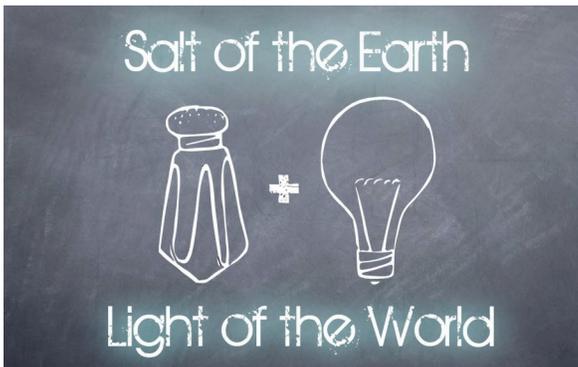


# Good News from Grace

February 2023

## *Our Purpose*

*The purpose of our church is to make a difference by serving others through God's love and our faith.*



## **February 5, 2023 (5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany)**

**Matthew 5:13 and 14**— Jesus says, “You are the salt of the earth,” and “You are the light of the world.”

*Without salt, we would become unhealthy and die. Without light, we would not be able to live. Jesus says WE are the world's salt and light. Through us, the world receives things that are essential.*

## **From the Interim Pastor**

February 2 is the popular date known as “Groundhog Day.” Punxsutawney Phil will come out of his hole to see, or not to see, his shadow. If he sees his shadow, he goes back into his hole for six more weeks of winter.

For Christians, February 2 is known as the “Presentation of Our Lord.” Forty days after the birth of Jesus (December 25) marks the day that Mary and Joseph presented him in the temple in accordance with Jewish law. There they were greeted by Simeon, an aged priest who offered the song that we know as the Nunc Dimittis, “Lord, now you let your servant depart in peace.” The prophetess Anna also greets the young couple with their newborn son. Both priest and prophetess speak of the redemption of Israel (Luke 2:22-40).

We learn this history from the Lutheran (ELCA) worship resource, “Sundays and Seasons”:

“In the ancient Near East, some religious practice required parents to sacrifice their firstborn child to the deities, who would then reward the parents with many healthy children. Numbers 18:16 stipulates that instead parents should provide for the sacrifice of animals, the slaughter of which redeems the infant. This practice, so alien to us, is fundamental to the New Testament’s explanation of the purpose behind the crucifixion of Christ. Kept alive as an infant—recall also Matthew’s story of Jesus

escaping Herod’s slaughter of the innocents— Jesus as an adult will die as a sacrificed lamb in order to redeem us all. Thus the festival of the Presentation is really a meditation on Good Friday.

Simeon’s poem about Christ being light to the Gentiles...led to the medieval practice of people bringing to the church on this day their year’s supply of candles to be blessed: thus the popular naming of this day as Candlemas... Martin Luther says of Anna’s being eighty-four years old that since 84 is 12 times 7, Anna’s age combines all the meanings of twelve and of seven in the Bible. Thus her age can be seen as signifying the completion of the Old Testament in Christ.”

This minor festival is one of my favorites. My mission trips to Central America often fell over this day. Watching families carry a supply of candles to mass for the blessing was moving where their world is shadowed by dire poverty. Yet, in having their candles blessed, their house is filled with light—the light of hope, the Light of Christ.

Offer this prayer on February 2 to bless the candles and lights that will burn in your house:

*Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, light of everlasting life, you have given us candles to dispel the darkness. We humbly implore you now to bless <sup>a</sup> these candles at our lowly request, and make them holy <sup>a</sup> by the light of your grace.*

A blessed Candlemas, Pastor Lois

### Join us for Worship!

**Saturdays at 5:00PM**  
**Sundays at 9:30AM**

or

[via Live Stream](#)

### Sunday School

**Sundays at 10:45am**  
**September to May**

### 2023 Sponsorship Opportunities

*There has been an increase in costs for both the Altar Flowers (\$45) and the Bulletin & Mailing (\$30) Sponsorship. Lamp Sponsorship remains the same (\$21)*

[CLICK HERE](#) to see available dates 2023.

If you are interested in sponsoring one of these weeks you can either sign up on the bulletin board across from the elevator or contact Diane in the church office at 717-737-0439 x15 or deppengelc@gmail.com.



### Senior Helpers

Contact the church office Monday - Thursday from 8am - 12 noon at 717-737-0439 or email

gelc@comcast.net for a list of members who are available to help you get where you need to go

If you are interested in adding your name to the senior helpers contact the church office with your name, phone number and email address (optional) and we will add you to the list.

### This Week at Grace...

The Altar Flowers for **Sunday, February 6** are given to the Glory of God

The Bulletin & Mailing Sponsorship for **Sunday, February 6** are given by Diane Brokenshire in loving memory of her mother & brother, Laury.

The Sanctuary Lamp Sponsorship for **February** is given by Diane Brokenshire in loving memory of her mother & brother, Laury.

The Special Benevolence Offering for the **first weekend in February is Ecumenical Food Pantry**. To contribute please list the dollar amount next to Special Offering Ministry and list the Ecumenical Food Pantry under comments.



### Coffee Hour

*Sundays 9:00 - 9:30am before worship and 10:30 - 11:00am after worship in the Library*

It seems that Bacon Crackers have become a popular item at Coffee Hour recently. Susan Dickinson has provided a link to the recipe below. <https://tiphero.com/bacon-crackers>

### Lost & Found



Don't forget to check the Lost & Found bin & coat rack in the Library if you are missing items.

Grace will hold the items for one month. If they are not claimed by then the items will be donated.



**Prayer List Additions**

Everyone appreciates prayer but not everyone wishes to be added to the “out loud” prayers.

If you are aware of a member of Grace who could benefit from being added to the prayers, please let one of the pastors know. They will contact the individual to find out whether they wish to be added to the “out loud” prayers, ongoing prayers or prayed for “quietly” by the Community Prayer Group.

***We hold in prayer especially this week...***

Gloria Boyer, Kay King, Ruth McCarney, Donald & Jennifer Runkle, Ken Walker, Kim, Keith Snavelly, Michelle Hillegas, Dale Swenson, John Hench, Harmony, Ron Ryerson, David Harmon, Carol Morton, Al Hughes, Gary Confalone, Shana Funk, Louis Follett, Dorothy Landis, Tom Boyer, Sue Gasswint, Diane Brokenshire, and Dean Jury.

***We hold in ongoing prayer...***

Mary Ryder, Sophia, George H. Osswald, Ed Yoffee, Garry Murray, Darlene M., Margaret Knupp, Kathryn Tuckey, Gerry & Sara Jane Crawford, Mary Louise Shetter, Charlie Buchanan, Priscilla Walter, Lesly Richards, Eileen McCann, and Mike Lutz.

***We also hold our homebound in prayer:***

Howard Lauver, Gladys Cline, Betty Bennett, Yvonne Gettys, Dave & Joan Harman, John Hench, Sis Hoffman, Shirley Hughes, Lou Lore, Ruth McCarney, Patti Reed, Bob & Ruth Rhodes, Dorothy Shreffler, John Shuey, and Docoline Stroud.

**Praying for our Homebound Members**

The pastoral staff wishes to lift up this special group of members on a regular basis during the prayers. Each week, a group of homebound members will be included in the out loud prayers.

*...sometimes we forget to tell others that someone has healed...*

Let’s be good stewards of our prayer list. If someone has healed, or if someone has moved on to eternal life, please let the church office know. But if you forget to follow up, the name will be removed after a month unless you let us know to keep praying.

**For Pastoral Assistance or At Home Communion**

Pastor Lois  
717-579-1875  
prvo2005@gmail.com

or

Pastor Evan  
717-497-3742  
pastorevan47@gmail.com

*From the Church Council*

## ANNUAL CONGREGATION FINANCIAL MEETING ACTIONS January 22, 2023



Chair Mike Ryder gave a presentation on the work of the Grace Assets Ministry. Highlights included proposals for Kentland: enlarging and upgrading the kitchen, installing new windows, making improvements to bedrooms, upgrading the outdoor space, and adding air-conditioning. The team is also hoping to expand marketing to increase rental income.

2023 Proposed Budget presented by Treasurer Susan Dickinson was approved by the congregation.

### ***Ash Wednesday's wake-up call***

“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

With these words from Genesis 3:19 and the swipe of a dirty thumb across our foreheads, Ash Wednesday propels us into Lent with the proper context to understand our lives as stewards of all that God entrusts to us.

Ash Wednesday, which falls on Feb. 22, teaches us that we are mortals, after all. It crushes our ego, dispels our pretensions and drives us deep into God's mysteries: Why are we here? What are our lives all about? What's *really* important? Pray over these questions and profound insights emerge.

**We are dust.** Yes, but we are *God's* dust. Our body consists of trillions of atoms, each a speck of “dust” created by of God billions of years ago. God put us together from the stuff of the universe.

- ◆ Therefore, we are quite literally “earthy” beings, made of the same material as air, water, soil and stone. As part of creation, we work to preserve, protect and sustain creation.
- ◆ Therefore, we have reverence for our bodies, expressed through healthy living.

**We are breath.** We are “dust” into which God has “breathed the Holy breath of life” (Genesis 2:7).

- ◆ Therefore, every breath we take is holy, reminding us of God's life force in us.
- ◆ Therefore, we look to God to align our lives with God's holy realities of peace, love, joy, justice and truth.

**Our time is brief.** Our “dust” will return to the earth someday. We are mortal.

- ◆ Therefore, every hour, every second is sacred. We spend our time wisely, carefully, prayerfully.
- ◆ Therefore, we do not cling to possessions, knowing that we hold onto them only for a little while.
- ◆ Therefore, we fill our lives with treasures of lasting value – friendships, trust, love, joy, service, generosity and harmony.

This Lent, spend time in prayer, with openness and honesty. See how God will turn your heart and mind, transforming you into the person you were created to be. Reflect each day on Ash Wednesday. “Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

--Rob Blezard

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[Click here](#) for a complete and up-to-date bio for Pastor Blezard.



### STEWARDSHIP UPDATE: #4 February 1, 2023

“Giving brings glory to God and leads people to give thanks to God.” 2 Corinthians 9:11-13

A Mini update for you! As of January 24, 2023, we have been informed by Diane in our office, that we have received \$154,720,00 in pledges at this time. Hip, Hip, Hooray!! This is great news. Thank you all so much. This brings our total to 62 pledge cards or 89 individuals who have pledged.

Jason Pringle is busy working on the “Time & Talent” sheets which will take a bit of time to get organized – thanks to those of you who filled those out. We are grateful.

“Lives based on having are less free than lives based on doing or being.” William James, Philosopher of Pragmatism, Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

Blessings, Barb and “The Team” of Pastor Lois, Susan, Judi and Jason



#### THE CALL COMMITTEE

The call committee has completed two of our focus group meetings. Congregation members have two more opportunities to share thoughts on the characteristics we would like to see in a new pastor as well as the direction members would like to see Grace move in the future.

The two remaining dates are as follows: **Saturday, February 4th - 4 PM to 5 PM - Library** *Light refreshments will be provided* or **Sunday,**

**February 5th - 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM - Chapel.**

You can review the questions ahead of time by clicking [HERE](#). Reflect on the questions prior so that we can have a meaningful discussion during the focus group meetings. The meetings will not exceed one hour.

We would like to thank those members who took the time to meet with us and offer their thoughts as we move forward to complete the Ministry Site Profile.



This week, the Grace Chancel choir will be singing Roger Emerson’s exciting and upbeat arrangement of the well-known African American spiritual “Didn’t My Lord Deliver Daniel.” An African-American spiritual is a type of song that originated among enslaved African Americans in the United States. The spirituals were a form of expression for the enslaved people, and they often conveyed themes of longing for freedom, faith, and resilience in the face of hardship.

“Didn’t My Lord Deliver Daniel” is a well-known example of a spiritual that is thought to have originated in the 19th century. It tells the story of the biblical figure Daniel, who was thrown into a lion’s den but was miraculously saved by God. The spiritual interprets this story as a metaphor for the struggles and hardships faced by enslaved people, and expresses the belief that, just as God saved Daniel, He would also save them from their oppressors.

The song has been passed down through generations and has been widely performed in various settings, including church services, at civil rights rallies, and in other venues. The spirituals were a vital part of African American culture, and they played an important role in preserving the history and traditions of the enslaved people, as well as helping them to maintain hope and resilience in the face of adversity. While listening to this piece, we encourage you to think about your own struggles and the strength that God provides for each and every one of us. We hope that this piece helps you to find your own strength, hope, and resiliency.

Blessings,  
Kris & Emily



### Sunday School

Sundays at 10:45am

Please join us for our weekly Sunday School program.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the Sunday School schedule through March 2023. If you need a copy mailed to you please contact the church office at 717-737-0439.

### GYG Upcoming Events

#### February

- 5 GYG Night
- 19 Tech Day  
10:45am - 12:00pm
- 26 Lent Event  
10:45am - 12:00pm

#### March

- 12 GYG Night
- 19 National Youth Gathering Meeting
- 26 Camp Sunday

[CLICK HERE](#) to view complete GYG schedule.

### JYG Upcoming Events

#### February

- 5 JYG  
10:45am - 12:00pm
- 19 Sunday School  
10:45am - 11:15am
- 26 Lent Event  
10:45am - 12:00pm

#### March

- 5 JYG  
10:45am - 12:00pm
- 19 Sunday School  
10:45am - 11:15am
- 26 Camp Sunday

[CLICK HERE](#) to view complete GYG

### TECH DAY on February 19

Would you like to know how to do more with your phone/tablet or computer? Would you like to:

- Set specific pictures or ringtones for your contacts?
- Set timers or alarms easily?
- Put your meetings and appointments on your digital calendar and set reminders?
- Use Zoom or FaceTime?

GYG can help. Come to our tech hour following church in the library to learn some cool new and fun things on your device!

### Youth Food Cards

In the dollar amounts of \$25, \$50, and \$100 are available at the office Monday - Thursday from 8am - 12noon. Contact Chris at 717-737-0439 to let him know when you plan to stop in. Checks should be made to GELC with Youth Food cards on the memo line.

## Good News from Grace Newsletter



CLICK HERE to Current Editions

Starting in **March 2023** the Good News from Grace newsletter will be moving to a monthly edition and will be sent out the end of February 2023. This means that any articles for the monthly newsletter must be received by the **15th** of the month prior to the newsletter month (i.e. articles turned in by February 15 for the March newsletter). The monthly newsletter will also have a calendar that includes the first week of the month.

Then starting the second weekend of the month the new Grace Notes will be offered by mail to those who receive the newsletter packet currently, by email to those on the church email list, and at services. Grace Notes will feature items specifically for that week so anything that may arise during the month can be placed in the Grace Notes.

All articles for the monthly Good News from Grace and the weekly Grace Notes should be sent to Diane at [deppengelc@gmail.com](mailto:deppengelc@gmail.com). Grace Notes announcements need to be received by 12 noon the Tuesday prior to that week's service. If you have any questions you can contact Diane at 717-737-0439 x15 or [deppengelc@gmail.com](mailto:deppengelc@gmail.com).



### Book Club

For the next meeting on **Tuesday, February 28 at 7pm via Zoom** we will be reading "We All Want Impossible Things" by Catherine Newman.

#### Summary

As Edith, her best friend of forty-two years who is dying of ovarian cancer, spends her last days at a hospice near her, Ashley, stumbling around into heartbreak, helps Edith celebrate her life

as they reminisce, hold on, and try to let go.

"Catherine Newman sees the heartbreak and comedy of life with wisdom and unflinching compassion. The way she finds the extraordinary in the everyday is nothing short of poetry. She's a writer's writer-- and a human's human." -- New York Times bestselling author Katherine Center.

"A riotously funny and fiercely loyal love letter to female friendship. The story of Edi and Ash proves that a best friend is a gift from the gods.

[CLICK HERE](#) for login information.



## The Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central Pennsylvania

Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, & The Wittel Farm

The camps are currently in the hiring process for summer camp positions including counselors, lifeguards, summer kitchen staff, summer maintenance staff, summer leadership staff, summer craft director at Nawakwa, summer camp craft instructors, summer head cook at Kirchenwald, a year-round maintenance and facilities manager at Kirchenwald, and a year-round camp director at Nawakwa. The Kirchenwald summer head cook, the Kirchenwald maintenance and facility manager, and especially the Nawakwa camp director positions are of special concern! All those positions, the information about them, and how to apply can be found on the LCC web site at: [www.lutherancamping.org/employment/](http://www.lutherancamping.org/employment/)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Tuesday Bible Study

Join us on **Tuesdays at 1pm**. Pastor Evan is holding a bible study on “The Way”. For more information about this Bible study, contact Pastor Evan at 717-497-3742 or [pastorevan47@gmail.com](mailto:pastorevan47@gmail.com).

### Men of Grace

Join us on **Wednesday, February 15 at 6pm via Zoom**. The discussion will be on Immigration Reform.

For more information contact Rick Keen at 717-657-5563 or Matt Hearn at 717-350-1048 for more information. [CLICK HERE](#) for the zoom meeting information.

### Grief Support Groups

#### Loss of Spouse - Saturday, February 18 at 9:30am

This one day session at Fishing Creek Salem UMC is a 2 hour workshop that includes a video, group discussion, and a helpful booklet used to provide tools to assist you. There is a \$5 charge to cover the cost of materials.

#### GriefShare - 12 week group sessions starting Wednesday, March 1 at 3:00pm

Fishing Creek Salem UMC will be sponsoring the 12 week GriefShare curriculum on Wednesday afternoons. This program provides help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member or friend. There is a \$15 charge to cover the cost of material.

For more information for either group contact Fishing Creek Salem UMC at 717-938-1928.

### Women’s Retreat “Lydia’s House”

Save the Date! On **April 22-23, 2023** there will be a Women’s Retreat “Lydia’s House” at Kentland. Formal start time at 3:00pm Saturday. Come earlier for “time apart”. The ending time will be 12noon on Sunday. RSVP to follow - Overnight stay is optional.

**Good News from Grace** articles are due by **12 noon on Tuesdays**. Email to [deppengelc@gmail.com](mailto:deppengelc@gmail.com)

### Grace’s Inclement Weather Policy

In the event of inclement weather, we post closings or delayed openings on the church phone 717-737-0439 x14, on the website, and most will, also, appear on CBS 21 and ABC 27 as well.

## Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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or on the web at: [www.gracecamphill.org](http://www.gracecamphill.org)