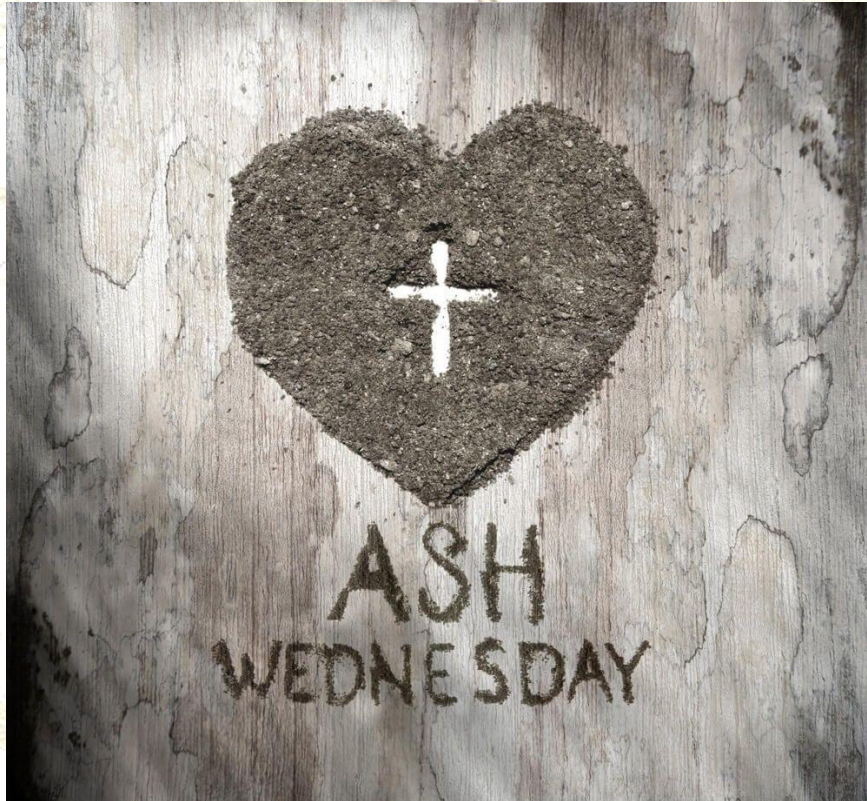


February/March 2022

HERALD OF GRACE



Lent begins Ash Wednesday, March 2, 2022

Special Ash Wednesday Services
with Communion and Imposition of Ashes

11:00 AM and 7:00 PM.

Complete Lenten and Holy Week Schedule INSIDE

Grace Lutheran Church

Rev. Wayne J. Miller, Pastor

Connie Rowe, Organist

1356 Government St., Mobile, AL 36604 grace@gracelutheranmobile.com

(251) 433-2749

From Your Pastor

We have three baptisms to celebrate in the last 2 months at Grace (one upcoming on Feb. 13.) What a blessing for Grace to witness, to remember our own and to celebrate God's grace on the newest members of His family. In baptism, we are clothed with Christ. All of us, clothed the same. No matter how big or little, young or old, rich or poor. One size fits all.

That makes the church pretty unusual! How often do adults and children wear the same clothing? How often do the rich and poor look alike? How often do the police officer and the nurse wear the same uniform? How often do different personalities and different cultures and different generations have the same clothing? If you ever look at pictures from the 1920s, all the men and all the women looked like they were wearing the same clothing and had the same hair style. That was when unified generations were a thing and it showed! Today, individualism has taken over and "anything goes."

And yet in the church today and joining Christians of all generations, we actually dress the same. There is no difference, St. Paul said, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. We all have the same dirty, disgusting, filthy rags. But Paul goes on to say, we are all also justified freely by His grace through the redemption of Christ Jesus. Christ doesn't leave us in filthy rags. He comes to us and clothes us with Himself and His righteousness sending us forth into the world as kings and queens. He was stripped of his clothes for us.

So is church just a bunch of kids playing dress up? Pretending to be someone we're not? By no means! We return every Sunday from a week of rolling in the dirt. We don't try to hide that fact - we confess it: I, a poor, miserable sinner. And our Father is here to meet us, to wash us clean from our sins, and clothe us with Christ. We aren't dressed like sons and daughters; we ARE sons and daughters of God. And that should change us inwardly in our faith AND outwardly in our deeds.

We are covered with a clothing that God has for us to wear in the wilderness of this world of sin and death, waiting to enter our promised land of heaven. That is clothing that never goes out of style. We don't have to change constantly to match the ever-changing tastes of the world - being clothed with Christ is all we need at Grace and for eternity no matter what you look like today.

So next time you come to church and see people wearing all kinds of clothing in all kinds of colors, some fancy, some not, some new, some old, some you like and some you don't - take another look. See not how we're all different, but all the same. Hear the small voice and the old confessing their sins together, and then hear His forgiveness. And then look around again. And see a church full of Christ. Each and every one the same. Each and every one made new. Each and every one a brother or sister in Christ. Joyous days of repentance and a renewal!

May God bless your Lenten Season.



Pastor Wayne J. Miller



From The President's Desk

Dear Members of Grace,

Thank you for your support and confidence in me as your Congregational President. It's a joy to work with Pastor Miller and so many dedicated members of Grace. I have been a member of Grace for 30 years and I am humbled to be given the opportunity to serve God and you in this capacity.

I want to thank the new and returning Council members willing to serve this new term. I look forward to working with all of them. We already had our first meeting on February 8th and it's exciting to see new things happening and the ministry of Grace continuing.

If you have any questions, thoughts, or ideas regarding the ministry and direction of Grace, please send a note or talk to me, any council member, or Pastor Miller.

May God lift you up - saved by grace,

Debbie Milling

Lent and Holy Week Schedule for 2022

- Sunday, February 27: Transfiguration Sunday
- Ash Wednesday Services with Communion and Imposition of Ashes, March 2, 11:00 am (Lunch afterwards) & 7:00 pm

Midweek Lenten Services on Wednesdays, 7:00 pm Vespers

Theme: "Where in the World is God?"

March 9- "On a Donkey."

March 16- "In a Garden."

March 23- "In Custody."

March 30- "In Court."

April 6- "On Death Row."

- Palm Sunday, April 10, 10:00 Government Street Palm Processional
- Maundy Thursday, April 14 5:30-8 The Way of the Cross (see details pg.)
- Good Friday, April 15, 7:00 pm Tenebrae "*Service of Darkness*"
- Easter Sunday, April 17, 8:00 and 10:00

**A Light Continental Easter Breakfast
will be served between services from 9:00-10:00.**

"THEY WILL LOOK UPON HIM
WHOM THEY HAVE PIERCED."

Grace Lutheran's

WAY OF THE CROSS

A Holy Week Journey
for the Christian
Maundy Thursday
Every half hour from 6-8 pm



Maundy Thursday
April 14, 2022

5:30-8:00 pm

**Groups of about 12 will begin
every ½ hour.**

The "*Way of the Cross*" is a deep beautiful devotion that you are invited to this Maundy Thursday. It is rooted in the historic "Stations of the Cross" that developed during the Middle Ages, probably when pilgrims journeyed to the Holy Land marking off the sites associated with our Lord's passion and the journey through Jerusalem to the cross.

This Maundy Thursday, we will take ourselves to the very heart of the suffering of our Lord; the

Passion; his "Via Dolorosa" (the Way of Sorrows); "moving" our worship from the moment of his betrayal until his burial allowing us to better experience the greatest event in history: Christ's death and resurrection, which removed the sins of all people for all time- including ours.

A sign-up sheet for times will be available in the back of the church starting March 20th or by emailing the church office at grace@gracelutheranmobile.com or calling 251-433-2749.

Departure times will be 5:30, 6:00, 6:30, 7:00, and 7:30.

A blessed Holy Week to you and
God bless your journey through the way of the cross!

-Pastor and the Board of Elders

From Your Missions Chair

It is more blessed to give than to receive' so let's make sure this year is truly better than the last! *"Christ has no body but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world."*

Each month throughout 2022, our Missions Committee will be presenting you with a new *Mission of the Month* challenge. As the new Missions Chair, my goal is to focus on supporting organizations that make a local impact and provide a *hand up* rather than a *hand out* as well as provide an opportunity to not only take up collections within the church, but also to get out and engage with the community around us. I pray that we can present you with enough variety this year that every single member of Grace will find at least one challenge that truly inspires them. I hope you will join me in supporting our local Ronald McDonald House Charity in our first challenge to *Let the Good Times Roll*.

Sincerely, your new Missions Chair,
Lacey Sovik



"Christ has no body now but yours.

No hands, no feet on earth but yours."

~Teresa of Ávila

Let the Good Times

ROLL

Throughout Mardi Gras,
we will be collecting rolls of
toilet paper & paper towels
to be donated to our local
Ronald McDonald House on
the USA Children's &
Women's Hospital campus.

Do you feel like doing something
more, but aren't sure what?

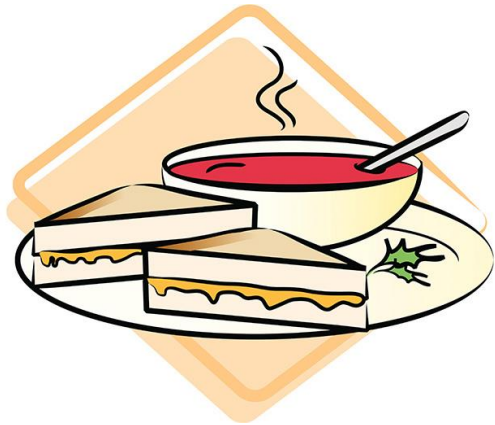
Do you have a passion for
helping others?

Volunteer for the Missions
Committee today and help
change the world tomorrow!
Contact Lacey Sovik at email
below to sign up. If there's a
specific local need or organization
that you feel passionate about
supporting, we'd love to hear
from you, too.

Deadline: **March 2** (Ash Wednesday)

Lacey Sovik: missions@gracelutheranmobile.com

Upcoming Food and Fellowship



Soup and Sandwich Lunch
Ash Wednesday after the 11:00 service
Hosted by the LWML

Continental Easter Breakfast
Served between services
From 9:00-10:00
Hosted by Fellowship Committee

+++++



All Women of Grace are invited to participate in the Lutheran Women in Mission group. We meet the first Wednesday of every month at 10:00 am.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, March 2 at 10:00.

(An Ash Wednesday service will follow and lunch at noon.)

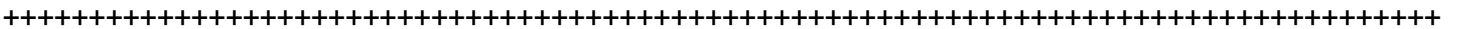


MUSIC NOTES

Choirs will meet on Wednesdays. 5:15 Choir and 6:00 Handbells

If you are interested in joining the choirs, please contact Chris and Connie Rowe at 251-270-9000.

Chris and Connie Rowe

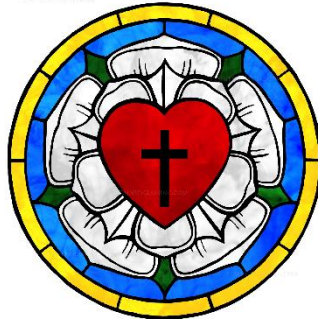


Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the prayers, cards and phone calls during my recent knee surgery and illness. I appreciate your care and concern.

May God bless each of you.

Love, JoAnne Toren



The 2021 Medal of Grace Recipients given to the Glory of God for extraordinary service recognized with gratitude by the 2020-2021 Church Council:

Darrell Butler

Beverly Waite

The medals were presented to Darrell and Beverly by Pastor Miller and Grady Luttmann, 2018-21 Congregational President, on January 30, 2022.



Thank you, Lord, for your servants!

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP



We welcome our new members to Grace:

- William and Annetta Seckel, Spanish Fort, AL
- Addison Michelle Miller, (Baptism- December 5, 2021)
- Buklee Axton Abbott, (Baptism- January 30, 2022)
- Jacob William Hankins, (Baptism – February 13, 2022)

We welcome you in the Name of the Lord!

Called to Glory:

- + Adelaide Woodruff + November 6, 2021
- + Darrell Arnett + January 8, 2022



February Birthdays

- 1- Linda Schnaser
- 3- Laura Adlington
- 4- Bunny Kringel
 Janis Watkins
- 5- Lisa Burnette
- 8- Steve Johnson
 Rev. Marvin Mueller
 Sherea Weiss
- 9- Ashley Oswalt
 Rachel Dean
- 10- Dan Unger
- 12- Martha Keezel
- 13- Damean Hosey
- 14- Benjamin Walker
- 16- Lacey Sovik
 Martha Webb
- 17- Chris Mangino
- 20- Kyla Hosey
- 24- Gabriella Raynor
 Tony Seckel
- 25- Hugh Sovik

February Wedding Anniversaries

- 6- Ronald and Sherea Weiss



March Birthdays

- 3- Joe Ellingburg
Kevin Erdman
Kimberly Kringel
- 7- Drew Gray
Tom Hankins
- 8- Nicole Hosey
- 10- Kathy Brokaw
Yeabsira Mendedo
- 15- Andie Unger
- 18- Deborah Griffin
- 21- Joey Kringel
- 24- Andrew Gehlken
- 25- Kevin Hanson
- 30- Karen Mitternacht
Kyle Mitternacht

March Wedding Anniversaries

- 2- Hugh and Lacey Sovik
- 8- Steve and Jan Watkins
- 12- Darrell and Heidi Butler
- 21- Adam and Ashley Oswalt
- 22- Michael and Melanie Tims
- 23- Daniel and Joanna Arnett
- 28- Rick and Julie Harvey
- 28- Buddy and Karen Strickland

