet.



There is a sense of urgency, intensity, and action throughout Mark. He moves quickly from one episode in Jesus' life and ministry to another, often using the word ‘immediately’ (40 times) to reinforce the pace at which Jesus traveled from one town to another.

Jesus and His disciples traveled extensively according to Mark. In Galilee He told His disciples that He would be betrayed into human hands. In Capernaum, He met some fishermen, healed Simon’s mother-in-law, and preached in synagogues. Two times He visited Bethsaida. One time He walked on water; the other He healed a blind man. His visit to Jericho changed the life of a blind beggar. The time spent in Jerusalem was in a garden called Gethsemane. Obviously, Jesus and His disciples did not let any grass grow under their feet.

In general, it takes about 30 days for grass to grow from seed. Grass planted at the start of the pandemic (March 2020) would be approximately two feet tall right now. It’s not easy to make your way through a field or lawn that’s 24 inches high. One might be tempted to merely sit and wait, hoping that someone else shows up with a lawn mower. Some might take one look at the tall grass, turn around and immediately leave. Others will embrace the

challenge, forge forward, focusing intently on navigating through the obstacle-like blades of grass in front of them. They are resolute, determined, and confident they will overcome. Urgency, intensity, action.

Personally, I feel that too much grass has grown under my feet in the last 11 months. A debilitating virus has resulted in being too still and too idle. Life inside the walls of my home has been pretty cozy and safe – all too familiar. At times, I’ve embraced the mundane and given in to the temptation of letting my inactivity fester into apathy and complacency.

It’s interesting to note that when Jesus summoned Simon and Andrew, Mark says: “And they immediately left their nets and followed Him.” (Mark 1:18) In all of Mark’s chapters, not once does he mention that the disciples of Jesus were reluctant to travel with Him. No mention of grumbling or complaining about having to be on the road again and again and again. Urgency, intensity and action became their norm – their way of life.

Nothing mundane or ho-hum about the life of a disciple on the road. Every day Jesus’ disciples lived in anticipation of what He was going to do next. What new places awaited them? Whose lives would be forever changed by Jesus’ touch? Jesus led – they followed...immediately.

~ Chris Wethman, Interim PMC President



*Pastor Dave spent a couple hours in the parking lot on Ash Wednesday so that drive-by imposition of ashes was available for those who were not able to come to services. Thank you, Pastor Dave!*

# On the Road Again

Barna

**Did you know that in a survey done by Barna research in 2011, they uncovered some unsettling statistics about the spiritual health of believers? The results showed that only 18% of Christians (defined as self-identifying Christians who**

**attend church at least once a month) are committed to spiritual development, that only 10% of Christians experience spiritual transformation and as a result only 0.5% experience a profound love of people. When I learned of these statistics, I became driven to learn more about spiritual health and faith formation. On this journey I realized we don't have very good metrics to measure spiritual health. We don't often talk about being transformed and don't have language for such a discussion.**

Wow!!! That flabbergasted me and made me realize I am not very spiritually healthy especially in the area of experiencing profound love of people. I notice that most of the time my natural, initial response to people is judgment. I am constantly comparing myself, looking for approval, trying to please and fit in.

I was introduced to a new metric for measuring spiritual health developed by Rev. Dr. Paul Burns, called the GPS (God, Personal, Social) Spiritual

Inventory. I decided to take the assessment and went through the debriefing to learn that my relationship with God is pretty strong, but the other two areas need some work and that is the road that I have been on. I love that Paul illustrates spiritual health with a sink drain. Water flows down the drain from the sink to the loop before it flows on out to the ground. The down part is our relationship with God. His love flows to us when we trust Him. The loop represents our relationship with self. If this is clogged, God's love can't flow through to others (the upside of the drain). And that is where I found myself. God's love isn't able to flow out to others because my heart is clogged.

What I am learning as I work on spending time with God and establishing my identity in Him, allowing Him to heal my brokenness, is that this is the Lenten journey. It involves dying to self and rising, through Baptism, to new life in Christ Jesus: this is the theology of the cross and it is hard work!!! I invite you to join me in this journey during this Lenten season as we study "On the Road with Saint Augustine."

And...if you are interested in taking the GPS assessment, I encourage you to contact Chris Wethman. She is a trained GPS coach.

~ Bev Hudgins, Lay Minister of Christian Education

## From Samaritan's Purse: A Ray of Hope & Joy Broke Through the Clouds of Fear and Darkness

In 2020, A Ray of Hope & Joy Broke Through the Clouds of Fear and Darkness

*"I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, 'My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please'"—Isaiah 46:9-10 NIV*

**2020 caught everyone by surprise.** But not God. He's known about COVID-19 and the trials and challenges of this unprecedented year since before the beginning of time. He's always had 2020 vision. And we are thankful that part of that vision included using Samaritan's Purse to take the Gospel of Jesus

Christ to the ends of the earth through Operation Christmas Child, even in a pandemic year!

### Mission Not Impossible

If any place can be called the end of the earth it's Wotje—a tiny atoll that is part of the Marshall Islands in the North Pacific. This summer, 340 children—most of them orphans—attended a festive Operation Christmas Child outreach event and received gift-filled shoeboxes. Many of them didn't know what a gift was until they lifted the lid of their box. "Through the gifts you can see the brightness in their eyes and the excitement they see when they

*Continued bottom of page 6 and page 7*

# The Small Plot of Grass

"Wherefore, if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall He not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? -Matthew 6:30 (KJV)

It was just a small plot of grass on the side of El Futuro, a new business at the Shoppes of Lakewood. An empty store with a sidewalk on the side is opposite. "Not much," you might say, but there is a story to tell about how God 'clothed' it through the years.

Long ago it was a part of a large field with a small lake on it. There The Lakewood Amusement Park was built on the field. "The Coney Island of the South," they said. It had a roller coaster, casino and a swimming pool among its attractions. World War II shut the whole thing down.

Later, The Lakewood Park Shopping Center went up on the land. The plot of grass became a walkway to Jersey Street and remains so today. A children's museum next to it came and used it as a play area for the children. Festivals held at the shopping center

had gatherings there. Later, picnic tables were put on the grassy plot. A business serving those with special needs met there for outside activities.

Slowly disrespectful activities started to take place there and they persisted. Last year, an orange fence went around the grassy plot. Workers could be seen dumping rocks – lots of rocks – on it. "How sad," I said to myself. The fence remained up. Then one day I went up to the orange fence and looked. There in the middle of the grassy plot was a little stream. Water gushed from a rock and flowed from a pipe at one end. The water ran down a winding channel bounded by boulders, rocks and pebbles. It went over little water falls on its journey to the other end. I stood in awe.

Later, I thought of how God had clothed this plot through the years and how people with amazing talent transformed it from a place of darkness to one of incredible light.

~ Jean Pochert



## *Samaritan's Purse—Continued from Pg. 5*

discover that someone really loves them," one ministry partner said. "It's the love of God in a tangible way."

On Palau where the first shoeboxes in that country were handed out. Our field representative was overwhelmed by what he saw and was deeply appreciative. "I want to thank all of the people who pack shoeboxes," he said. "You are touching many lives. God is doing a great work through you." In all, shoeboxes were distributed on over 200 Pacific islands in 2020!

In South Asia where half of the unreached people groups in the world live, the Lord opened the way for us to visit 55 of these groups and proclaim the Gospel. In one extremely poor community the people

lived in patchwork huts. Children had no shoes and wore rags for clothing. There were no schools for them to attend. They had never received a gift—until they opened their shoeboxes! "The joy on their faces was incredible," a ministry partner said.

In Thailand, there was a mandatory lockdown, and it looked like shoeboxes weren't going to be delivered. But over 4,000 of God's people in that country prayed for doors to be opened for Operation Christmas Child. And they were! Circumstances changed and the government was able to cancel the lockdown so that outreach events could be held.

Lockdowns occurred across the globe and made it difficult for children to gather together. In Mexico, ministry partners brought kids together through an online prayer group. Over 200 believing boys and girls participated and prayed for the needs around



them and for the children who would receive shoeboxes.

### The Greatest Journey

The pandemic didn't impede our efforts to disciple children in 2020 through The Greatest Journey, the 12-lesson Bible

course for shoebox recipients that teaches kids how to become faithful followers of Jesus and how to share Him with others. In all, over 3.5 million children participated in The Greatest Journey in 2020.

Over in Uganda, boxes were handed out to over 300 refugee children and 250 of them completed The Greatest Journey. At the graduation ceremony there was just enough food to feed the graduates, but hundreds of other children showed up. Our ministry partners didn't turn away a single child. They trusted God, and 750 children were fed from the food that had been prepared. Praise God!

Last year in a Tanzanian village, local elders became angry when the Gospel was shared, and they took all of The Greatest Journey materials and burned them. But later they saw how blessed the children in the village were by the shoebox gifts so they allowed another distribution to take place this year. At the event, the elders listened to the Gospel message and gave their overwhelming approval to Operation Christmas Child. Now, the elders are reading the discipleship materials themselves!

### Stepping Up to Pack

With lockdowns, quarantines, and store closings across the U.S. and other countries, the question arose whether or not people would pack shoeboxes this year. We needn't have been concerned. God purposefully moved upon the hearts of His people, and they responded with great passion—and millions of shoeboxes!



Mary Bird, an 82-year-old woman in Cuero, Texas, used Operation Christmas Child to minister to older folks in her church by converting her home into a shoebox-packing spot. People signed up to prepare boxes in one-hour increments. While they packed, Mary visited with them and prayed for them, while staying six feet away. For many of these individuals it was the only time they ventured outside and was their only social interaction. Over 1,000 boxes were packed in Mary's home!

At our newest Samaritan's Purse affiliate office in South Korea, November 11 was an historic and wonderful day because the first-ever shoeboxes



packed in that country were brought in for processing! In all, nearly 3,000 boxes were processed during the office's first year.

In Germany, a young woman from Armenia who came to the country to do volunteer work, learned that her host

family was involved with Operation Christmas Child. Ani was so excited because when she was 12 years old she received a shoebox, and it changed her life. Now, she is volunteering in our German office and sharing her story. "I received a shoebox when I was younger," she said. "Now, I want to be on the other side and help—like a boomerang."

### Unified for the Gospel

As we look back on 2020, we praise God that the Gospel reached millions and over 9 million gifts were packed, collected, and processed! As one leader said, "God used this year to strengthen His church and lay a strong foundation for future ministry. Although we were apart, we were more unified than ever."

In South Ukraine, a volunteer prayer coordinator perfectly summed up what God did through Operation Christmas Child in 2020: "So many children and their parents were blessed to hear the Word of God and to feel His love. The children reacted in a special way to the Gospel and to the gift boxes, because after isolation and constant fear a ray of hope and joy broke through the clouds of fear and darkness."

### To God be the glory!

\*Please note: Some photos taken prior to pandemic restrictions.

# Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

March 2021

## Service Calendar



Sunday Services	March 3 Lenten Wednesday 12 & 7 PM	March 7 Third Sunday in Lent 8:30 & 11 AM	March 10 Lenten Wednesday 12 & 7 PM	March 14 Fourth Sunday in Lent 8:30 & 11 AM	March 17 Lenten Wednesday 12 & 7 PM	March 21 Fifth Sunday in Lent 8:30 & 11 AM	March 24 Lenten Wednesday 12 & 7 PM	March 28 Sunday of the Passion Palm Sunday 8:30 & 11 AM
Lessons/ Readers	TBD	<b>OT Lesson:</b> Exodus 20: 1-17 <b>Epistle Lesson:</b> 1 Corinthians 1:18-31  <b>8:30 AM</b> Judy Ferren <b>11:00 AM</b> Lauren Oruwari	TBD	<b>OT Lesson:</b> Numbers 21:4-9 <b>Epistle Lesson:</b> Ephesians 2:1-10  <b>8:30 AM</b> Chris Wethman <b>11:00 AM</b> Bev Hudgins	TBD	<b>OT Lesson:</b> Jeremiah 31:31-34 <b>Epistle Lesson:</b> Hebrews 5:1-10  <b>8:30 AM</b> Ken Kempel <b>11:00 AM</b> Becky Thomas	TBD	<b>OT Lesson:</b> Zechariah 9:9-12 <b>Epistle Lesson:</b> Philippians 2:5-11  <b>8:30 AM</b> Barb Tippin <b>11:00 AM</b> Carol Walton
Ushers/ Greeters	TBD	<b>8:30 AM</b> Tom McGill <b>11:00 AM</b> Gary Stuhlmiller	TBD	<b>8:30 AM</b> Tom McGill, Joe Wethman <b>11:00 AM</b> Gary Stuhlmiller	TBD	<b>8:30 AM</b> Tom McGill <b>11:00 AM</b> Gary Stuhlmiller	TBD	<b>8:30 AM</b> Tom McGill <b>11:00 AM</b> Gary Stuhlmiller
Organist	Chase Benefiel	Chase Benefiel	Chase Benefiel	Chase Benefiel	Chase Benefiel	Chase Benefiel	Chase Benefiel	Chase Benefiel
Vocalists	<b>7 PM</b> Jenna Young	<b>8:30 AM</b> Amy Robertson <b>11:00 AM</b> Jenna Young	TBD	<b>8:30 &amp; 11 AM</b> Margot Weubbens	<b>7 PM</b> Jenna Young	<b>8:30 AM</b> Margot Weubbens <b>11:00 AM</b> Jenna Young	<b>7 PM</b> Jenna Young	<b>8:30 AM</b> Amy Robertson <b>11:00 AM</b> Jenna Young



Dear Joyce and the ladies of LWML,  
Thank you so much for your kind words  
concerning Jim. He was truly remarkable and I  
am so thankful I was blessed to have known  
him for close to 60 years. I miss him and his  
smile. He is at rest and peace. Praise God!  
Thank you for the booklets and the prayer  
shawl. I appreciate the time and effort that  
went into the making of the shawl.  
Again, thank you.

Connie Knuth

Hello,

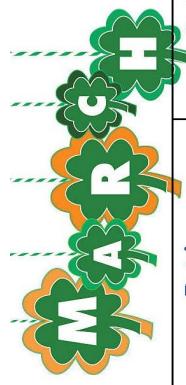
Thank you for sharing Shrove Tuesday with  
us. I am sorry to have missed the service but  
did want to let you know how much we  
appreciate your thinking of us.

Blessings,  
Gary and Nancy Cox

Dear Joyce and Grace Church,  
Thank you so much for the beautiful prayer  
shawl, as well as the series of grief books.  
The caring and support of you and the  
church is so appreciated and gives me  
comfort.

Jenny Manning

# Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church



**2021**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b>		<b>2</b> 4:30 pm Growing Thru Grief (virtual) 6:00pm MMSG Advisory Board 7:30 pm Worship Team Meeting tentative (Zoom)	<b>3</b> MMSG Cuddle Up Story Time 10:00 am LWML Quilting 12:00 pm Lenten Noon Service 5:45 pm Book Discussion - Zoom 7:00 pm Lenten Evening Service	<b>4</b> 6:00 pm Executive Team Meeting (Zoom) 7:00 pm Education Team Meeting (Zoom)	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30 pm AA Meeting
<b>7</b> <b>3rd Sunday in Lent</b> 8:30 am Worship Service: In Person 9:30 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Services: In Person, Live & Call-In	<b>8</b> 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study- Book of Ruth - (Zoom)	<b>9</b> 4:30 pm Growing Thru Grief (virtual)	<b>10</b> 10:00 am LWML Meeting 11:00 am LWML Quilting 12:00 pm Lenten Noon Service 5:45 pm Book Discussion - Zoom 7:00 pm Lenten Evening Service	<b>11</b> 11:00 am MMSG Preschool Fire Truck Visit	<b>12</b> <b>MMSG Preschool No School</b> Teacher's Training	<b>13</b> 6:30 pm AA Meeting
<b>14</b> <b>4th Sunday in Lent</b> Daylight Savings starts 8:30 am Worship Service: In Person 9:30 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Services: In Person, Live & Call-In		<b>15</b> 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study- Book of Ruth - (Zoom) 7:00 pm Deacons Meeting	<b>16</b> 4:30 pm Growing Thru Grief (virtual) 7:30 pm Worship Team Meeting (Zoom)	<b>17</b> 	<b>18</b> 7:00 pm Stephen Ministry	<b>19</b> 6:30 pm AA Meeting
<b>21</b> <b>5th Sunday in Lent</b> 8:30 am Worship Service: In Person 9:30 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Services: In Person, Live & Call-In 12:30 pm PMC	<b>22</b> 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study- Book of Ruth - (Zoom)		<b>23</b> 4:30 pm Growing Thru Grief (virtual)		<b>24</b> <b>April Grace Notes</b> Newsletter articles due! 10:00 am LWML Quilting 12:00 pm Lenten Noon Service 5:45 pm Book Discussion - Zoom 7:00 pm Lenten Evening Service	<b>25</b> 6:30 pm Book Club Meeting (Zoom)
<b>28</b> <b>Sunday of the Passion</b> Palm Sunday 8:30 am Worship Service: In Person 9:30 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Services: In Person, Live & Call-In	<b>29</b> 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study- Book of Ruth - (Zoom)	<b>30</b>		<b>31</b>		

# New Introduction to Grief Series Starting March 16

Each year, Growing thru Grief offers a six-week Introduction to Grief series, all given by one presenter. This year, Aaron Klink will be the presenter. The series begins on March 16. During the first two weeks in March, our presenters will be Margie Satinsky with “Healing Yoga” on March 2, and a video on “Resilience” on March 9.

Aaron Klink is Chaplain and Bereavement Coordinator at Pruitt Hospice in Rocky Mount, NC. He graduated from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, Yale Divinity School and Duke Divinity School where he was the Westbrook Fellow in the Program in Theology and Medicine. Ordained into the ministry by the Church of the Brethren, he is dually aligned with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. His writings have appeared in *The Christian Century*, *American Journal of Bioethics*, and *Lutheran Quarterly*. He is a member of the Steering Committee of the Chaplaincy Innovations Group of the American Academy of Religion. He is a member of Saint Paul’s Lutheran Church, and has served in Lutheran and Brethren congregational contexts in Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New York and North

Carolina. Following is the schedule for the series:

March 16	Grief and the New World After Loss
March 23	The Geography of Grief— Relearning Spaces
March 30	Relearning Relationships with the Living
April 8	Relearning our Relationships with the Dead
April 13	Relearning Ourselves
April 20	Relearning the Vision for the Future

Growing thru Grief offers year-round support for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. We meet each Tuesday from 4-6 pm, for now on zoom. Those who attend need to have both audio and video available. Each meeting begins with a short presentation about a part of the grief journey, and then we break into small groups for sharing and conversation. To register for one of these zoom meetings, email [admin@growingthru.org](mailto:admin@growingthru.org) by 8 am on the Monday before the meeting.

~ Joyce Rea, Growing Thru Grief Facilitator

## Duke Lutherans Special Lenten Offering Grace House Day of Celebration



Thanks to a generous Thrivent Action Team grant, the Duke Lutherans are now able to care for our Grace House

friends whom we haven't been able to see since COVID first struck last spring. Because this ministry is rooted in table fellowship and building Christ-like relationships of mutual love and support, we are assembling blessing bags, including grocery gift cards (thus giving our friends the freedom of meeting their specific needs, as some of them are facing unemployment due to COVID and others are still trying to process immigration for their families.) We also plan to include personal notes of encouragement/prayer and to purchase other helpful items, such as hygiene supplies and masks.

However, rather than simply give these items to our

neighbors, we are planning an outdoor, socially-distanced Day of Celebration at the Grace House on **Saturday, April 17**. Although we still can't eat together, this will still be a time to renew our friendships, pray together, and look forward in hope to the good things God still has in mind for us.

If you would like to contribute to the blessing bags and help make the Day of Celebration possible, please consider giving to our Duke Lutherans Special Lenten Offering. You can either mail a check to St. Paul's with Grace House in the memo line (1200 W Cornwallis Rd, Durham, 27705) or click on this link which will take you to a secure online giving site through St. Paul's. Once there, enter the amount in the Misc. Other line and type “Grace House” in the provided space: <http://bit.ly/3r3898c>

God's Peace,

~Pastor Amanda Highben  
Duke Lutherans Campus Pastor

# Baptism Birthdays

Laura Michael	3/01
Brandi de Talance	3/03
Leah Duncan	3/03
Duncan Robertson	3/07
Debbie Hecht	3/10
Ellen Fisher	3/15
Beckett Lappe	3/15
Gail Glifort	3/20
Richard Sarratt	3/20
Joshua Stuhlmiller	3/20
Jean Pochert	3/25
Steve Michael	3/28

# Birthdays

Kay Wardell	3/03
Jean Pochert	3/04
Lauren Oruwari	3/05
Jean Sam	3/05
Ella Michael	3/07
Benjamin Heuser	3/09
Nicholas Boyle	3/09
Daniel Stuhlmiller	3/11
Richard Sarratt	3/12
Joseph Hunike	3/16
Chris Hanson	3/17
Dave Durkop	3/18
Nancy Smith	3/22
Fergus Robertson	3/22
Tom Fricke	3/23
Terry Fisher	3/25
Max Suarez	3/28
Jessica McCaskill	3/29
Kathy Peterson	3/29

# Grace Book Club

Our next Zoom meeting will be March 25th at 6:30 PM.

The books for the next three months:

- **March:** *A Woman of No Importance* by Sonia Purnell
- **April:** *Sidney Chambers and The Shadow of Death* by James Runcie
- **May:** *Still Life* by Louise Penny

Please let Donna Gesell know if you would like to attend the Zoom book club meetings.

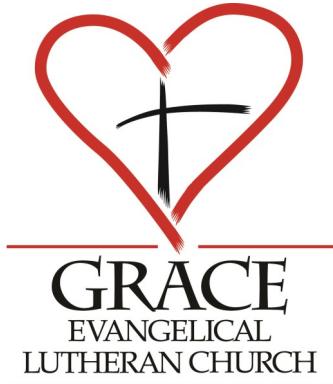


## Sent to MOST Ministries in February

Jean Pochert reports that 5 pairs of sunglasses and 2 glasses cases were sent to MOST Ministries in February. If you have old pairs of eyeglasses, glasses cases or sunglasses and would like to donate to MOST, there is a collection box in the Narthex at church.



Miss Mollies Celebrated Valentine's Day with fun heart pictures. Don't you just love children's artwork?



Items for the newsletter can be sent to: [office@gracelutheranchurch.net](mailto:office@gracelutheranchurch.net).

The deadline for the April newsletter is March 24<sup>th</sup>.

Share your joys and interests with fellow members!

GRACE NOTES IS A PUBLICATION OF GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY SERVICES AT 8:30 & 11:00 AM • SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:30 AM

824 N. BUCHANAN BLVD – DURHAM NC 27701-1572

[WWW.GRACELUTHERANCHURCH.NET](http://WWW.GRACELUTHERANCHURCH.NET)

PASTOR: THE REV. DR. DAVID H. BROOKS ASSISTANT TO THE PASTOR: REV. RICHARD R. KUEHN

## ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION

### Interim Parish Council President:

Chris Wethman

**407-718-4647**

### President Elect: Vacant

### Ministry of Admin: Vacant

### Ministry of Education: Bev Hudgins

**919-451-5645**

### Ministry of Fellowship: Kae Huggins

**919-490-6753**

### Ministry of Mutual Care: Barb Tippin

**919-423-4587**

### Ministry of Outreach: Gary Stuhlmiller

**919-607-0023**

### Ministry of Property: Mike Hunike

**919-693-5734**

### Ministry of Stewardship: Kent Silvernail

**603-943-1337**

### Ministry of Worship: Geoff Heintzelman

**919-477-9306**

### Stephen Ministry: Joyce Rea

& Joe Wethman

**919-620-9230**

### Secretary: Becky Thomas

**407-716-4125**

### Financial Secretary: Laura Michael

**919-592-7408**

### Treasurer: Donna Gesell

**919-678-6872**

### Grace House Administrators: Donna Gesell & Dede

**919-490-0234**

Crosmer

[www.GraceLutheranChurch.net](http://www.GraceLutheranChurch.net)



visit us on our Facebook Page: *Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church.*

**Mission Statement:** We are called to *Welcome Everyone to Walk the Way of GRACE*, and walk in that way in our individual lives, in our shared life in our various communities, in our common life with our neighbors, and even to the world at large as God sends us. The *Way of Grace* is to: **GROW** with Jesus, **REJOICE** in God, **ANSWER** with hope, **CARE** for the neighbor, and **EMBRACE** community.

**Vision Statement:** God has a plan FOR OUR LIVES, and so we teach how to walk in the path of Jesus Christ; FOR OUR NEIGHBORHOODS, and so we work to build healthy and strong communities; FOR OUR CITY, and so we share life with our neighbors in Walltown, Trinity Park, Duke, and the Triangle; and FOR OUR WORLD, and so we go with Good News.

**Core Values:** Because God loves us first, we value worship rooted in Scripture and Sacrament, service to all people, and being a welcoming community that loves and forgives one another.