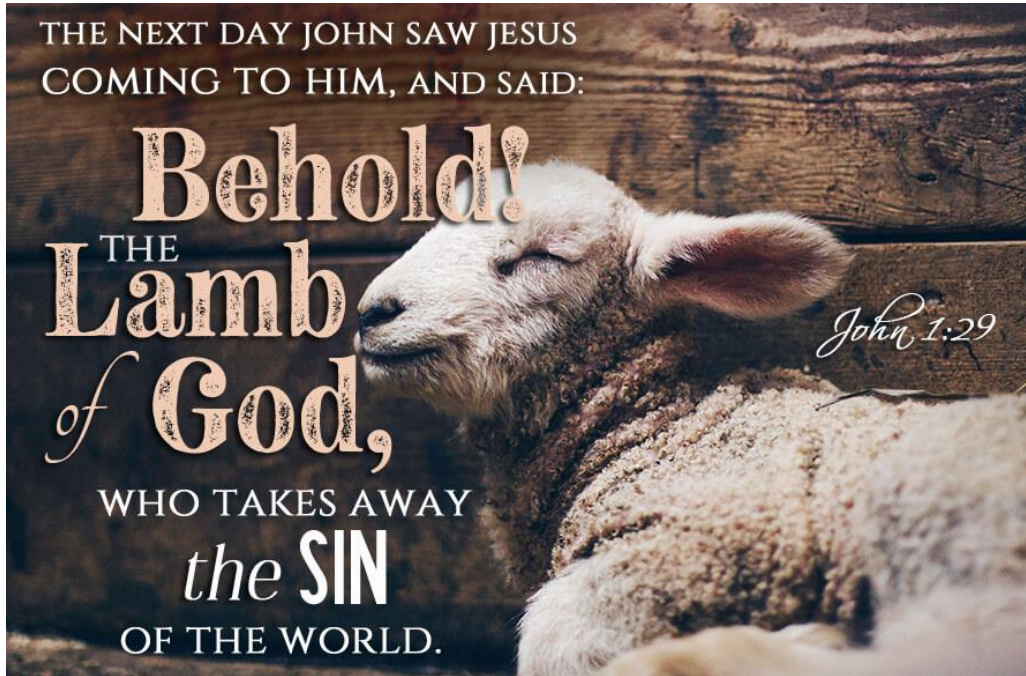


# Second Sunday After Epiphany

January 18, 2026 10:30 AM

## Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church



NORTH AMERICAN  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

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Rev. Doug Hefner cell: (980) 234-8848 email: [pastorhefner@aol.com](mailto:pastorhefner@aol.com)

Sandi Tallant – Organist Todd Childers – Administrative Assistant

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 9am to 1pm

Tuesday and Thursday 12pm to 4pm

**WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP** at Grace Church this morning as we gather to worship the Father, + Son and Holy Spirit in truth. As you entered the sanctuary today, you received this bulletin containing the order for worship and announcements. Please also notice the Prayer List where you will find a listing of all the known prayer concerns. You are invited to use this as a guide for your personal prayers throughout the coming week. If you need information about our congregation or if you'd like to update your information, make sure to fill out the yellow Worship Today Form and place it in the offering plate at the time of the offering. If you have a prayer concern, indicate that on your Worship Today Form at the bottom or on the reverse side. If you are seeking a Church Home or would like more information about Grace, please contact Pastor Doug (980) 234-8848.

*\*Stand Hymnals in Pew Rack: LBW = Green WOV = Blue TCH = Burgundy*

**PRELUDE** *Please observe silence for meditation and prayer.*

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **\* BRIEF ORDER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

**P:** In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

**P:** God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your Word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

**P:** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

**P:** Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**P:** God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**C: Amen.**

**GREETING:**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

Holy and loving God, you sent your Son Jesus to be the Lamb of God who would take away the sin of the world. As our Lord invited His first disciples with the words, “Come and see,” you continue to invite us to experience your grace and love in Jesus. Bring us to faith by your grace that we may obediently worship and follow you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The congregation may be seated.*

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 49: 1-6**

<sup>1</sup>Listen to me, O coastlands, and give attention, you peoples from afar. The LORD called me from the womb, from the body of my mother he named my name. <sup>2</sup>He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away. <sup>3</sup>And he said to me, “You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified.” <sup>4</sup>But I said, “I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my right is with the LORD, and my recompense with my God.” <sup>5</sup>And now the LORD says, he who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him; and that Israel might be gathered to him — for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD, and my God has become my strength — <sup>6</sup>he says: “It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

L: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 40: 1-4**

<sup>1</sup>I waited patiently for the LORD; he inclined to me and heard my cry.

**<sup>2</sup>He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.**

<sup>3</sup>He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD.

**<sup>4</sup>Blessed is the man who makes the LORD his trust, who does not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after a lie!**

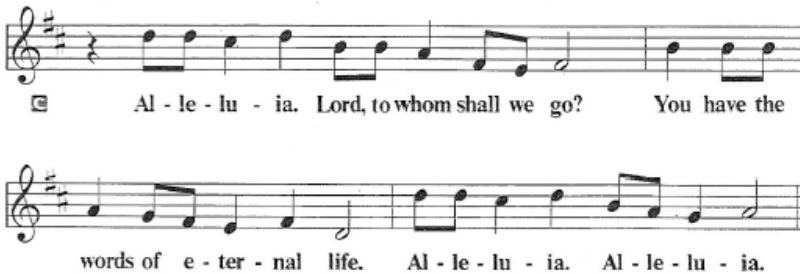
## **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1: 1-9**

<sup>1</sup>Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes,  
<sup>2</sup>To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: <sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge — <sup>6</sup>even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you — <sup>7</sup>so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>8</sup>who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

L: The Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

*The congregation is invited to stand.*

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: “Alleluia, Lord to Whom Shall We Go”**



## **\*GOSPEL: John 1: 29-51**

P: The holy gospel according to St. John. C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>29</sup> The next day (John) saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! <sup>30</sup> This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.’ <sup>31</sup> I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.” <sup>32</sup> And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. <sup>33</sup> I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ <sup>34</sup> And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.”

<sup>35</sup> The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, <sup>36</sup> and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” <sup>37</sup> The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup> Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, “What are you seeking?” And they said to him, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are you staying?” <sup>39</sup> He said to them, “Come and you will see.” So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. <sup>40</sup> One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. <sup>41</sup> He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means Christ). <sup>42</sup> He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas” (which means Peter).

<sup>43</sup> The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” <sup>44</sup> Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. <sup>45</sup> Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” <sup>46</sup> Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” <sup>47</sup> Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!” <sup>48</sup> Nathanael said to him, “How do you know me?” Jesus answered him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” <sup>49</sup> Nathanael answered him, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” <sup>50</sup> Jesus answered him, “Because I said to you, ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe? You will see greater things than these.” <sup>51</sup> And he said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.    **C: Praise to you, O Christ!**

*The congregation may be seated.*

## **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

## **SERMON**



*“Our Lord Jesus is . . . Word of God, Word Made Flesh, Lamb of God, Teacher, Messiah, Son of God, and King of Israel: Can I Get a Witness?!”*

*Pastor Doug Hefner*

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY:**

**“Listen God Is Calling”**

**WOV 712**

**\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*Response at the end of each petition.*

P: Lord in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

**\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

*Worshippers may greet one another with “the Peace of Christ.”*

*The assembly may be seated.*

**\* OFFERING In response to God’s blessings, we offer our tithes to the Lord**  
**HOLY COMMUNION – MEAL OF GRACE**

**\* OFFERTORY                      Let the Vineyards**

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our  
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were  
sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the  
hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we  
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence, and  
give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

**\* OFFERTORY PRAYER**

P: Compassionate God, you receive us again into your arms and invite us to be nourished as your dear children at your table of grace. Receive our offering of thanksgiving and



praise. As we receive the body and blood of Christ Jesus, transform and strengthen our lives so that we might shine with the light of Christ as we share ourselves and your gifts with all the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of Life. **Amen**

\* **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

**LBW PG. 68**

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

\* **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

\* **LORD'S PRAYER**

\* **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: The Gifts of God for the People of God. **C: Thanks be to God!**

*The assembly may be seated.*

**All are invited to receive Holy Communion.**

**COMMUNION SONG      Lamb of God**



The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a square symbol in a box. The lyrics are: "Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have". The second staff continues: "mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the". The third staff continues: "world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the". The fourth staff concludes: "sin of the world; grant us peace." The word "grant" is underlined with a curved line.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

*The congregation is invited to stand.*

## **\* COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER**

P: Lord Jesus, Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, You have refreshed us again with the heavenly food of your body and blood. As we go now, nourished in faith and love, be present with us today, tomorrow and forever so that we will tell and live out the story of your never-ending love in the precious and powerful name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. **Amen**

## **BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. Amen.

## **\*SENDING HYMN**

**“I Love to Tell the Story”**

**LBW 390**

## **\*DISMISSAL**

P: Jesus says to the Church: You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. Let us go in peace and joy as we share the story of Jesus and His love in word and deed.

**C: Thanks be to God.**



### **In the Grace Church Family:**

Jeffry Bivens, Rick & Cindy Bivens, Glenda Childers, Pat Dietz, Allen and Kay Hatchett, Larry Heavner, Lorene Heavner, Larry & Brenda Jarrett, Martha Johnson, Faye Lane, Harvey Leatherman, Phil & Malinda Leatherman, Tim Leatherman, Betty Matheson, Joe Momier, Jane

Moss, Christine Norman, Michael Norman, Tricia and Dan Panek, Mike, Debi & Stephen Pisko, Helen Smith, Ethan Starnes, Sandi Tallant, Libby Travis, Shirley Warlick, Ken & Tirzah Welch, Scott & Carolyn Whisnant, and Nancy Willis.

**Nursing Home:** Juanita Haas (Trinity Village), Ted Whisnant (Trinity Village)

**Friends and Relatives in our Prayers:** Pray for Peace in Israel and the World, New Covenant Lutheran Mission Church, Harold Buff, Ashlee Bumgardner, Clinton Childers, Evelyn Childers, family of Gary Deaton (Pastor Doug & Jeff Hefner's uncle), Sonya Elliott & family (car accident, recovering at home now), family of Thelma Isenhour, Greg Masters, Anne Poovey, family of Ken Propst, Randy & Rita Neill, Jeff Richards (Steven Beaver's cousin), Anita Sabino, Jack Speagle, Scott Speagle, and Shirley Weaver. Prayers for world peace and for our church, the United States of America, and especially the families of those who have given their lives in the service of our country and those who



continue to protect our freedoms and for all members of our Armed Forces. Prayers of welcome for Steven and Charlene Beaver.

### **HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAY TO:**

January 4 – Stormy Shull

January 9 – Lula Ingle

January 13 – Sheila Drum

January 28 – Tina Hefner

### **COMING UP AT GRACE THIS WEEK**

**Today: Second Sunday After Epiphany**

9:30am – Sunday School

10:30am - Worship Celebration

6:00pm – Christian Unity Service at Grace (Dinner following Worship provided by Grace)

**Monday:** 6:00pm – Leadership Ministry Board Meeting

**Wednesday:** 12:00 Noon – Grace Seniors Luncheon

6:00pm – Christian Unity Service at Ebenezer UMC – Vale (Dinner following)

**\*\*No Vespers Service at Grace**

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Sun, 1/18/26** Grace hosts first service of Week of Christian Unity at 6pm, Dinner following (we provide soup, sandwiches, dessert afterwards)

**Wed, 1/21/26** Grace Senior Luncheon and Program 12 noon All Welcome

**Wed, 1/21/26** Ebenezer hosts Christian Unity Service at 6pm, Dinner following

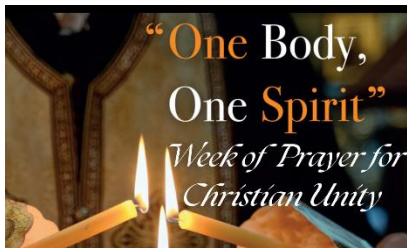
**Sun, 1/25/26** Daniels Lutheran hosts Christian Unity Service at 6pm, Dinner following

**Sun, 2/8/26** Friendship Sunday, Everyone asked to invite your friends to worship. We will have a special gift for friends who join us. Theme of the service and sermon will be about the blessings of Christian friendship!

**Sun, 2/15/26** Transfiguration Sunday

**Wed, 2/18/26** Ash Wednesday Service, Imposition of Ashes/Communion

## **WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY**



The theme for the 2026 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is *“There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling” (Ephesians 4:4)* This annual event encourages Christian communities to pray for unity and collaboration among different denominations. It has been celebrated since 1908 and is recognized worldwide. During this week of prayer, Christians are reminded of Jesus’ prayer for his disciples that “they may be one so that the world may believe” (see John 17.21). Traditionally the week of prayer is celebrated between 18-25 January, between the feasts of St Peter and St Paul. In our community we will gather for worship and prayer three times (see below). Grace is hosting the service and fellowship afterwards on Sunday, January 18 at 6pm.

**Sun, 1/18/26 Grace hosts first service of Week of Christian Unity** at 6pm, Dinner Following

Wed, 1/21/26 Ebenezer hosts Christian Unity Service at 6pm, Dinner following

Sun, 1/25/26 Daniels Lutheran hosts Christian Unity Service at 6pm, Dinner following

**WORSHIP ASSISTANT VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!** - Please offer your services as a Lector, Usher, or Communion Assistant for the upcoming months. Worship Assistants help to make our worship experience more meaningful. If you would like to serve during a particular month, please notify Todd Childers. A sign-up sheet will be circulated during worship today. Thank you in advance!

**ASHURE MINISTRY FOOD ASK** for the month of January is canned soup or broth. We are doing great things at Grace in helping feed the hungry in our own community. Let’s try to donate 2,000 pounds in 2026! That would be around 170 pounds per month. We can do it! Let’s come together to help reach this goal! In 2025 the disciples of Grace donated 1,561 pounds of food to Ashure Ministry.

## **WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS**

Please welcome to the Body of Christ here at Grace Steven and Charlene Beaver. Charlene was baptized into Christ last Sunday and Steven was received through affirmation of his baptism. Let us welcome the newly baptized Charlene and new member Steven. Also attending with them are their son Jake and Steven's parents Karl and Kathy Beaver.



*Ministers of Grace – All the People of Grace*  
*Pastor – Reverend Doug Hefner      Board President – Tim Eckard*  
*Lector – Stormy Shull      Youth Leader – Stormy Shull*  
*Altar Preparation – Cindy Bivens*  
*Communion Assistants – Sheila Drum & Sherry Biggerstaff*  
*Ushers – Chris Jarrett & Jack Parris*  
*Offering Counters – Todd Childers & Jeff Scronce*

# *Listening for the Promise*

## WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

### Epiphany 2 – January 18, 2026

*“He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog,  
and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.”*

*– Psalm 40:2 –*

The playground had a big sandbox. One day the sandbox was filled with rainwater. The teachers knew that it would be messy, but allowed the children to play in the sand anyway. The children were clothed in smocks to keep them clean and were encouraged to play nicely. It worked well for a while; some muddy water fell on skin and smocks with the occasional slip of a shovel, but it could easily be washed with soap and water. Eventually the children became wild. The splashing stopped being accidental; some became greedy and vengeful and threw mud on the other children.

The teachers tried to be peacemakers, speaking with firm, kind voices about proper behavior, but it didn't work. They had to get right into the middle of it all to stop it with action rather than words. The sandboxes were closed. The children were cleaned and the extremely dirty ones were given clean clothes.

We are like those children. Our toys are different, and the mud we sling is not made with sand and water. We are selfish and vengeful. We will do anything to get our way, no matter who gets hurt in the process. Unfortunately, spiritual mud is not so easy to clean. We are wallowing in the mud of sin and death, and the consequences can be eternal. We don't always see how our self-centeredness affects others, but our neighbors are harmed by our behavior. The consequence of sin is never limited to us; it affects others to some degree.

The psalmist speaks as a child of God who has realized his own sinfulness. He cries out for the saving grace that will save him from his sin. God is the peacemaker. He is the teacher that speaks to those who will not hear. Like the children who did not see how their play was harming others, the world does not recognize its sin and need of a Savior. But Jesus enters in, nevertheless. Jesus was willing to “get his hands dirty” in the cross to make things right for us. He lifted us out of the mud, and by his own blood, he made us clean. In Christ, we are clothed with something new: His righteousness, without a spot or blemish.

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