

Third Sunday After Epiphany

January 25, 2026 10:30 AM

February 1, 2026 (Snow Date)



“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” At once they left their nets and followed him.

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church



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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:

Merciful God, your Son proclaimed the nearness of your kingdom, calling others to follow as his disciples to become fishers of people. Help us to receive the gift of your grace given through the cross and follow as his disciples by proclaiming the gospel in word and deed; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The congregation may be seated.

FIRST READING: Acts 4: 8-13, 17-20

⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹ if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, ¹⁰ let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. ¹¹ This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. ¹² And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

¹³ Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.

¹⁷ But in order that it may spread no further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name.” ¹⁸ So they (the Jewish Council) called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹ But Peter and John answered them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, ²⁰ for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.”

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

PSALM 27: 1-8, 13, 14

¹The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

²When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall.

³Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.

⁴One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.

⁵For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.

⁶And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the LORD.

⁷Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me!

⁸You have said, “Seek my face.” My heart says to you, “Your face, LORD, do I seek.”

¹³I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living!

¹⁴Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

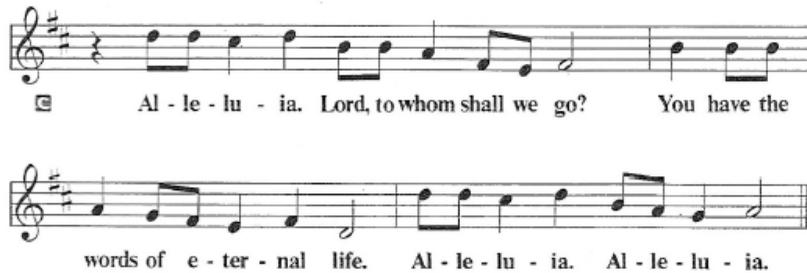
SECOND READING: Galatians 1: 11-24

¹¹ For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel. ¹² For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹³ For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it. ¹⁴ And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. ¹⁵ But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace, ¹⁶ was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone; ¹⁷ nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. ¹⁸ Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and remained with him fifteen days. ¹⁹ But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother. ²⁰ (In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie!) ²¹ Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia. ²² And I was still unknown in person to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. ²³ They only were hearing it said, “He who used to persecute us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy.” ²⁴ And they glorified God because of me.

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: Matthew 4: 12-25**

P: The holy gospel according to St. Matthew.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹²When {Jesus} heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. ¹³And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: ¹⁵“The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles — ¹⁶the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.” ¹⁷From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” ¹⁸While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” ²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. ²³And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. ²⁴So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, those having seizures, and paralytics, and he healed them. ²⁵And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

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

The congregation may be seated.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

There is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

Acts 4:12



“The Transforming Power of Jesus – Follow Me and I Will Make You Fishers of People”

Pastor Doug Hefner

***HYMN OF THE DAY: “You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore”**

WOV 784

***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: Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **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



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: Let us pray. God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth as fishers of people and your ambassadors of reconciliation that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **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 “Hark the Voice of Jesus Calling”**

LBW 381

Alt Tune: Hymn to Joy (Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee)

***DISMISSAL**

P: Called by our Lord Jesus to be fishers of people, let us share the good news of God's love in word and deed as we go in peace to serve the Lord!

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, Keith Abernethy, Harold Buff, Ashlee Bumgardner, Clinton Childers, Evelyn Childers, family of Gary Deaton (Pastor Doug & Jeff Hefner's uncle), Adler Dulin, 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: Third Sunday After Epiphany

9:30am – Sunday School

10:30am - Worship Celebration

6:00pm – Christian Unity Service at Daniels Lutheran Church (Dinner following Worship)

Wednesday: 6:30pm – Evening Vespers Service

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sun, 2/8/26, Friendship Sunday, everyone is 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

Sun, Feb. 22, First Sunday in Lent

Wed, Feb. 25 First Wednesday Service in Lent (Theme and Time TBA)

Do we want to have a light meal with our Lenten Wednesday Worship Series?

Sun, March 29, Palm Sunday, Sunday of the Passion

Thur, April 2, Maundy Thursday and Fri, April 3, Good Friday

Sun, April 5, Easter with Sunrise Service, Breakfast, Main Service at 10:30am

B.L.E.S.S. DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY MODEL

In the Fall of 2025, Grace took part in the 30-Day Challenge of **Pray and Go** written by Thom S. Ranier. **Pray and Go** focused on our call to be **Great Commission Christians**. This means that we ask God in prayer to equip and empower us as disciples to prepare us to go with the Gospel into our community to connect with others as we introduce them to Jesus. After praying, we were encouraged to invite our neighbors to worship or church events verbally or through letters or email/texts. We were encouraged to find our “one” and mentor that person in the faith. The book reminded us that very few church members

invite others to their church even though most people not connected to a church would respond favorably to an invite.

While we all should continue to Pray and Go, I felt like we needed something else as a congregation to guide us in reaching out to our community. God answered that prayer with the **B.L.E.S.S. Discipleship Ministry Model**. Pastor Dave Ferguson of Community Christian Church in Chicago wanted to encourage his people to reach out. As he prayed about it, he saw a theme in Scripture starting with the call of Abraham. God said that he would bless Abraham and Sarah to be a blessing. This theme of receiving God's blessings that compels us to be a blessing is throughout Scripture. How do we, as Christians, bless the world around us? Dave Ferguson takes a look at our call to bless others, making a case for blessing as a means of disciple-making.

Dave put forward the acrostic, **BLESS**, as a means of blessing the world around you:

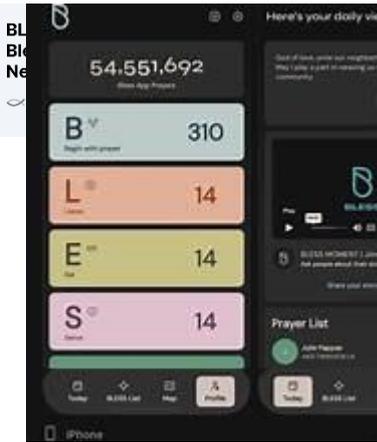
B—Begin with prayer (And I added Begin with the Bible) It is important that we abide in God's Word as Jesus said in John 15. It is where we learn about God and about who and whose we are. We also learn that we are called as discipleships to proclaim the Gospel in word and deed. As we read God's Word, we pray for understanding and for ways that we can put our faith into action. What have you called me to? Who do you want me to bless?

L—Listen (I added Look and Love – we listen and observe with love to develop a relationship with others) Take a listening posture. Listen to the people and places around us. What needs are present?

E—Eat Eating slows us down and shared meals build relationships. Meal times offer 21 different opportunities a week to be on mission. Meals offer an opportunity for fellowship and is a wonderful way to connect with others.

S—Serve Listening and eating often provide opportunities to hear how you can serve. It is said that people don't care how much you know until they know how much you care. Listening and serving are ways that we show we care.

S—Story Your service allows you the opportunity to share your story—how God changed your life. And His story—what He's done to redeem the world. As people see that we care and love them in Christ, we can share the Gospel story of Jesus' love and salvation.



This is great so far, right? I have even more exciting news. Pastor Dave and his church developed a BLESS App: Bless Your Neighbor (Be a Light for Christ). In your smart phone or tablet or computer, go to the App Store and get the BLESS App for free. Once you sign up for it and put in your address, it will give you a list of 50 neighbors around you (names and addresses). This is your BLESS list. You Begin with prayer/Bible, then look to connect by listening and loving, etc. When you pray for or listen or eat or serve, you can note that for each family you have adopted. There is also a map button to show you

on a map where your neighbors live. If you need help

with setting up the app, please let me know. Let's say you don't have a smart phone or tablet... Someone who does have an app can put in your address and find plenty of neighbors with names and addresses for you to BLESS. I will be providing resources to help you reach out to your neighbors, like a welcome letter. So if you want to write a personal letter to all of neighbors, a welcome



letter would guide you in that. There is so much that we can do with the BLESS Discipleship Ministry Model. I pray that you will download the app and begin to bless others around you with the love of Jesus. Over the next few weeks, I will provide more support and ideas for us to BLESS our neighbors. I know God will lead and guide us as we seek to reach out to our neighbors with Jesus' love. Let us all be in prayer about this wonderful tool and this amazing discipleship ministry called BLESS! God bless you, Pastor Doug Hefner

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 3 – January 25, 2026

“I thank God that I baptized none of you, save Crispus and Gaius ...”

- 1 Corinthians 1:14 -

Doesn't it seem odd that Paul would make such a bold proclamation? After all, the Great Commission is to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In our day, there are evangelists and preachers who boast about how many they've saved, yet Paul points out how few he baptized. This isn't just a matter of false humility; for Paul, it was a reminder of the power and authority by which we all are saved.

Paul always put the focus on what mattered most: the work of Christ. What mattered was the Gospel and the power of God — not the person performing the baptism or the person who was preaching. All too often our ministry becomes about the people and their gifts rather than the One who has made it possible. Paul admits he did not speak eloquently, but how many times do we follow someone because he or she is well-spoken and charismatic? We think there is more power to the words when the person speaking is educated and articulate, but even the devil can make a twisted lie sound true.

The Jews believed that they were made right with God by their acts of worship, by their sacrifices and their offerings. The Gentiles felt there was no need to be made right because they were good by nature. Unfortunately, many today still believe that righteousness is either earned or innate. But even in this great weakness there is hope, for Christ came to save us from ourselves.

That is why Paul brought the focus of the Corinthians back to the work of Christ. The truth is, Paul, Apollos and Cephas (Peter) were, no doubt, great preachers. They were well-spoken and charismatic. They were sincere and articulate. But that doesn't matter. In the end, it was never about them. Christ himself is the one in whom we are saved.

To believe that the Son of God came to die so that we might be forgiven, is to die to ourselves and our own merits, and instead to trust that Christ alone is the power and wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1:24) in our lives!

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