******“Established in the Holy Scriptures, our mission is to make Jesus Christ**

Our Journey

**A newsletter for members and friends of Saving Grace Lutheran Church**

**Lutheran Congregations in Missions for Christ**

 **known to all as the one true Savior; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.”**

**Ash Wednesday Services**

**Wednesday, March 5,**

**Noon and 6 pm**

(There will be no confirmation)

**Treasure Sale**

**Saturday, March 1, 9 am to 2 pm**

**Set up begins Sunday, February 23, and you can begin dropping off items. Place on tables or hang items, Mon – Fri, 9am-4pm.**

**Will start pricing on Thursday and Friday. Can work Saturday as a cashier, refold clothes, and tidy up tables, and/or come find a new Treasure!**

**Lenten Services are held every Wednesday at Noon and 6 pm starting March 12, 2025.**

**The Men’s Group will be serving their famous soups at Noon and Church Committees will take turns serving the Lenten suppers at 5 pm, every Wednesday**

**The Lenten Theme this Year is**

**“Discipleship: What We Do!”**

**A message from Pastor David**

 ***Discipleship: What we do.”***

*6:2For he says, “At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.” See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation!* ***3We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, 4but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way:*** *through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, 5beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger* ***6by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, 7truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; 8in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute.*** *We are* ***treated as impostors****, and yet are* ***true****; 9as* ***unknown****, and yet* ***are well******known****; as* ***dying****, and see—****we are alive****; as* ***punished****, and yet* ***not killed****; 10as* ***sorrowful****, yet* ***always rejoicing****; as* ***poor****, yet* ***making******many rich****; as* ***having******nothing****, and* ***yet possessing everything****. (2 Corinthians 6:2-10)*

“In January 2013, Sabine Moreau, a 67-year-old Belgian woman, was driving to pick up a friend in Brussels, about 90 miles from her home.” (*Ryan Grenoble, "Sabine Moreau, Belgian Woman, Drives 900 Miles Off 90-Mile Route Because of GPS Error," The Huffington Post (1-15-13))* The hour and a half trip took longer than she expected. Her son got worried when he hadn’t heard from his mom for a couple of days. He contacted the police, who located Sabine by following her bank statements.

She was following her GPS and drove all the way to Croatia – nearly 1,000 miles away. In an interview with a Belgian reporter “she told a Belgin reporter, ‘I was distracted, so I kept going. I saw all kinds of signs, first in French, then in German, and finally in Croatian, but I continued driving because I was distracted. When I passed Zagreb, I told myself I should turn around.’ Her journey took Sabine, 900 miles away from home, across five international borders. She stopped several times to get gas and take naps, but she kept pressing onward until she hit Zagreb, the capital of Croatia, then she turned around to go back home.” (ibid.*)*

As our lives get busier, sometimes, it’s easier to trust in the modern conveniences in life, rather than common sense or even Jesus Christ our Lord. What do we look to when we need guidance? In what things or people do we place our trust? Are we so afraid of change that even in the face of common sense we blindly follow? Do we place too much faith in what we can see, touch, and presume to know? What do we do when we are called to “Follow Jesus?”

***“As followers of Christ, we look to our Master and Lord, Jesus Christ, as the one who determines our identity. By his own death and resurrection, Jesus leads us in a unique way of life, unlike any other, that we might be formed by the cross into “a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God” (Romans 12:1) (Disciples of the Cross Past 2: “What We Do”, Stephen, King E., Sola Pub., p. 4, 2018)*** When we are called to follow Jesus Christ we are called to submit to His will and His guidance. It changes the way we look at the world. It changes our perspective in life. Life is not about living comfortably and having all that I want. It’s bigger than that. It starts in faith in Jesus Christ our Lord. Have you ever felt unsatisfied, even after you reached the goal you were trying to attain? **During Lent this year** **we are going to dive into what it means** **to follow Jesus** and **what we do.**

Paul writes in 2 Corinthians, that we are to ***“walk by faith (in Jesus Christ) not by sight.” (2 Cor. 5:7)*** we are ambassadors of Christ, so that others may be reconciled to God through Jesus Christ. Paul does a beautiful job laying out his argument. **First of all**, we make certain not to make people stumble. **Secondly**, as servants of God we endure everything for the sake of following Christ, **in suffering**, (***“through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, 5beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger”******(2 Cor. 5:4b)****)* **by all the gifts of the Holy Spirit**, (“***6by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, 7truthful speech, and the power of God”*** ***(2 Cor. 5:6-7b)****)* “We endure everything for the sake of others knowing Jesus Christ. We know that this world pales in comparison to heaven, yet God has something amazing that he is doing in and through our lives in Christ. A woman that was asked what she did for a living. She answered, **“I am a disciple of Jesus Christ very skillfully disguised as a machine operator.”** I thought that’s a very clever way to put what we have been called to do. **We all have a mission as ambassadors of Christ**, and **we all have ‘that thing we do’ (work) to make a living**. Our priorities make a difference. ***“Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:21)*** **Keeping the first things first.**

When Jesus called Simon, He told Simon, ***”Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people. 11When they had brought their boats ashore, they left everything and followed him.” (Luke 5:11e)***

**Come and join** us **this Lent** **as we discuss**, “**Discipleship: What We Do!”**

In Christ Jesus our Lord,

Pastor David Irgens

Mission Outreach

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There’s a children’s book, *Last Stop on Market Street,* that recalls a young boy’s bus ride with his grandmother. After leaving church, they get on the bus to make their way to a homeless shelter where they volunteer serving a meal to the homeless. Throughout the story, the boy recognizes many things that are less than ideal about the day. It’s raining outside. He doesn’t have a music player like some of the other boys have. His wise grandmother answers every complaint and concern from a different perspective. You may not have a fancy music player, but you’re riding on a bus where a man with an acoustic guitar is sitting right in front of you—why don’t you ask him to play you a song? The trees need the rain and the rain will leave a beautiful rainbow afterwards.

It’s surprising how the book ends abruptly with the child and his grandmother serving a meal at the homeless shelter. But, if you sit with the scene for a moment, then the lessons learned from the previous bus ride come into focus. Life is about being thankful for what you have right in front of you, not for the long list of things you feel are missing. People are much more than what they have or what they don’t have. Instead, life is about the things, moments, and words we share with one another.

“Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ.” (Ephesians 5:21)

This one verse is a great summary of what it means to live a new life as a child of God. It challenges us in many ways, but it also invites us into a life full of meaning, purpose, and mutual support. It speaks to the lessons being taught by the young boy’s grandmother in *Last Stop on Market Street.* God is good and gracious providing for our needs day after day. Life is not just what we see, what we purchase, the kind of work we can pay for or the work we can accomplish on our own. Life is about the God who can send the rain and provide our daily bread, the God who forgives, the God who chooses and adopts us as his children.

But, just like the little boy has a difficult time seeing the beautiful day before him, it can be challenging to see how God is inviting us to be servants of one another. “Just as “be subject to one another” is hard to come by in the American world of competitiveness, the “out of reverence [fear] of Christ” that supplies the umbilical cord for living submissively is hard to come by in the American culture of irreverence.” (236, Peterson *Practice Resurrection*) “Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ,” is the way Paul introduces how we should engage in all of our relationships, at home, at work, and at church.

I must confess, I don’t often find myself preparing for a meeting, a conversation, a day of chores thinking to myself, “How can I subject myself to my wife or my fellow church members?” It is a challenge for us—or at least, it is a challenge for me! But, it is also an invitation. How many of you would like to be able to say, “I saw God at work in my day today”? How many of you would like to be able to say, “I felt the peace of Christ today as I did what I could for others our of reverence for him”?

He's inviting us to a life of service over and above a life of winning or a life of achievement. He’s inviting us to a life of wonder and reverence over and above a life of having the right answers. He’s inviting us to a life lived with him. And as the days get longer the freeze begins to thaw, let’s remember to share this wonderful life with those around us as we serve one another out of reverence for Jesus.

With the Lenten Season ahead of us,

Pastor Dan

**Music Notes**

***Submitted by Katherine Altreuter***

*I am weak but thou art strong*

 *Jesus, keep me from all harm.*

*I’ll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.*

*Just a closer walk with thee.*

*Grant it, Jesus, is my plea.*

*Daily walking close to thee.*

*Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.*

I’ve been reflecting often on the hymn, “Just A Closer Walk With Thee” these last few weeks as my father and I are going to be playing it for the services on March 23rd. I’m reminded by this hymn that not only is God my protecter, but that His presence is all that I need.

Often, when we hear that God is all we need, we dwell on our physical needs: I need food, water, shelter, clothes, etc. And of course, these things are important to our physical safety and care. But God is beyond all of these things. He understands that we may need food to sustain us, but it is because of Him that we eat food. We need shelter and clothes to protect us from the weather, but it is because of God that we can build homes and sew or buy clothes to wear.

The apostle Paul writes, “But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God” (1 Corinthians 1:26-29). Even though we may need food and water to survive, it is through God’s creation of us and the world around us that this is even possible. So placing our trust in God is key to survival, not necessarily the physical actions we can take.

Paul continues with, “[God] is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, ‘Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord’” (v. 30-31). When we call upon Christ to bring us to our Heavenly Father, it is because God gave Christ to be our Savior. Not only are we to place our trust in God through the hardships and unknown, but faithfully follow Christ as he is the one who God has placed before us. As God gives us food to eat and clothes to wear, He gives us Christ, our Savior, “who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption.”

As I thank God for all the good in my life (the food on my table, the clothes on my back, and the shelter over my head), I only ask to remain close to Him through Christ. As we pray in Jesus’ name, we are brought closer to God, so that He can sustain us through it all.

Sharing God’s Gifts

In February monthly gifts went to Starfish Kids, Ephrem, Binder Family, Home 4 Healing, CVSM \*Pastor Mike Henry\*, Kwik Trip SC for a mom to visit her daughter in the hospital, and Mona Sundstrom fundraiser.

We choose to support Mona Sundstrom and her family. Mona is a 19-year-old Colfax native, and she was diagnosed with a serious medical condition in April of 2024. After trying multiple different treatments, she will require brain surgery soon. Mona is a 2023 Colfax graduate, a member of Holden Lutheran church, and a former member of Impact! youth group. Gifts will help with ongoing medical expenses.

We have started a collection of old and new devotional books \*Our Daily Bread & Christ in Our Home\*, we want to use them for future projects. We have a basket on our Mission Outreach table for them.

We would like to invite you to our Mission Outreach table in the fellowship hall. We have notes, newsletters, and volunteer information from groups and organizations Saving Grace supports.

We are always open to ideas and suggestions for Missions from our congregation. Call one of our mission committee members or email office@saving-gracechurch.com.

Mission Outreach’s next meeting will be on Monday, March 3, 2025, at 5:00 pm.

**January 2025 Financial Information as of January 31, 2025.**

**Donations: $549,435.00**

Expenses: $527,505.70

Net Income: **$21,626.30**  **Building/Land $3,620,428.73**

 **Mortgage $1,621,909.05**

**In Loving Memory of…**

**Mom & Dad, Don & Bev Erickson, from Don Erickson to Debt Reduction**

**Laban Miller from his Brother & Sister-In-Law, Rev Dr Donald & Judy Brenner to Debt Reduction.**

**Also from Family & Friends, Jon & Diane Case, Dean & Sandra Kallenbach, George & Virginia Seversen, Tammy Amote, Rebecca & Darin Kintsler to Debt Reduction..**

**Evelyn Chappelle to Debt Reduction & TV Ministry, (donation to pay for the airing of the Saving Grace worship service on the 28th of January, recognizing what would have been her 98th Birthday by her Daughter, Sue Hutchinson. Evelyn loved to watch the Worship Services on TV.**

**Kimberly Polus, Cindy Joy Fischer’s Sister, to Debt Reduction from George & Sandy Nelson and from Stan & Jean Brettingen.**

**John Ryberg from Bev Nelson & Cindy Joy Fischer and Kevin & Nancy Balash for In-Floor Heating.**

**Parents, Wayne & Velma Rosman & Sister Rosalie Rosman from Geraldine Schulner to the TV Fund.**

**Rita McCarty from her Husband, Kim McCarty, to Debt Reduction.**

**Margaret Crandell to Debt Reduction from William & Judy Ferber.**

**Alice Andersen to Debt Reduction from Cindy Joy Fischer.**



**Saturday, March 8, 2025 at Noon**

**For Jamie Doran**

**All Women invited!**

**“Diaper Raffle”**

**“Potluck”**

**Things coming up. . .**

**You are invited to a Baby Shower for Jamie Doran. It will be held at the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, March 8, 2025 at Noon. You are encouraged to bring a bag of diapers and prizes will be given. We have been told that Pastor Dan will be in attendance also!**

**A new Membership Class will be held Monday, March 3, 2024 at 6 pm.**

**Come join us for our Ash Wednesday Service this Wednesday at Noon and 6 pm.**

**(No Confirmation will be held).**

**Daylight Saving Time starts Sunday, March 9, and clocks should be turned ahead one hour at 2 am. Saturday Worship Services will be held at 5 pm starting Saturday, March 15.**



**Saturday: 3:00 pm Traditional**

 **Parking Lot Radio Broadcast FM 107.1**

**Sunday: 8:30 am Traditional In-person & Livestream**

 **10:30 am Contemporary In-person & Livestream**

 **10:00 am TV Broadcast on WQOW channel 18**

**Saturday Services will be held at 5 pm starting Saturday, March 15th.**

**Church Council**

**Michelle Otto, President**

**Patty Dundas, Vice President**

**Michelle Volz, Secretary**

**Members: David Cunningham, Mary Schneider, Ruth Hofland,**

 **Steve Wright, Carol Pickhardt, Brian Hagen, David Smith**

 **Church Staff**

**David Irgens, Senior Pastor**

**Dan Doran, Associate Pastor**

**Katherine Altreuter, Music Director**

**Chloe Sawall, Education Director/Choir Director**

**Allie Schroeder, Graphic Design**

**Kathy Jaenke, Office Manager**

**Kristina Johnson, Children’s Choir Director**

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