

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

702 G Street Phone: (360) 332-6589

P.O. Box 1646, Blaine, WA 98231-1646

www.blaine-grace-lutheran.org

Email: office@bglutheran.com



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Let's Stay Connected

Office Hours: Monday—Wednesday & Friday
8:30am—12:30pm

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Weekly e-mails—contact the office if you
would like to subscribe.

If you aren't online and would like paper
notifications please call the office.



Pastor's Message:

Do we gather together for worship?

That had been the million dollar question for about a week as I sat down to write this. If you know me at all this is something I have wrestled with back and forth daily. In part because the information and recommendations change almost daily. In part because it is in my nature to analyze and question and reflect. As I write this at 6:21 am on March 18, those of you who know me will drop your jaw, amazed that I was even out of bed. This has become a regular occurrence. Waking up at four or five in the morning with thoughts swirling around but not knowing where to go with those thoughts.

I have read emails about why this church is gathering together for worship or this church is not. I have talked to members of our congregation, some for, some against. The arguments for both sides are quite good. We should not meet because we do not want to play even a small role in the spread of this deadly disease. We should meet because we cannot let anything get in the way of the most important things in life and what is more important than gathering together to worship the one who created us, loved us so much he gave His life for us, saved us, forgives us and paves the way for us to receive eternal life where there are no more viruses, let alone sin or death. I have heard, "I am old, if this kills me I will be in heaven with the Lord." I have heard, "But what if me hugging you passes on the infection?"

Well since I like to analyze, this should be like paradise for me, right? Well... no! I like to analyze for the purpose of solving problems and helping make someone's life better. This seems like an unsolvable problem. One that never goes away and manifests itself in every decision all day long and into the night. After pondering, reading, thinking, and praying at church about what to do for worship I get home and it is deliberating about Kelley and the boys going to St. Louis (they are not) and Seth going to a sleep-over (he did). Neither of the home questions were vital, at least in my mind, but one carried more risk than the other. But anything we do

these days carries some risk. Do we stop doing everything? Well, not the vital things. Then when sleep finally comes, suddenly it is four or five in the morning and the thoughts are there, pros/cons.

I settled in on the words from the CDC or the Health Department. They recommend that for non vital activities not to gather in groups of 10 or more. We are vital so they are advising us to keep meeting. For 50 people or more, do not meet. We now have a gathering of less than 50 people because of the high risk individuals who have understandably decided to stay home. So again, let's keep gathering for worship. That is what I recommended and council decided on Sunday the 15th. Then, each day after I would read of another church suspending gathering for worship and another and another. Are we the only one still gathering together? Is this foolish? We were not the only one in our area but I think we were in the minority.

Council also decided that if the government tells us or groups of 10 or more to stop meeting than we should stop meeting. I do not have the data that they have. I do not have the projections for the spread of the disease based on this course of action versus that path. Martin Luther in the 1500s said listen to what the government tells you to do unless it goes against the Word of God so if they say vital groups of 10 or more should stop meeting than we should stop. Then, around noon on March 18 Council voted to suspend gathering together for worship indefinitely. So we continued to gather together as long as we could and now we stay safe in our homes or take necessary precautions as we go to work and we connect through services on Youtube. Check out blaine-grace-lutheran.org for the latest services available.

I hope this is helpful. I hope you are finding peace from the Prince of Peace. You have many decisions to make and I pray that you are filled with wisdom from the Word and hope from the source of every good gift, our ever-loving Heavenly Father.

In Christ, who through ALL things are possible.
Pastor



Digital Pledge

Do you have a social media account? If so, you know social media can be a divisive and dark place. You also know it can be a great avenue for connecting with people! Lutheran Hour Ministries is calling Christians to use their digital voices to be light in digital spaces. Take the Digital Conversation Pledge to learn how and commit to being a positive voice in your digital spaces! Learn more at www.lhm.org/pledge.

Join a movement of Christians who want to shine their light in our increasingly digital world.

I recognize that how I use my digital voice matters. I want to use my unique voice in a way that pleases God, lifts others up, and makes a real difference in this world.

I pledge ...

- I will pay attention to my digital voice.
- I will lift others up.
- I will be gentle, not harsh.
- I will look for holy moments, not just hilarious memes.
- I will connect with new people, not just my friends.
- I will bless my enemies, not strike back at them.
- I will relate wisely with those who don't share my faith.

I think one could also add to this list: I will take opportunities when appropriate to relate what God is doing in my life and through my church.

Pastor Dennis Wildermuth
Lutheran Hour Congregational Ambassador

John 16:33

"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

We at Grace Lutheran Church realize the importance of remaining in fellowship with our church family. Due to the current COVID-19 issue, there are a number of our members living on their own that may be feeling disconnected with their fellow believers. This presents us with the opportunity for demonstrating Christ's love by reaching out by telephone to those that would welcome a friendly call.

Please contact the church office (360) 332-6589 and let Gretel or Pastor know if you're interested in receiving or making calls. If you call and get the church office phone recording please leave a message. Either way we will get back to you. Thank you in advance for your willingness to bless and be blessed by sharing His love with others.

In Christ,
Lenore Onyon, Lay Ministry Chair

"Life Subject to Change!"

Oh man! Who'd a thought at the beginning of the year that we'd be dealing with a pandemic not even a quarter of the way through the year! My Mama has always stressed the meaning of words & to choose your words wisely!

Ya see it's like this...

On January 1st the motto I came up with for this New Year, at the start of a New Decade, "Life Subject to Change!" Oh my how subject it is we are learning! The challenge is now, how do we roll with the changes?

Even though we are isolated, let's not isolate! Reach out to your friends!

Call them

Text them

FaceTime/Skype them

Send them a letter in the mail, as I'm sure you all know this is one of my absolute favorite modes-of-communication... I know, I know, "What a Boomer!" (Even though I'm not really a Boomer!)

Go for a walk - stay 6 feet apart

Get The Remind app and join @7glcyouth (Join the app & I'll stop sending the obnoxious group texts)

Share other ideas of what to do in this COVID-19 era on Remind @7glcyouth

Continue to grow! Continue to know that even though all of this is going on we can still do what Saint Francis said to do so long ago:

Make me a channel of Your Peace.

Where there is hatred, let me bring Your love.

Where there is injury, Your Pardon, Lord, And where there's doubt, true faith in You.

Make me a channel of Your Peace.

Where there's despair in life, let me bring Hope.

Where there is darkness, only Light,

And where there's sadness ever Joy.

O Master grant that I may never seek

So much to be consoled as to console,

To be understood as to understand,

To be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of Your Peace.

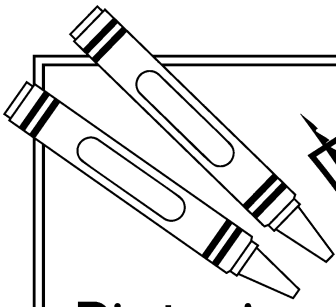
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned, In giving of ourselves as we receive, And in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.

That is a song I learned as a kid & it has stuck with me all along! It's a great one to have memorized & is perfect for this new year, this new decade when life is subject to change! Even though all seems crazy & uncertain & we really do not know what will happen next, with youth group or anything! We do know that our Dear Heavenly Father loves us! He watches out for us! We are His! -A-N-D- we are on The Winning Team!!!

Yet in His Grip,

Mrs. Z

Isaiah 26:3



PUZZLE

Picturing the Lord's Supper

Jesus ate the Passover meal with his disciples as a symbol of the new covenant.



Directions: Use the picture clues to fill in key words from Luke 22:19-20, NIV.



And he took _____, gave _____ and _____ it, and gave

it to them, saying, "This is my _____ given for you; do this in



_____ of me." In the same way, after the supper he



took the cup, saying, "This _____ is the new _____ in my



blood, which is _____ out for you."

LUKE 22:19-20, NIV

Answers: bread, thanks, broke, body, remembrance, cup, covenant, poured

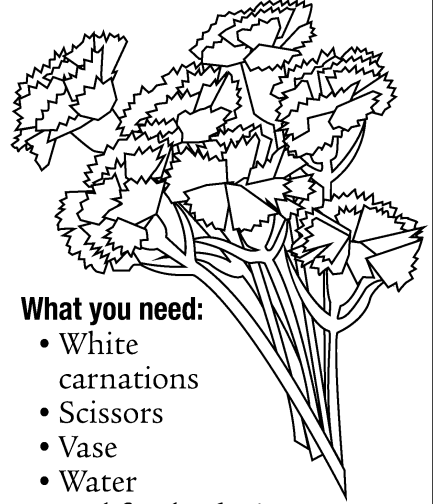
Use your Bible to complete these verses:

Isaiah 26:20: Come, my people, enter _____

Psalms 61:3: for you are my refuge, _____

Scripture AND NATURE

Conduct a simple experiment to illustrate Easter's meaning.



What you need:

- White carnations
- Scissors
- Vase
- Water
- Red food coloring
- Bible

What you do:

1. Cut the carnation stems (at an angle) to about 8 inches long.
2. Fill the vase halfway with water. Add 10 drops of food coloring. (More may be needed to darken the water.)
3. Add the cut flowers and observe what happens to the petals over time.
4. Discuss how this is like Jesus' work on the cross. Read 1 Peter 2:22-24 (NIV) and reflect on what his death means for us.
5. To learn more about this experiment, research capillary action.



April 2020

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|-----|-----|---|--------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------|
| <p>All Services are cancelled until further notice.</p> <p>Sermons will be posted on Facebook and the web-site blaine-grace-lutheran.org</p> | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| | | | 5 Palm Sunday <i>Joy comes from a heart of gratitude.</i> | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 12 Easter <i>Rejoice! He is Risen!</i> | 13 | 14 | 15 <i>NewsLetter DEADLINE</i> | 16 | 17 | 18 MEN'S Bible Study 8am |
| 19 <i>O sing to the Lord a new song... Psalm 96</i> | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 Lay Ministry Meeting 6pm | 24 | 25 |
| 26 Council Meeting <i>I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Phil. 4:13</i> | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | |



Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 7 Shannon Hrutfiord
- 9 Theresa (Holleman) Goninan
Sandie Miller
- 10 Jan Mouw
Bella Elizabeth Hrutfiord
- 13 Thomas Berndtson
- 16 Loran Goninan
Anthony Persse
- 17 Rick Faulkner
- 18 Mitchell Liebert
- 20 Dwight Luce
Chloe Archer
Rowena Dehnke
- 22 Erika (Gervol) Creydt
- 23 Shauna Johnson
Beth (Thompson) Stoll
- 24 Kirk Mouw
- 27 Dale VanderYacht
Larry Van Wanseele
Nichole Thompson
- 29 Darwyn Dehnke
- 30 Margaret Prior
Nadine Bowler

- 11 Leonard & Marsha Wahl
Jane & Howard Woods
- 13 Kirk & April Mouw
- 20 Dan & Cheryl Persse
Steven & Rachel Hrutfiord
Jean Cartwright & Al Mason
- 21 Russell & Delray Carleton
- 26 Bruce & Margaret Prior

Please pray for the following:

- Homeless People
- Nora Atwood
- Angus Pratt – cancer
- Andy Higby – migraines / elbow
- Art Macarthur
- Men & Women in Public Safety
- Cora Dickey
- Diane – Jean’s daughter-in-law
- Marlis’s daughter Jackie
- Vanessa Funderburg – car accident recovery
- Maxine Vogt – hip surgery recovery
- Nancy’s son – cancer surgery recovery
- Pastor Dennis – surgery recovery
- Rika’s brother Mick – kidney surgery

Grace Lutheran Schedule

All services are cancelled until further notice.

The office is open as normal.

Gretel is here Monday to Wednesday and Friday 8:30 to 12:30.

Pastor is here Wednesday and Friday from 10 to 3 but is normally here most of the other afternoons and other times.

Please leave a message if you don't get us because we are on the other line or out and about. The messages are checked regularly and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

We will be adding services to the website through YouTube and to Facebook regularly. If you need something please let us know.

Peace in Christ to you in these difficult times and may you and your family be safe and well.

| Servants | April 5 | April 12 | April 19 | April 26 |
|-------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|--|---|
| ACOLYTES | Stevie & Emily | Bella & Elee | Conner | Seth |
| ALTAR COMMITTEE | Patty & Cheryl | Patty & Cheryl | Patty & Cheryl | Patty & Cheryl |
| COFFEE HOUR | Gladys & Rick Faulkner Karen Halldorson | EASTER | Jim & Carolyn Higby Jo Galbraith John Veleber | Jon & Colleen Huffman Jim & Joan Gregory |
| GREETERS | Bruce & Lynne Shelton | Steve & Kristi Galbraith | Jacque Robbins | Karen Halldorson |
| SCRIPTURE READERS | Janet Mehus | Nancy Vogee | Megan MacArthur | Dan Perse |
| LAY MINISTERS/ COMMUNION | | | | |
| PIANIST | Cheryl Neuberger | Cheryl Neuberger | Cheryl Neuberger | Cheryl Neuberger |
| ORGANIST | Brent Johnson | Brent Johnson | Musicians | Brent Johnson |
| USHERS | | | | |
| FLOWERS | | | | |