

**BIBLE CLASS SERIES "In Pursuit of Peter" continues:** Please join us on Sunday mornings 9:20, Tuesday evenings 6:30 or Wednesday afternoons 1:30 as we take a look at the apostle Peter and how Jesus took him from being a lowly fisherman on the Sea of Galilee to becoming one of the most important teachers of the Gospel. We consider Peter's many missteps and see how he is in many ways just like any of us. If Jesus can make Peter into an ambassador in his kingdom, he can also shape us into what he wants us to be.

**"MLHS Sunday" at Grace on January 24:** The MLHS Lancer Singers will be here at Grace for our both Sunday services providing special music. Please join us for this special service!

**POINSETTIA PLANTS looking for new homes!** These plants have been removed from the front of church and are now on the table in the fellowship hall in front of the kitchen. Feel free to take one or more plants home with you. They can be cut back and planted outside in spring. Those not picked up by Jan 24, will be thrown out. Please do NOT take the plastic tray under the plant with you. There is a container to put these into on the table.



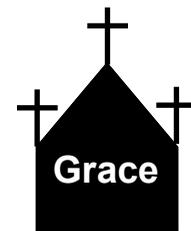
**REMINDER regarding 2021 Offering Envelopes.** If you have not yet picked up your pack of 2021 Offering Envelopes from your member bin, please do so and begin using these—your envelope number may be different that last year. If you are not comfortable coming into the building to pick them up from your box, please call the office and we will see what type of arrangements we can make for you to get them. Thank you!

**2020 Contribution statements were emailed out to members.** For those without email addresses, there is either a printed copy in your member box here at church or Heidi is mailing out copies to anyone that is currently not attending worship in person. If you cannot print this statement from your email, please feel free to call Heidi in the office at 682-7377 and she will print one for you to either pick up or to be mailed.

**January Forward in Christ magazines** are available on the Information Table for anyone that is interested. They are FREE!



**Gallon milk jugs needed to make an Igloo!!!** JLOG is in need of Gallon milk jugs with covers to make an igloo!!! Please rinse out jugs and clean with soap or bleach to avoid smells! These can be dropped off in the office.



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**Worship Services Sundays 8:00 & 10:45am, Mondays 6:30pm**



**First Sunday after Epiphany  
January 10 & 11, 2021**

**WELCOME**

In the name of our Lord Jesus, welcome to one and all! We pray that here at Grace you will find the warmth of Christian hospitality, the abiding truth of God's Word and the quiet assurance of peace in Christ. If we can assist you in any way, please ask. Come worship with us again!

***Listening Assist Aids are available.  
Please ask an usher if you are interested in one of these.***

**The Service of the Word**

*(page 38 in hymnal)*

**Today's Worship Theme:**

***"Our Baptism Glory With Jesus Is By Faith, Not By Sight!"***

**GREETING**

**HYMN #83: "As with Gladness Men of Old"**

*As with gladness men of old Did the guiding star behold  
As with joy they hailed its light, Leading onward, beaming bright.  
So, most gracious Lord, may we Evermore your foll'wers be.*

*As with joyful steps they sped, Savior to your lowly bed,  
There to bend the knee before You whom heav'n and earth adore.  
So may we with willing feet Ever seek your mercy seat.*

*As they offered gifts most rare At your cradle rude and bare,  
So may we with holy joy, Pure and free from sins alloy,  
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ to you, our heavn'ly King.*

*Holy Jesus, ev'ry day Keep us in the narrow way;  
And, when earthly things are past, Bring our ransomed souls at last  
Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds your glory hide.*

**STAND**

**M:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**C:** *And also with you.*

**CLOSING HYMN #299: "All Who Believe and Are Baptized"**

*All who believe and are baptized  
Shall see the Lord's salvation;  
Baptized into the death of Christ,  
They are a new creation.  
Through Christ's redemption they shall stand  
Among the glorious, heav'nly band  
Of ev'ry tribe and nation.*

*With one accord, O God, we pray:  
Grant us your Holy Spirit.  
Help us in our infirmity  
Through Jesus' blood and merit.  
Grant us to grow in grace each day  
That by this sacrament we may  
Eternal life inherit.*

*Thank you to our weekend pianist, Amibeth Olderman.*

**This week - God willing.....**

**TODAY:** Worship 8:00 & 10:45am / SS 9:15am / Bible Classes 9:20am

**Mon:** Worship 6:30pm

**Tue:** JLOG Staff Meeting 1:45pm / Bible Class 6:30pm SS staff 6:30 pm

**Wed:** Pastor @ Bethany 8:00am / Bible Class 1:30pm / Catechism 5:30pm

**Sun:** Worship 8:00 & 10:45am / SS 9:15am / Bible Classes 9:20am

**Mon:** Worship 6:30pm

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS:**



We currently Livestream our Sunday 8:00AM worship service each week. These services can be viewed at anytime in the future, by going to our website [www.gracelutheran-church.com](http://www.gracelutheran-church.com) and clicking on the link under Worship Services for that date. Please share this info with a family member or friend that is not currently attending a worship service in person and would like to worship from home. The weekly bulletins are also available from this site.

M: Lord Jesus, Son of the Father and baptized by John, you came preaching and teaching, healing and comforting, forgiving and encouraging.

**C: *Lord of the church, let your peace rule our hearts that we do not despise our baptism and instead, use our gifts to serve you and each other in willing gratitude and joy.***

M: You brought the light of life to those walking in darkness, and the joy of salvation to those doomed to death. Open our own lips to speak your saving name to those around us who still live without faith or hope.

**C: *Heal those who are sick, cheer those who are sad, calm those who are distressed and comfort all who are old and infirm.***

M: Bless our land, our people, and those who hold offices of high trust. Keep our government and schools upright and strong for the advancement of good citizenship and useful vocations, that we may enjoy your gifts of peace, security and well being.

**C: *Grant your blessing to every nation on earth. Where there are wars, may there be peace. Where there is hatred, let it be healed. Where there is poverty, danger, or disaster, come with your almighty power to help and restore.***

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

M: We bring these requests before you in the name of Jesus our Lord, and ask you to hear us. Take all that we have, our bodies and minds, our time and skills, our ministries and offerings, and use them to your glory.

**C: *We give ourselves to you that we may serve you in whatever way is pleasing in your sight. Amen.***

#### LORD'S PRAYER

**C: *Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.***

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

**C: *Amen, Amen, Amen.***

#### CONFESSION OF SINS

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**C: *Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.***

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

**C: *Amen.***

#### PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

**OH, TASTE AND SEE** *ALL sing*

***Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed are they who take refuge in him.  
You Word, O Lord is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.  
Your faithfulness continues forever.***

***Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed are they who take refuge in him.***

#### Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray. Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Keep us who are baptized into Christ faithful in our calling as your children and make us heirs with him of everlasting life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever

**C: *Amen.***

#### FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 49:3-6

*On the surface the ministry that Jesus began at his baptism appears to be a losing effort. So many don't believe. So many believe for a while and fall away. And yet, just as God the Father said at his baptism, God was well pleased with his Son. And Christ's work would be blessed. Notice how this prophecy speaks of God the Father and God the Son. They give and receive the believers they create and cherish. When you think of your baptism, think of this joyful giving and receiving by our Triune God at your baptism and through the rest of your life with and in Christ.*

<sup>3</sup> He said to me, "You are my servant Israel, in whom I will display my glory."

<sup>4</sup> But I said to myself, "I have labored in vain. I spent my strength and came up empty, with nothing. Yet a just verdict for me rests with the LORD, and my reward is with my God."

<sup>5</sup> But now the LORD, who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to turn Jacob back to him, so that Israel might be gathered to him, so that I will be honored in the eyes of the LORD, because my God has been my strength—

<sup>6</sup> The Lord said, It is too small a thing that you should just be my servant to raise up only the tribes of Jacob and to restore the ones I have preserved in Israel, so I will appoint you to be a light for the nations, so that my salvation will be known to the end of the earth.

**PSALM 2** (page 65) *We ALL sing the refrain and the psalm verses.*

### **SECOND LESSON: Acts 16:25-34**

*God showed his power in the earthquake. But that display of power only scared the jailor, as it scares us. But the hidden power of the gospel in Word and sacrament brought the jailor life and joy in the forgiveness of his sins. The jailor asked, "What must I do to be saved?" Silly question. God's answer is "It has all been done; there is nothing for you to do; receive the benefit in faith and in baptism!"*

<sup>25</sup> About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. <sup>26</sup> Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. Instantly all the doors were opened, and everyone's chains came loose. <sup>27</sup> When the jailer woke up and saw that the prison doors were opened, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, because he thought that the prisoners had escaped. <sup>28</sup> But Paul shouted with a loud voice, "Don't harm yourself, because we are all here!"

<sup>29</sup> The jailer called for lights, rushed in, and fell down trembling in front of Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup> Then he brought them outside and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

<sup>31</sup> They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, you and your household." <sup>32</sup> They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to everyone in his home. <sup>33</sup> At the same hour of the night, he took them and washed their wounds. Without delay, he and all his family were baptized. <sup>34</sup> Then he brought Paul and Silas into his house and set food before them. He rejoiced, because he and his whole household had come to believe in God.

**VERSE OF THE DAY:** *ALL sing.*

**Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**  
These words are written that we may believe,  
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.  
**Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

*STAND*

### **Gospel Lesson Mark 1:4-11**

*It's almost a secret that Jesus was baptized; it appears that no one was there to witness it except for John. But what an amazing announcement! The Holy Spirit descended on Jesus and God the Father voiced his approval. But it was all a secret except to John and now to us, to whom God reveals it in his Word and in our baptism. In your baptism the Triune God*

*is hidden but really there: the Spirit covers and comes to dwell in you; the Son presents you to his Father as one for whom he did all of his work; the Father is well pleased with you because of what his Son has done for you.*

<sup>4</sup> John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him. They were baptized by him in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins. <sup>5</sup> John was clothed in camel's hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>6</sup> He preached, "One more powerful than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals! <sup>7</sup> I baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

<sup>8</sup> In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>9</sup> Just as Jesus came up out of the water, he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. <sup>10</sup> And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love. I am well pleased with you."

*After the Gospel, the congregation sings: "Praise to you O Christ."*

*BE SEATED*

**SERMON THEME** (based on Acts 16:25-34 )

**"We Share the Greatest Answer to the Greatest Question!"**

*STAND*

### **APOSTLES' CREED**

**C:** *I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.  
Amen.*

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**M:** Lord, God our maker and preserver, we praise and thank you for all that you give us day after day.

**C:** *We are not worthy of all the mercies you show us.*