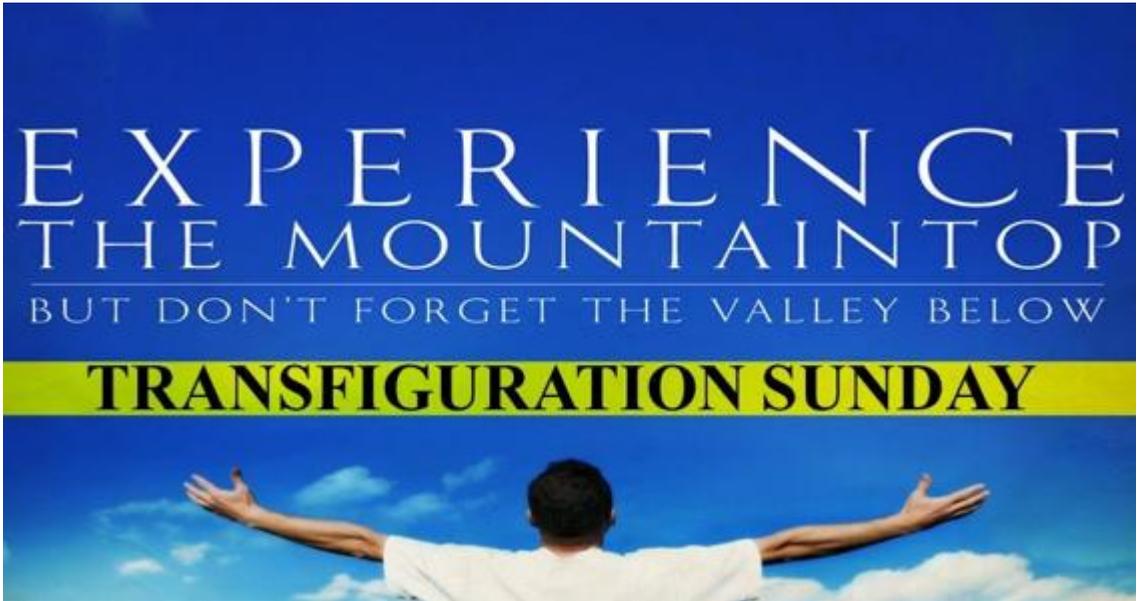


# Transfiguration of Our Lord

February 15, 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:**

O God, at the glorious transfiguration of your only Son, you confirmed the mystery of our faith by the witness of the disciples and by your own voice from the cloud. Mercifully complete our adoption as your children, and give us, with our King, an inheritance of his glory. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, 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: Exodus 24: 8-18**

<sup>8</sup>Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, “Behold the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words.” <sup>9</sup>Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, <sup>10</sup>and they saw the God of Israel. There was under his feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. <sup>11</sup>And he did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God, and ate and drank. <sup>12</sup>The Lord said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain and wait there, that I may give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” <sup>13</sup>So Moses rose with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. <sup>14</sup>And he said to the elders, “Wait here for us until we return to you. And behold, Aaron and Hur are with you. Whoever has a dispute, let him go to them.” <sup>15</sup>Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. <sup>16</sup>The glory of the Lord dwelt on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. <sup>17</sup>Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. <sup>18</sup>Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

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

**PSALM 2: 6-11**

<sup>6</sup>“As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill.”

**<sup>7</sup>I will tell of the decree: The Lord said to me, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you.**

**<sup>8</sup>Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.**

**<sup>9</sup>You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”**

**<sup>10</sup>Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth.**

**<sup>11</sup>Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling.**

**SECOND READING: 2 Peter 1: 16 -21**

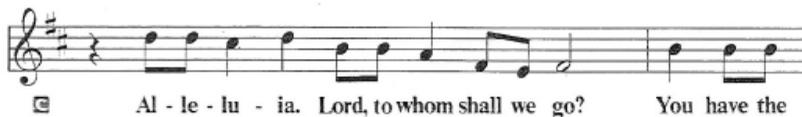
**<sup>16</sup>We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. <sup>17</sup>For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,” <sup>18</sup>we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain.**

**<sup>19</sup>And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, <sup>20</sup>knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation. <sup>21</sup>For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.**

**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 17: 1-9**

P: The holy gospel according to St. Matthew.

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

<sup>1</sup>After six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. <sup>2</sup>And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. <sup>3</sup>And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. <sup>4</sup>And Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.” <sup>5</sup>He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.” <sup>6</sup>When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. <sup>7</sup>But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Rise, and have no fear.” <sup>8</sup>And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. <sup>9</sup>And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, “Tell no one the vision, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead.”

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

*The congregation may be seated.*

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**SERMON**



***“Rise and Have No Fear: Transformed on the Mountain to Take Up Your Cross in the Valley”***

***Pastor Doug Hefner***

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY:**

**“How Good, Lord, To Be Here”**

**LBW 89**

**\*THE APOSTLES’ CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

### **\*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 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 image shows four staves of musical notation for the Communion Song 'Lamb of God'. The music is written in a single treble clef with 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 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.'

☐ 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, glorious Light of the World, You have refreshed us again with the heavenly food of your body and blood. As we follow you in faith into the valleys of need, nourish our faith and love that we might be signs of your grace and mercy. Empower us to be witnesses of your glory and 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**

**“Shine , Jesus, Shine”**

**WOV 651**

**\*DISMISSAL**

P: How good Lord to be here, to see and experience your light and love! As we go now in joy and peace, empower us with your presence to be salt and light as we journey with you in the Lenten season ahead.

**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, family of Carl Beam, Harold Buff, Ashlee Bumgardner, Clinton Childers, Evelyn Childers, Adler Dulin, Sonya Elliott &

family (car accident, recovering at home now), 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.

### **HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY TO:**

February 4 – Tricia Panek      February 12 – Gabby Bare  
February 25 – Carolyn Whisnant

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

**Today: Transfiguration of Our Lord**

9:30am – Sunday School      10:30am - Worship Celebration

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

**Tuesday:** 6:00pm – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper in Fellowship Hall

**Wednesday:** 6:30pm – Ash Wednesday Service with Imposition of Ashes

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Sun, Feb. 22,** First Sunday in Lent

**Wed, Feb. 25** First Wednesday Service in Lent 6:30pm

*Do we want to have a light meal with our Lenten Wednesday Worship Series?  
Continuing Wednesdays in Lent: March 4, 11, 18, and 25.*

**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

### **EASTER LILIES**



Orders for Easter lilies will be taken beginning today through Sunday, March 8. Order forms and special envelopes can be found in the Narthex. Please use the special envelope for your order and any other offering you may make on the Sunday that you place your order. The cost is \$13.00 per lily. The flowers may be taken after the 10:30 am Worship service on Easter Sunday.

### **NALC LENTEN & EASTER DEVOTIONAL 2026**

This year's devotional—The Unshaken Cross—guides us through Lent toward Easter: from honest reflection and repentance, to trust in Christ's saving work, to resting in the

victory secured at the cross. It meets us in the uncertainty and brokenness of our world and leads us to the unchanging faithfulness of God revealed in Jesus Christ. Through Scripture and reflection, we are invited to cling to the promise that nothing in all creation can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*The devotional will be included as a PDF attachment with all bulletins throughout the Lenten and Easter season and it is also available by accessing the following link: [thenalc.org/lent](http://thenalc.org/lent).*

## **SAVE THE DATES**

Grace partners with 5 other local churches for a community *Vacation Bible School*. The host church this year is Zion Lutheran Church and the date is **Sunday, May 31 – Thursday, June 4**. They will announce the theme soon and we will need adult volunteers to help. The VBS is not just for children/youth; there is an adult class offered as well. Pastor Doug has been asked to help with the music. Grace will be hosting the *Carolina's Mission District Solid Rock Day Camp* again this year. The dates are **Monday, June 15 – Friday, June 19**. The camp is for children/youth 4K- 5<sup>th</sup> grade. We will have college age counselors and a seminarian to lead the camp. The hours are 9 am - 4 pm Monday-Thursday, 9 am- 12 noon on Friday. The week will include Bible study, singing, games, crafts, skits, and lots of fun! Cost is only \$100 for a full week of growing in the faith and lots of fun! Grace will be providing help with the cost for any members that want to attend.

## **GRACE MINISTRY TEAMS NEED YOU!**

The board has been looking at how to reduce the number of our ministry teams to get more people involved. We have reduced them down to three (really four). We hope to have around 6 to 8 people on each ministry team that will meet, discuss needs and vision, and develop ministry to glorify God and to build up God's people as we bless our community.

**1. Worship/Fellowship Ministry Team** – Plans for worship needs (ushers, lectors, greeters, altar guild, etc); Christian Education including Sunday School, Small Groups, Confirmation, and VBS; Youth Ministry – planning ministry to help youth grow in the faith and live out their faith. Help to coordinate Fellowship event and meals.

**2. Discipleship Ministry Team** Encourages all member of the church to be disciples of the Lord Jesus, Helps the church to connect with our community to introduce people to Jesus, Coordinates our mission outreach like Ashure, Habitat for Humanity, etc.

**3. Stewardship Finance Ministry Team** Coordinates all aspects of the church's finances, Establishes a budget to guide ministry financing, encourages all of Grace's members to be good stewards of God's blessings.

**4. Stewardship Property Ministry Team** Oversees all aspects of indoor and outdoor property. Grace is blessed with a beautiful campus that needs to be maintained to meet our ministry and mission needs.



*Ministers of Grace – All the People of Grace*  
*Pastor – Reverend Doug Hefner      Board President – Tim Eckard*  
*Lector – Todd Childers      Youth Leader – Stormy Shull*  
*Altar Preparation – Cindy Bivens*  
*Communion Assistants – Tina Hefner & Nicky Jarrett*  
*Ushers – Jacob Jarrett & Jack Wilfong*  
*Offering Counters – Todd Childers & Tim Eckard*

# *Listening for the Promise*

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

## **Transfiguration of Our Lord – February 15, 2026**

*“Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel.”*

*– Exodus 34:17 –*

Imagine what it must have been like at the foot of the mountain when Moses went to talk with God. The Hebrews did not know the God of their forefathers very well after four hundred years in Egypt. They saw divine reward in every good thing and divine wrath in every natural occurrence. It must have been frightening to see the fiery cloud descend down the mountain as Moses was climbing up. Was it a bad sign? Was Moses going to be safe? What did the fire mean? Would this God really save them?

In a very different time and place, on August 23rd, 79 AD, the Roman people celebrated Volcanalia, a festival honoring the Roman god Volcanus. The festival was meant to placate the god so that the people would be blessed by him. The people began August 24th with a sense of assurance because they had just offered sacrifices to Volcanus. But it was on this particular day in history that Mt. Vesuvius erupted. The Roman city of Pompeii was buried under ash in a matter of hours, trapping the people and their environment in that moment for eternity.

Luther tells us in the Catechism that we should “fear and love and trust God above all things.” It doesn’t take long for us to turn away from the one true God. Sometimes it is fear itself that works against love and trust.

Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights. “How could Moses survive in that fiery cloud?” the people asked. So, they sought comfort from the gods they knew. The people forgot the God who led them out of Egypt, and by the time Moses returned they were worshipping an idol of gold. It was then they discovered what true fear meant!

When it comes to our trust in God, the tension between fear and love cannot be done away with by us; it is resolved only in Christ. Just as on the day of Transfiguration, there are times in our lives when the terrible cloud will descend on us. But we have the promise: Christ himself is with us. The One who reveals himself in frightening glory is the same One who has called us by name in love. He walks with us on the brightest mountaintop as well as in the darkest valley.

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