

20 February 26

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church Messenger



Pastor's Reflection

Tom Brodbeck

What are you giving up for Lent this year? With Ash Wednesday approaching quickly (February 18), it is a common question in Christian circles. Many people give up something food-related (like chocolate, pie or broccoli). Others fast from other distractions (like social media). And still others choose not to give up anything at all.

Giving up something for Lent is a way for Christians to imitate the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness at the beginning of His earthly ministry. The Scriptures tell us He fasted during that time in order to prepare Himself for what would happen to Him over the next three years. Likewise, our own practice of self-denial is meant to help us cultivate a deeper focus on what God is doing in and around us. As one writer puts it, "Giving up something for Lent is a way to create space for God."

That's harder than it sounds. I personally find that any time I have "space" in my life, something will rush in to fill it. And if I am not careful, that space becomes wasted time, not God time. Can you relate?

Whether or not you choose to "give up" something this Lenten season, please do carve a few extra moments of God time into your life. Read the Scriptures. Listen to Christian music. Sit quietly and listen for His voice. It doesn't need to be long. It will make your Easter celebration more meaningful. Truly it will.

FEBRUARY OUTREACH CORNER



2026 TRIP TO LAUREL MISSION:

If you would be interested in learning more and possibly joining us for our trip to Laurel Mission this year, please reach out to Sandy Thompson: sandy.thompson@grace-nalc.org or 937-399-6257. See signup sheet in the narthex as well. This year's trip will be October 25-31, 2026. It's a great opportunity to serve and have a fun week away!

FEBRUARY OUTREACH FOCUS: STAND WITH HAITIAN FAMILIES IN CRISIS

During the month of February, let's support our Haitian neighbors who are living in a state of uncertainty for their future. We will be collecting food and hygiene items to support them on their journey, wherever it may be. You may also donate financially to help with their legal fees to try and secure legal status, secure passports for their children, and for general advocacy of their safety and wellbeing. Collection items include **Food Items:** Canned Fruit, Canned Vegetables, Pasta & Sauce, Boxed Mac-n-Cheese, Cereal, Canned Soup, Ramen Noodles, Crackers, rice, dry beans, and other non-perishables; **Adult Hygiene:** Bar Soap, Liquid hand soap, Washcloths & hand towels, Feminine Hygiene, Toothbrush/ toothpaste, Antibacterial Wipes, Fingernail Clippers, Hand sanitizer/alcohol, Toilet paper, Deodorant, Shampoo & Conditioner, Body Lotion; **Baby Items:** Baby wipes, Diapers, Diaper rash ointment, Cotton balls, Extra clothes, Soothing gel, Underpads/changing pads. **Financial donations** can be made through Grace or through the Haitian Help Center website: <https://haitiansupportcenter.org/>



If donating through Grace, please indicate Haitian help with your donation.

Let's be the hands and feet of Jesus!

GRACE OUTREACH IMPACT

GRACE OUTREACH IMPACT FOURTH QUARTER 2025



Breakfast Break 4th Quarter 2025: Emerge Recovery and Trade Initiative
\$1,110.92



October: 7 Members on Laurel Mission trip
158 boxes collected for Operation Christmas Child



November: 27 coats for Snowhill school (partner with Living Water OPC)
32 Thanksgiving baskets donated (10 Snowhill and 22 H.O.P.E.)



December: Raised \$7,245 for Emerge Recovery & Trade Initiative
Giving Tree- 7 families, 12 kids, 48 gifts given

THY KINGDOM COME

It's a phrase you say at least once every time you worship at Grace: "Thy Kingdom Come." You no doubt recognize it as a line in the Lord's Prayer. But what does it mean? When I ask God to bring His Kingdom, what am I praying?

As Christians we believe that the Kingdom of God is unlike any other kingdom this world has ever seen. Jesus gave us hints about it, particularly in the form of several Kingdom parables that Matthew's Gospel records in chapter 13.

As we walk through this season of Lent our congregation will grow in its understanding of the coming Kingdom of God and, as we do, we will become more passionate about praying for its quick arrival.

Each of our Sunday services (8 and 10:45 a.m.) will focus on that theme, utilizing the assigned lectionary readings as our guide. We will also worship each Thursday evening at 7 p.m. (February 26 through March 26). These services will each highlight one of Matthew's Kingdom parables. Pastor Brodbeck will be joined by Michelle Kouse and Sandy Thompson in creating and delivering these midweek messages.

In addition, our congregation will worship at noon and 7 p.m. on Ash Wednesday (February 18), Maundy Thursday (April 2) and Good Friday (April 3). Good Friday's service will see a return of the touching practice of hammering our nails into a cross. In the evening Maundy Thursday service several of our young people will celebrate their First Communion.

Begin now to invite your friends and family to worship with you this Lenten season!

JOY GIVING SERIES FOR WOMEN



Joy Giving!

Women's Bible Study

5 Sessions: Mondays: Feb 16, 23, March 9, 16, 23, 2026. Note there is no class on March 2. We will meet at 6:30 – 7:30 PM in Room N108 at Grace. Bring Bible and writing implement. Worksheets will be provided by Grace Lutheran Church.

This is an invitation for all the ladies of the church and friends they would like to invite to attend our women's study entitled "JOY Giving". The class will meet on 5 Mondays from 6:30 to 7:30 in Room N 108. We will begin on Monday the 16th of February. The remaining

classes will be February 23, March 9, 16 and 23. (Note that we will be skipping the date of March 2.) If you would like to participate, you need to bring your Bible and something to write with. Worksheets for each class will be provided by Grace Lutheran Church. We will explore the source of JOY and our ability to impact those that surround us by spreading JOY. Please join Nora Charney, our Facilitator, for this study. Nora indicates that "I look forward to new revelations." Register at the table in Narthex.

YOUNG AT HEART



"Young At Heart." We enjoyed the season of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ and survive the New Year's Eve. Young At Heart (ages 55 and over) listen to the beautiful voice of Bailey Compston and the piano played by NYC Berry in Beyond Broadway at the sanctuary

series at High Street Methodist church. 22 of us are also going to the LaComedia Dinner Theater to see "Murder on the Orient Express" a classic murder mystery. February 20th we will see the musical "Singin in the Rain" come enjoy an afternoon of Fellowship love between aging Christians.

NOVEMBER PRAYER PARTNERS

In November, our Prayer Partners got together to celebrate Thanksgiving by playing games and eating pumpkin and apple pies in a cup. Our service project was making Thanksgiving Cards, which Steve and Andy Schumacher delivered to the Springfield Manor.



STABLE PROCESSION



During our 6:00PM Christmas Eve service, Grace children and some guests participated in the Stable Procession. Each child chose a state of the nativity, walked to the altar and placed it into the nativity. It is always a highlight of the service to see the children participating!

THANK YOU LETTER

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support, kind words, thank you, cards and gifts I received during the time and up to my retirement. I loved this job, being with all the little ones, learning and growing with them. Each one made it extra special! I will truly miss being there with all of them, but I know they are in good hands. Thank you to the staff for the luncheon for me, great food and fellowship. I will continue to attend services as I can, early and late. Look forward to seeing you soon.

Blessings to everyone,
Carol Drown

CURRENT RESIDENT OR



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Evangelical Lutheran Church

Grace



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