



LENT and the Season of Easter

Preparing for the celebration of Christ's resurrection from death and grace, the season of **LENT** was initially a time for adult catechumens to prepare for their baptism and entrance into the congregation. Later, these forty days (minus the Sundays) were associated with Jesus' forty days in the desert (Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13) and with the forty years the nation of Israel spent in the wilderness (Numbers 14:34), becoming a period of preparation for every Christian.

The Sundays during this season are not “of Lent” but “in Lent.” Thus, the Sundays retain an Easter tone and may be less solemn than the midweek services that congregations typically offer. The observances of Lent are concrete reminders of the greater solemnity of this season, yet Lutherans emphasize the Gospel of Christ as central to this penitential season.

Our Lenten Journey: *Praying the Penitential Psalms*

There are seven *penitential psalms* which are identified as Psalm 6; 32; 38; 51; 102; 130; and 143. They help believers to focus on their personal sins and failures, but more importantly, they help us concentrate on God’s willingness to forgive and restore us as His people through His mercy and steadfast love. *Praying the Penitential Psalms* helps us to focus on the sacrificial love of Jesus that moved Him through His Passion of suffering, torment, torture, and death “for us and for our salvation” (Nicene Creed).

In the history of doctrine, the Lutheran Reformation was, to a large extent, a protest against the evil practices of “penance.” Luther recaptured the meaning of “repentance,” even though he continued to use the traditional vocabulary. In the “order of salvation” (*ordo salutis*), repentance is part of a process. Luther expresses this in the very first of his **95 Theses**: “Our Lord Jesus Christ saying, ‘Repent ye’ etc. implies that the whole life of the believer should be one of penitence.” In contrition, wrought by the Holy Spirit, man experiences God’s “wrath,” and becomes convinced of his separation from God. This leads to forgiveness as stated in the Augsburg Confession, Article XII: “Those who sin after Baptism receive forgiveness of sin whenever they come to repentance . . . True repentance is nothing else than to have contrition and sorrow, or terror, on account of sin, and yet at the same time to believe the Gospel and absolution (namely that sin has been forgiven and grace has obtained by Christ) and this faith will comfort the heart and again set it at rest. Amendment of life and the forsaking of sin should then follow, for these must be the fruits of repentance.” Luther maintains that faith precedes contrition. Contrition does not work forgiveness, but in relation to faith, becomes part of the experience of forgiveness. The greatest factor in this experience of forgiveness is and always will be the realization of God’s righteousness and love as revealed in Christ. True repentance begins in the contemplation of God’s love and righteousness, while contemplation of sins, perdition, and penalties, according to Luther, makes hypocrites. (From *The Encyclopedia of the Lutheran Church*, ed. Julius Bodensieck for the Lutheran World Federation, © 1965, p. 2039).

PENITENCE

Repentance; the experience of contrition in acknowledgement of one’s sins and guilt; the desire for forgiveness, acceptance of forgiveness in faith; the resolution to amend one’s life.



Praying the Penitential Psalms

During our Lenten midweek services, we will focus on praying the “penitential psalms.” We will dig deep into their setting, hear them from the context they were written, and offer up our prayers in response to the truth we learn about our sin and God’s grace and steadfast love.

LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICES

Noon and 7:00 pm

ASH WEDNESDAY

Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes

OUR MONTHLY WORSHIP THEMES AND PARTICIPANTS

March 2, 2025 - Transfiguration Sunday

Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalm 99;
Hebrews 3:1-6; Luke 9:28-35

“Listen Up!” from Luke 9:28-36
Acolyte: Wade Stansell
Reader: Rachel Pelletier

March 5, 2025 - Ash Wednesday

Praying Psalm 51
Acolyte: Jenna Powell

March 9, 2025 - 1st Sunday in Lent “The Power of God’s Holy Word” from Luke 4:1-13

Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-13
Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

Acolyte: Alivia Schumacher
Reader:

March 12, 2025 - Midweek 1

Praying Psalm 32
Acolyte: Wade Stansell

March 16, 2025 - 2nd Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 26:8-15; Psalm 4;
Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35

“You Were Not Willing” from Luke 13:31-35
Acolyte: Cadence Hall
Reader:

March 19, 2025 - Midweek 2

Praying Psalm 6
Acolyte: Kiernan Baker

March 23, 2025 - 3rd Sunday in Lent
Ezekiel 33:7-20; Psalm 85;
1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

“Second Chances” from Luke 13:6-9
Acolyte: Jacob Jones
Reader: Tim Benton

March 26, 2025 - Midweek 3

Praying Psalm 38
Acolyte: Jenna Powell

March 30, 2025 - 4th Sunday in Lent
Isaiah 12:1-6; Psalm 32;
2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

“Lost and Found” from Luke 15:11-32
Acolyte: Alivia Schumacher
Reader: Josh Jones

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

April 13, 2025 - Palm Sunday
April 18, 2025 - Good Friday

April 17, 2025 - Maundy Thursday
April 20, 2025 - Easter Sunday

REFLECTIONS ON THE LISTENING POSTS

Pastor Ramey will present his “reflections” on what was heard and learned through the “listening posts” recently held. By hearing about the “what was” of Grace, we can come to understand the “what is” and what we need to do as we prepare for the “what will be” God has in store for our congregation. The comments will be compiled and general themes identified, which will give us cause to analyze and plan the next steps to be taken during the transition period. **Sunday, March 23 at Noon** everyone is invited to the Fellowship Hall where Pastor will share his presentation and take questions from everyone. *Plan now to stay after worship for this important meeting!*



Thoughts from Ms. Carol



I'm looking for a mentee in Bibleville!
Could that be YOU?



No, I'm not leaving Bibleville! However, Pastor Ramey has been talking about something called Team Ministry since he got here and I'm listening! It's something that you will be hearing more about as we move forward, but I'm jumping the gun a bit and going to recruit my mentee early!

I would like to begin mentoring one or two people who feel like they would like to serve in the Children's Ministry as the leader of Bibleville. I was blessed to have one of the best mentors ever! She was everything a mentor should be and much more. When I stepped into the role of Leader in Bibleville, it was a smooth transition due in large part to the guidance, support, and advice I received from Ms. Millie. She mentored me for a year, working side by side with me and slowly releasing more responsibility as the year progressed. We would spend time together planning, discussing, debating, rejoicing, celebrating, scratching our heads and being there for each other. I've been leading Bibleville for 8 years and have been truly blessed to serve in this ministry.

Somewhere in our membership are one or two people (maybe more) who have the heart and the willingness to say, "Here am I." Is it you? Will you be my Bibleville mentee? Talk to me.

Praying for God's Guidance,

Ms. Carol



My mentor, Millie Abel

Our Baptismal Journey

God's Instruments, God's Stewards

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Eph. 2:10)

Some pastors refer to these words as “the most forgotten words in the Scriptures.” They are forgotten because they follow the familiar and critical words before it. The preceding two verses that overshadow Ephesians 2:10 are words of justification: “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast” (Eph. 2:8–9). These are words preached regularly. They are assigned as confirmation verses. They carry with them the very heart of what it means to be a redeemed child of God!

Precisely because the previous verses are so central to salvation, they often overpower our practice of stewardship! We have been saved by grace. This is certain and sure because of Jesus. Works play no role in our salvation. No credit taking for us! Grace is freely given. Faith is miraculously created by the Spirit and joyously received. This truth is so wonderful and so encompassing that we often miss out on WHY we are redeemed.

The grace of God revealed in Jesus calls us to faith. But St. Paul doesn't stop with grace and faith. He continues to the logical conclusion. Just like the creation declares the handiwork of God, the redemption of sinners like you and me declares His greatest handiwork! Redeemed stewards are created to reflect the grace and mercy God showers on us to others.

As Lutherans, we understand that good works flow from faith in Jesus Christ. They are the fruit of the tree of salvation into which we have been grafted by grace. Sanctification and stewardship are both on-going and active confessions of what the Lord has done in us. These works are not always spectacular. Many times, they are simply parents showing Jesus to their children. They are compassionate actions that live out the truth of the Gospel to co-workers and even complete strangers. While they can be grand endeavors, more likely they are simple, beautiful works which highlight what Jesus has done in us.

These works aren't random either. They have been planned by God. God planned to use you as a faithful steward as you walk the road that leads you through your daily life. There are no chance encounters or coincidences. They have been planned by the Lord of the universe for the benefit of His creation. Good works are what point to God's greatest work: Jesus!

He calls you and me to walk in this faith, which flows from this grace, which has been poured out on us in Jesus. But even this is not to our credit. We are simply called to be faithful stewards of God's grace so that we may share it with those who need it as much as we do. God's Spirit carries us along in this. We are just the steward — the instrument in His hand to accomplish His plan and glorify Him!



Upcoming Important Dates:

March 3 - Open Registration 2025/2026

March 3-6 Dr. Seuss Week

March 7 - NO SCHOOL - Bad Weather Make Up Day

March 10-14 - NO SCHOOL - Spring Break



Dr. Seuss Week



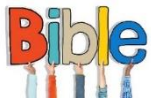
We're celebrating Dr. Seuss's birthday! His books & rhymes are an important part of preschool learning including creativity, imagination & lots of pre-reading skills like rhyming, letter sounds & recognition & phonological awareness!

Mon, March 3 - Dress like a Dr. Seuss character

Tues, March 4 - Green Eggs & Ham - Wear green

Wed, March 5 - Wacky Wednesday - Wear your clothes backwards, inside out or any Wacky way!

Thurs, March 6 - One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish - Wear red or blue



STORIES



grow



Mar. 3-6

Jesus heals the 10 lepers
O give thanks unto the Lord...Psalm 136:1
GROW in thanksgiving!

Mar. 10-14

SPRING BREAK

Mar. 17-21

Parable of the Mustard Seed
Trust in Him at all times...Psalm 62:8
GROW in faith!

Mar. 24-28

Mary & Martha
Only one thing is needed-the Word, Luke 10:42
GROW while listening!

Mar. 31-Apr. 4

Lazarus
I am the resurrection and the life, John 11:25
GROW in His life!

We had fun celebrating Lutheran Schools Week with dress up days like hat day and crazy hair day and having a birthday party for Barney!



Midweek Ministry

6:00 – 6:50 Beginning 3/5 (Lenten Services begin at 7:00)

Bible Bunch through K – 2nd Sharon Burks, Carol Massie
 Faith Formation 3rd – 4th Stacy Baker, Lisa Dalager
 Pre-Confirmation 5th-6th Lauren Schwalbach, Jodie Hawkins
 2nd Year Confirmation, 8th Grade – Parlor – Pastor Ramey
 Youth (Financial Peace), High School – Ryan Hamilton
 Adult Bible Study, All Ages – Library



Wednesday Meals for March

Join us for the Wednesday Meals. There's always great food and fellowship. Meals start at 5:00pm and end at 6:00pm. Show your appreciation with a free-will offering to help cover the expenses. All meals include drinks, salad & desserts.

- Mar. 05 Chicken Pot Pie
- Mar. 12 SPRING BREAK
- Mar. 19 Enchilada Casserole
- Mar. 26 Rotisserie Chicken & Stuffing Casserole

Please make sure to sign up for dinner *each week* on the **PINK SHEET** so we can prepare enough food for everyone.

2025 FLOWER CHART



Thank you EVERYONE for filling in the NEW 2025 Flower Chart. It is located on the Grace bulletin board in the east hallway, across from the Community Room. The flowers are still \$50/vase. Please fill out an envelope, place payment inside and turn it in either in the offering plate or on Victoria's desk no later than Monday preceding your flower date to get the dedication in the Worship Folder on the day your flowers are on the altar.

Make checks payable to Grace Altar Guild. Please note there is a new place to check on the envelope at the bottom if you would like to pick your flowers up by Tuesday morning.

What's Going On At Grace

Sunday's Divine Service – 10:30 am

If you are not able to be in the Lord's house on Sunday, you may request a CD and DVD copy of the divine service from Victoria in the Church Office. You may also listen to the previous Sunday's divine service via our website, www.gracelutheranmidland.org. It is usually uploaded on the following Monday.



The Columbarium is fully functional and there are several niches available. Engravings are also available. Engravings have been done on the niches occupied. If you would like to purchase a niche in the Columbarium, please see Victoria in the Church office for the forms.



WE NEED A SERVANT FOR MARCH

A teller assists Jim Raven (Grace's Financial Secretary), in counting the tithes collected after Sunday service. It normally takes about one hour.

No prior training is needed.

Jim will show you on the spot how to help, and your presence serves as an important "control" in ensuring more than one person is present while tithes are counted.

Tellers are needed for 2025!

Please sign up on the PINK SHEET

In your weekly worship bulletin.

Check your calendars & prayerfully consider when you can serve.

March YOUTH Events



SWAT

Service Project & Games

March 23
4:00 – 6:00
Grace Lutheran



We will make LOTION for our homebound members!

Jr. High AND High School Focal Point

Painting Party

March 23
4pm – 6pm



Kidd's & Canvas
3211 W Wadley Suite #5



Grace Quilters News



Our Quilters do such a fantastic job! We are always looking for new faces to come in and work with us. The best part is that there is no experience needed. The ladies continue their “labor of love” on **Thursdays from 9 am – Noon** in

the Community Room. Stop by to see what all the excitement is about. Contact Margaret Cloyd 432-638-3358 or Gina Zimmerman 432-553-2263 if you have any questions.

The prayer focus for March is the Children, Youth & Family Life

*Position Open - Chair
Michele Hayden, Natalie Keese, Ross Klaron,
Carol Massie, & Jamie Moerbe.*



The national blood supply is always dangerously low.
That means Midland's is too!

Please mark your calendars **TODAY**
for our next **Blood Drive!**

April 2, 2025

Watch for the announcement in GIA so you can sign up
on the **PINK SHEET** to get your preferred time.

Bibleville needs filled plastic eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt on Easter morning. All children between toddler and 6th grade are welcome to join us. We would like to collect 300-400 filled eggs. You can buy candy and fill them yourself, or you can order pre-filled eggs from Amazon. They have toy-filled eggs and candy-filled. You can even have them shipped to the church or you can put your eggs in the box outside Bibleville by April 13th.





Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour on March 8th before you go to bed.

Pillow Pal Party

Our FIRST Pillow Pal Party for 2025 was on Sunday, February 16th and was attended by about 20 Grace members. There is always a need for our pillows, as more diagnoses are happening.

Thank you to everyone who came out to help. We were able to complete 30 pillows which we were blessed to deliver to the Breast Cancer of Midland.

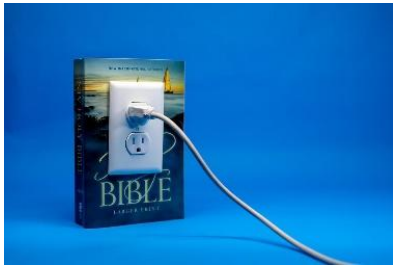




The *Life* Center



Thank you to everyone who donated to the Midland Life Center! This year they will be receiving a check for \$658.00 from Grace and our ECP! A big **THANK YOU** to Julie McCann for counting the money and rolling the coins!



G.R.A.C.E. Connections

Stay connected to the Word and your family at Grace!

We currently have 2 active Connection Groups at Grace.

Growing in Grace Meets Wednesday during Midweek Ministry hour in the library.

Men's Breakfast Connection Leader is Ryan Hamilton. Meets the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays at Higher Grounds Coffee on Andrews Highway from 6:45am – 7:30am. Topics will vary.

G.R.A.C.E. Connections are the Grace congregation in mission. They are groups of 4 to 12 people who come together and are intentionally led in the mission statement of our congregation:

† **Sharing God's Grace**

† **Living His Word**

† **Making Disciples**

The Core Values of G.R.A.C.E. Connections are:

- **Growing**...by reaching out, *witnessing*, and forming new groups
- **Relating**...and *connecting* with each other as the body of Christ
- **Acting**...in Christian *service* and mission
- **Caring**...and *praying* for each other and the world
- **Enriching**...personal growth and spiritual transformation through *Bible study*

Satan seeks to divide to destroy. Stay CONNECTED. Be CONNECTED.

Be a part of a G.R.A.C.E. Connection!

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

Caren Stephens	03/03
Bill Bartlett	03/07
Grayson Price	03/19
Gary Parsley	03/12
Virginia DeBerry	03/18
Tyler Hall	03/19
Malcom Moerbe	03/20
Brian Johnsen	03/22
Jacob Gray	03/24
Addilynn Beran	03/24
Harrison Schoener	03/24
Allison Gray	03/25
Brooklyn Hamilton	03/27
Dennis Stephens	03/24
Gary Pipes	03/28
Larissa Keller	03/29
Pam Pokky	03/30

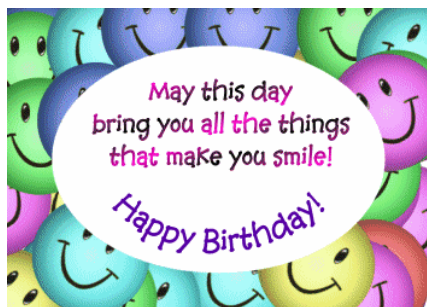
Baptismal Birthdays

Merle Raven	03/01
Katelynn Beran	03/01
James Hill	03/05
Claire Schimank	03/07
Clinton Baker	03/08
Andrew Hobradschk	03/13
Pete Lufholm	03/15
Nicol Benton	03/16
Henry Wolfmueller	03/18
Wyatt Krueger	03/19
Marion Hritz	03/19
Dax Hritz	03/19
Jake Hritz	03/19
Doris Anderson	03/21
Joseph Molina	03/23
Grayson Price	03/24
Jacob Makowsky	03/24
Hope Molina	03/26
Fred Chaney	03/28
Larissa Keller	03/29
Brooklyn Hamilton	03/30



Anniversaries

Donnie & Jessica Diaz	03/05
31 yrs.	
Jon & Kelli Baumann	03/31
35 yrs.	



Status of the Budget

The following is a summary of Grace's actual revenue and actual expenses along with the amount budgeted for 2025:

Cumulative: **Information not currently available.**

Actual Revenues	\$(Includes interest)
Actual Expenses	\$
Revenue less Expenses:	\$
2025 Budget	\$1,019,073.42

For questions, please contact Aaron Hobradschk at 806-790-6369.

Our 2025 Sunday School Offering will go to Rays of Hope.
 Check the display in the Social Hall by the Coffee Machine to see how we're doing throughout the year and don't forget your Sunday School Offering each Sunday!



HopeWorks



HopeWorks is a peer support group whose aim is to guide children through the various stages of grief. This program meets weekly for ten consecutive weeks. Participants are placed in groups of similar ages and circumstance.

Tools of Expression (TOE)



Through the use of the creative arts, these classes focus on peer support, expression of feelings and acquiring new coping skills. TOE classes are held April through August of each year and the artistic theme rotates monthly.

Creative Wednesdays



Creative Wednesdays are a great way for the family to spend time together in a relaxed setting and explore the creative offerings at Rays of Hope. Every Wednesday from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. our building is open for making crafts, playing music and other fun activities. This is an open house time and no pre-registration is required.

Family Workshop



Special events for families to come together and enjoy Back-to-School festivities, Holiday celebrations, Summer Fun Nights and other special occasions.

Fostering Hope



Fostering Hope is a peer support group specifically for children who are currently in or have previously been involved in the foster care system. This program meets for six consecutive weeks.

MAD (Music Art & Drama) Camp



MAD Camp utilizes the expressive arts of Music, Art and Drama as tools of exploration and coping. Each day of camp includes opening and closing activities, discussion time and snacks.

Journey Camp



Journey Camp is exclusively for children and teens who have previously attended the Hope Works course. This camp is designed as the next level in their grief work. This week of exploration introduces campers to the Forest of Fear, Challenge Mountain, the Ocean of Emotion, the City of Change, the Jungle of Anger and the Island of Hope.

Teen Camp



Teen Camp is a special time, just for our teens. Adolescents who are rising 7th through 12th graders are invited to attend. We have designed this camp to navigate the work of grief as the participants are also navigating puberty and the rituals of growing up.

Learn more - Watch the Video



Volunteers are vital to the success of Rays of Hope. We always welcome those who have a love and a heart for children. If you wish to make a tremendous difference in the lives of children of the Permian Basin, then make the decision to join us. Please call (432) 684-KIDS today to learn about volunteer opportunities.



Lutheran Church Charities

Disaster Response • Hearts of Mercy & Compassion • Human Care • K-9 Ministries
Working with you to show the Mercy, Compassion, Presence and Proclamation of Jesus Christ

January 24, 2025

Grace Lutheran Church
3000 W Golf Course Rd
Midland, TX 79701



Woof! Woof! = Thank You!!!

Dear students, parents and members of Grace Lutheran Church,

I want to thank you for your donation to Lutheran Church Charities. Your partnership enables us to share the Mercy, Compassion, Presence and Proclamation of Jesus Christ throughout the United States and the world.

Every Dollar of your faithful support of **\$3,290.98** to the **Lutheran Church Charities K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry - Sunday School Funds** will go directly to your chosen cause.

I want to personally thank you for joining with us in bringing comfort, love, and safety to those in need through this gift. LCC works with and through churches and other Christian ministries in bringing comfort to thousands of lives each year. Our committed and dedicated staff and volunteers serve every day through our K-9 Ministries, Disaster Response, Human Care, and Hearts of Mercy & Compassion/Crosses for Losses ministries as well as supporting other domestic and international ministries.

This is the very comfort spoken about in 2 Corinthians 1:4,

“Jesus comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.”

If you wonder how your support is making difference, I want to invite you to sign up with our weekly newsletter where you will see and hear about the difference you are making in someone’s life. These stories are powerful as they are life changing. If you already receive our newsletter, would you take a moment to invite a friend to receive it? Just send this link: <https://luthcc.org/subscribe>.

Please remember LCC in your prayers tonight as we also pray with thanksgiving for you this day!

Sharing the comfort of Christ,


Rev. Chris Singer
President/CEO

*Brothers + Sisters in Christ
Thank you for the blessing of hope
for those who hurt.
Ro 15:13*

NO GOODS OR SERVICES WERE PROVIDED TO THE DONOR OTHER THAN INTANGIBLE RELIGIOUS BENEFIT

3020 Milwaukee Ave Northbrook, Illinois 60062 Phone: (866) 455-6466 Fax (866) 451-1476
LCC@LutheranChurchCharities.org www.LutheranChurchCharities.org

CHATTER

TEXAS DISTRICT CEF NEWSLETTER

1221 Satellite View, Round Rock, TX 78665
512.646.1233 • 1.888.951.1233 • TexasCEF.org



February 2025

Did you know?



You can invest in an IRA with Texas CEF!

Texas District Church Extension Fund (Texas District CEF) offers a fantastic opportunity for investors to reach their retirement savings goals. Through IRAs (Individual Retirement Arrangements), individuals can benefit from tax-free or tax-deferred growth, making it easier to save for the future.

At Texas District CEF, we want to be your trusted savings partner for IRAs! By choosing to save with us, you not only work towards your financial goals but also support our mission to be the preferred financial partner for ministries dedicated to multiplying followers of Jesus.

Explore how an IRA with Texas District CEF can help you plan for the future while making a lasting impact. See page 2 for products.



Follow us on Facebook - facebook.com/texasdistrictcef



Follow us on Instagram - [@texasdistrictcef](https://instagram.com/texasdistrictcef)

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. - Proverbs 3:5-6

Texas CEF is proud to offer the following IRA products:

Traditional IRAs

Traditional IRAs help you to save for your retirement by allowing the earnings to grow tax deferred. Contributions may also be tax-deductible if you meet certain conditions. Distributions from the IRA are generally taxable at the time of withdrawal.

Roth IRAs

Roth IRAs' advantage to saving for retirement is tax-free distributions if certain conditions are met. You must have earned income to open a Roth IRA. Contributions are not tax-deductible.

ESA (Coverdell Educational IRAs)

A Coverdell Education IRA can be used to make annual non-deductible contributions on behalf of a child under the age of 18. The earnings will remain tax-deferred while in the ESA. When the child uses the ESA to pay for qualified education expenses, the contributions and earnings are distributed tax free.

SEP (Simplified Employee Pension Plan)

A SEP Plan allows employers to contribute to traditional (SEP-IRAs) set up for employees. A business of any size, even self-employed can establish a SEP.

Simple Plans

Savings Incentive Match Plan for Employees (SIMPLE) allows employees and employers to contribute to traditional IRAs set up for employees. It is ideally suited as a start-up retirement savings plan for small employers not currently sponsoring a retirement plan.

As always, Texas District CEF encourages you to consult with your tax advisor before April 15.

For more information, visit our website at texascef.org/iras. You can also call one of our Investors Services Representatives at 888-95-1233 for more information.

FEBRUARY INTEREST RATES

FIXED RATE

One Year Note	4.250%	(4.32% APY)
Three Year Note	4.150%	(4.22% APY)
Five Year Note	4.000%	(4.06% APY)
Jumbo Investment*	4.350%	(4.42% APY)

*\$100,000 minimum, 12 month term

FLOATING RATE

One Year Note	3.000%	(3.03% APY)
Three Year Note	3.250%	(3.29% APY)
Five Year Note	3.500%	(3.55% APY)
Flex Savings	1.000%	(1.00% APY)
Rainy Day Fund**	1.250%	(1.26% APY)

**Amounts over \$10,000 receive the Flex Savings rate

CONGREGATIONS

Savings	1.250%	(1.26% APY)
Building Fund	3.500%	(3.56% APY)

All Individual Texas District CEF Investments (Fixed, Bond and Floating rate notes) may be included in a person's IRA portfolio, through our custodian GoldStar Trust Company, www.texascef.org/ira.html (1) Subject to penalty for early withdrawal. (2) Rates subject to change. Rates reviewed monthly. Texas District Church Extension Fund is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, CEF Investments are not SEC or FDIC-insured bank deposit accounts. This does not constitute an offer to sell or a request to buy. The offer is made solely by CEF's Offering Circular.



Through investments from Texas District LCMS congregations and their members, Church Extension Fund will be the preferred financial resources partner for district ministries focused on multiplying followers of Jesus.

Texas District Church Extension Fund
1221 Satellite View, Round Rock, TX 78665
512.646.1233 • 1.888.951.1233 • TexasCEF.org

Chaplain Bell

February 2025 Newsletter

This last January I taught "Spiritual Fitness Training" to a group of new Marine Corps Recruiters! This is a great way to get people thinking seriously about faith and religion in a public environment, and has led to many witnessing opportunities to speak directly to Marines about salvation through Jesus!



I was blessed to preach twice this fall at Zion Lutheran Church in Columbus, Ohio. My family and I continue to be blessed by this congregation.

You can find the original sermon starting at 26:23 here: https://youtu.be/_iVcx57RQc?feature=shared.

I enjoyed preaching for Christmas Day 2024 at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Esko, Minnesota! My wife's father, Rev. Tom Brinkley, served there for many years, as did her maternal grandfather, Rev. Paavo Frusti.

To Contact me:
LCDR Aaron Bell
naphshi@gmail.com
(651) 769-7396



Chaps Bell

February 2025 Newsletter (Page 2)

I frequently visit Marine recruiters across 7 states, and talk to them about the rigors of recruiting. I also provide 100% confidential counseling, so they can feel safe getting different issues off their chests.



Here I am leading a discussion on Marine Corps ethics, focusing on the importance of understanding the values behind the orders you're given., as well as your own.



The Bell family is greatly enjoying life in Columbus, Ohio, where we are stationed. Here we are attending a Viking-Themed Weekend at the Ohio Renaissance Festival.

Father - Daughter



Dance



Fathers took their daughters strolling back to the 50's at the Father-Daughter Sock Hop on February 7th in our Fellowship Hall. The 20 Dads and 28 daughters danced under the lights to music played by James Whitmire, our DJ. The girls shared their answers to "My Dad is my rockstar because . . .", answered Trivia questions, snacked on popcorn sprinkled with an assortment of candies, and sipped on sodas during the evening. The daughters each received a 50's bracelet to remember the night with their dads!



Daughters & Dads



KFC Service Project



KFC (Kids For Christ) got together on February 9th to assemble and decorate Valentine Boxes and then fill them with toys for the children on the Pediatric Ward at Midland Memorial Hospital. They also lunched on Pizza and played some Minute-To-Win-It Valentine games. One of the pictures below show the kids holding the Valentine Boxes that Ms. Jamie delivered to the hospital the next week. Thank you, Jamie Moerbe and Kristi Moritz for a great Sunday afternoon!



HS Focal Point Laser Tag



March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Elders Steve DeShaw Dennis Wehmeyer	Ushers Brent Keesee Mark Roush Jim Raven Tim Benton	Altar Guild Cindy Hilton Carol Massie Teller ??				1
2 Transfiguration Sunday 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Divine Service w/Communion	3	4 2:30 Mission Agape	5 Ash Wednesday Imposition of Ashes at Noon & 7pm 10:00 Puppet Chapel Noon Lenten Service w/Communion 3:00 Meal - Chicken Pot Pie 6:00 Joyful Chorus 6:00 Midweek Ministry 7:00 Lenten Service w/Communion	6 10:00 Puppet Chapel 1:00 Quilters	7	8 Spring Forward before bed! 
9 1st Sunday of Lent 8:00 Elders' Meeting 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Divine Service	10 ECP Open Registration	11	12 No Meal or Midweek Activities SPRING BREAK Noon Lenten Service 6:00 Joyful Chorus 6:00 Midweek Ministry 7:00 Lenten Service	13 1:00 Quilters	14 2:00 pm 	15
16 2nd Sunday of Lent 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Divine Service w/Communion	17	18 2:30 Mission Agape	19 Noon Lenten Service 3:00 Meal - Enchilada Casserole 6:00 Joyful Chorus 6:00 Midweek Ministry 7:00 Lenten Service	20 1:00 Quilters	21	22 5:30 New Member Dinner
23 3rd Sunday of Lent 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Divine Service 12:00 LP Reflections 4:00 SWAT Focal Point Service Project & Games 4:00 JH & HS Painting Party	24	25	26 Noon Lenten Service 3:00 Meal - Chicken & Stuffing Casserole 5:15 ECP Board Mtg. 6:00 Joyful Chorus 6:00 Midweek Ministry 7:00 Lenten Service	27 1:00 Quilters	28	29
30 4th Sunday of Lent 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Divine Service	31					



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

Pray For Us Calendar

WORLDWIDE THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION — MARCH 1-31

The LCMS provides theological education throughout the world by means of seminaries and missionaries. Scholars and leaders from foreign church bodies also come to the LCMS seminaries for advanced degrees, learning sound doctrine from the Scriptures and Lutheran Confessions.

Remember the centrality of God's Word as you pray:

- 1.** for *Concordia Seminary, St. Louis*, that all there might grow in the Word and prepare for the proper proclamation of the Word and administration of the Sacraments.
- 2.** for *Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.*, that the faculty might teach the Word in its truth and purity; and the students learn God's Word in preparation for ministry.
- 3.** for *Christ's work throughout the world*, that the Gospel might be proclaimed to all people and the forgiveness of sins delivered through the Means of Grace.
- 4.** for *Concordia Seminary, Hong Kong*, that people and

Gospel against the attacks of the wicked foe.

- 8.** for *Timothy Lutheran Seminary in Birip, Papua New Guinea*, that the Lord would use the instructors to shine His Word upon the path of students preparing to serve His Church.
- 9.** for *students and professors of Lutheran Theological Seminary in Baguio City, Philippines*, that they might serve the Lutheran Church in the Philippines faithfully.
- 10.** for *Luther Seminary in Seoul, South Korea*, that the Lord would preserve those who teach and those who learn to hold fast to His Word in all circumstances.
- 11.** for *the ministry carried out through the Westfield House of Theological Studies in Cambridge, England*, as this ministry trains church leaders for England and many other church bodies around the world.

12. for *the Lutheran Center for Theological Studies (CLET) in Togo*, that theological training for men from French-speaking countries in West Africa might continue.

13. for *Concordia Reformer Seminary, Dominican Republic*, that the students there might share the Gospel throughout Latin and South America.

14. for *the Synod's Global Seminary Initiative (GSI)*, which helps to fill the need for trained church leaders who are native to the region and cultures in which they serve, that God would guide this program to strengthen the formation of pastors and deaconesses around the world.

15. for *LCMS professors and pastors who travel overseas to teach seminaries and intensive courses for our current and emerging church partners*, that God would grant them safe travel and fruitful labors.

MARCH Pray For Us Calendar

16. *for the international students who come to the Synod's seminaries, that God would grant safe travels and comfort while away from family and friends.*

17. *for Lutheran pastors worldwide, that they would have access to the necessary books and resources to teach Law and Gospel.*

18. *for the health and safety of LCMS missionaries who provide theological education, thanks that they have heeded the call to serve Christ in this way.*

19. *for Lutheran church workers in Europe, that their work is fruitful.*

20. *for the seminaries of LCMS partner churches around the world, that they would faithfully educate future leaders for their churches.*

21. *for the Gospel multiplication as pastors are equipped to teach their flocks and train new leaders for the church, thank God for the growth of His Kingdom.*

22. *for the continued growth of Christ's Church on earth, that the Lord would continue to raise up missionaries according to His good and gracious will.*

23. *for Lutherans throughout the world, that they rejoice in God's gifts of His Word and Sacraments.*

24. *for the Synod's generous donors, thanks for those who make it possible for LCMS theological education around the world.*

25. *The Annunciation of our Lord, thank God for sending His Son into our flesh.*

26. *for our partner churches, that God would raise up pastors and servants to serve His people.*

27. *for sound doctrine throughout the world, that God would preserve the truth of His Word against false teachings.*

28. *for those on vicarage from our partner seminaries, that God would bless their time in the field as part of their education.*

29. *for seminarians' wives, that they would be prepared to support their husband's call into ministry.*

30. *for seminarians' children, that they rejoice in the Gospel and in their father's calling.*

31. *for all who listen to those who receive theological education, that the Gospel might take root and produce fruit.*



Congregations and individuals are invited to copy these pages for newsletters or other distribution. Download at lcms.org/prayforus or call 888-843-5267 to request a copy.



PHOTOS: LCMC COMMUNICATIONS/STEVEN M. LINDSTEDT

Grace Prays~~~~~2025

We continue to pray for the following:

- Wisdom for our nation's leaders.
- Strength and commitment in tending our baptismal journey.
- For the ministry of our ECP and the families it blesses.
- For our congregation's leaders, the Spirit would guide their work.
- For our congregation, each member would see that he/she is a vital element for our mission and ministry as a church.
- For the victims of the wildfires in Southern California and the safety of all the emergency responders serving and protecting them.

*For updates to Grace Prays,
please email Victoria
at
office@gracelutheranmidlandtx.org
or call the Church Office,
432.697.3221*

OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

- ❖ Mike Barbian, Cimarron Place
- ❖ Charles Colgan, Ashton Medical Lodge
- ❖ Jerry Damm, Legacy Ranch
- ❖ Eleanor Dillenburg
- ❖ Georgi Rushing

ILL OR RECOVERING

- ✠ Kristen Reik Haynes (Margaret Cloyd's granddaughter) who has been diagnosed with breast cancer and is undergoing chemotherapy.
- ✠ Linda (Rhonda Shutts' sister) whose biopsy was positive for cancer.
- ✠ Mary Morgan has begun a new chemotherapy this week.
- ✠ Diane Richey (Carol Massie's sister) is receiving palliative care at home.
- ✠ Marvin Stahla (Rhonda Shutts' brother) is receiving hospice care at home.
- ✠ Brian Traugher is having 2 stents inserted around his heart on 3/13.

Follow us on Facebook. Search Grace Lutheran
and you'll see our logo.
Our Website Address is:
www.gracelutheranmidland.org



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
3000 W. Golf Course Rd.
Midland, Texas 79701-2998