

OUR STAFF

Pastor: Marty Tyler
revmltyler@yahoo.com

Admin. Asst: Karla Dillon
secglc@yahoo.com

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday—Friday
10:00 AM—3:00 PM

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sundays at 10:13 AM
Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays
Sunday Bible Study 9:00 AM



February 2024

GRACE CONNECTION

Grace EV. Lutheran Church

188 East Cooper Avenue
Crescent City, CA 95531
(707) 464-4712

GraceLutheranCC.com

Our mission is to bring all people to faith in God through the good news of Jesus Christ and develop that faith through active fellowship.

WHY ASH WEDNESDAY?

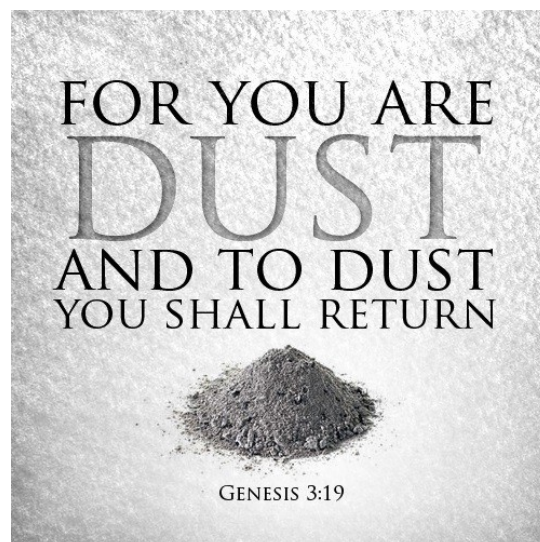
Ash Wednesday is the name given to the first day of the season of Lent, in which ashes are applied to the foreheads of Christians to signify an inner repentance. Ash Wednesday is one of the oldest “holy days” in the church dating from at least the eighth century.

One of the earliest descriptions of Ash Wednesday is found in the writings of the Anglo-Saxon abbot Aelfric (955-1020). In his *Lives of the Saints*, he writes, “We read in the books both in the Old Law and in the New that the men who repented of their sins bestrewed themselves with ashes and clothed their bodies with sackcloth. Now let us do this little at the beginning of our Lent that we strew ashes upon our heads to signify that we ought to repent of our sins during the Lenten fast.” Aelfric then proceeds to tell the tale of a man who refused to go to church for the ashes and was accidentally killed several days later in a boar hunt! As abbot Aelfric suggests, the pouring of ashes on one’s body (and dressing in sackcloth, a very rough material) as an outer manifestation of inner repentance or mourning is an ancient practice. It is mentioned several times in the Old Testament. What is probably the earliest occurrence is found at the very end of the book of Job. Job, having been rebuked by God, confesses, “Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes” (Job 42:6). Other examples are found in 2 Samuel 13:19, Esther 4:1,3, Isaiah 61:3, Jeremiah 6:26, Ezekiel 27:30, and Daniel 9:3. In the New Testament, Jesus alludes to the practice in Matthew 11:21: “Woe to you, Korazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre

and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.”

It is safe to say that for most Lutherans thirty-five years or younger the imposition of ashes is a new thing, much like making the sign of the cross. As Martin Luther encourages, anointing in healing services, use of a crucifix, or even every Sunday Communion is new for some; nevertheless, it is Biblical and historically, it is Lutheran.

But most importantly it’s helpful. When the ash mark sits on our forehead we feel marked because, well, we are marked. The ashes designate that we are real sinners, and this is something the world refuses to hear. It’s embarrassing to go around town that way on Ash Wednesday, but that’s the point, isn’t it? And then, at the end of the day, do exactly what Jesus would do: wash your face.



Free Resources Available

You're invited to dive into a wealth of resources available on the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) website!

Discover a variety of enriching materials such as Bible Studies, devotionals, skits, spiritual growth resources, the LWML Quarterly, and much more.



Whether you're seeking inspiration, spiritual guidance, or simply looking to deepen your understanding of faith, the website has valuable content and resources. Navigate to lwml.org/resources to explore the diverse range of offerings that cater to different aspects of your spiritual journey.

Bible Studies & Small Groups

THE BOOK OF
JAMES
SUNDAYS AT 9AM

UN-DISTRACTED
SUNDAYS
AT 9AM

LWML STUDY
2ND TUESDAY
AT 11AM

THE BOOK OF
REVELATION
SATUDAYS
AT 10AM

PILGRIM'S
PROGRESS
THURSDAYS
AT NOON

BOOK CLUB
2ND THURSDAY
AT 3PM

YOUNG COUPLES
THURSDAYS
AT 11AM

GET INVOLVED -- JOIN A GROUP

AN INTRODUCTION TO OUR LENTEN MIDWEEK THEME

BE GRACIOUS TO ME

Based on Psalm 41

No Old Testament saint attests to God's grace quite like King David. Raised from the sheepfold to the throne of the house of Israel; raised again (and again, and again) from sin: pride, murder, adultery, and despising of God; lifted clear of the snare of the wicked (Psalm 119:110), of the pit (Psalm 30:3), of the very gates of death (Psalm 9:13); with no merit or worthiness in himself, David was continually raised up by God's grace and favor.

God's grace wells up in Psalm 41, where David exults in divine mercy amid his own weakness, powerful enemies, and treacherous friends. In this psalm, David tracks the flow of divine grace back to its source at the cross and, with prophetic vision, finds it springing forth in the lives of all baptized believers—including you.

How has God's grace raised you? If you haven't been set on a royal throne or made ruler over a great people, maybe you've seen improvements in your finances or employment. Or perhaps family strife has been quieted. Or maybe a compassionate helper or valuable ally has entered the picture at just the right moment. Have you shaken off a bad illness, a bad habit, or a bad influence? If so, rejoice and thank God for His grace and favor!

But if you feel like you're sinking instead of rising, what then? Is there any comfort for the saint of God who looks around to find that "the waters have come up to my neck" (Psalm 69:1)? David knows that saint's fortunes because they are his as well:

Blessed is the one who considers the weak!

In the day of trouble the Lord delivers him;

the Lord protects him and keeps him alive;

he is called blessed in the land;

You do not give him up to the will of his enemies. (Psalm 41:1-2)

You have a sure hope! Therefore, do not look for hope in your experiences or your emotions, which will portray for you the same bleak scene that David captures in Psalm 41:

** My enemies say of me in malice, "When will he die, and his name perish?" (v. 5)*

** When one comes to see me, he utters empty words, while His heart gathers iniquity. (v. 6)*

** Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me. (v. 9)*

Faith offers a better vision: despite all that binds and bruises and bleeds you, God will raise you up. He has raised you already! In Holy Baptism, God has "raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 2:6). If you are in Christ, how can you sink? How can you fall?

Lent is the ideal time to meditate on David's ordeals and your secure position in Christ. Psalm 41 provides the ideal guide to your meditation. If the laments of Psalm 41 call to mind your numerous difficulties and need for deliverance, they depict even more clearly the work by which your deliverance has been won.

David "prophesied about the grace that was to be yours" and "searched and inquired carefully" concerning your salvation (1 Peter 1:10). And that salvation is this: the Son of David, by grace, "might taste death for everyone" (Hebrews 2:9).

Are the scheming enemies of Psalm 41:5 not the foes of Christ, who is sustained on His sickbed (v. 3) but the one by whose wounds you are healed (Isaiah 53:5)? Even the close friend of our Lord has lifted his heel against Him (Psalm 41:9). God be praised, all these sufferings are yours too! Or "do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death" (Romans 6:3)?

Because you are in Christ, you share in all things with Him, even the prophetic Word. David's vision in Psalm 41 has become your reality in Christ. In the day of trouble, the Lord delivers you; the Lord protects you and keeps you alive; you are called blessed in the land (see Psalm 41:1-2). Press on to know the Lord's suffering, death, and Word. As surely as the Lenten journey ascends to the victory of Easter, you shall be raised up.

Lent & Holy Week Schedule



Ash Wednesday **FEBRUARY 14, 6:00pm**
Ash Wednesday is a solemn reminder of human mortality and the need for reconciliation with God and marks the beginning of the Lenten season. **Holy Communion.** *Vespers @ 5:15pm & Soup Supper @ 6:00pm, February 21-March 20.*



Palm Sunday **MARCH 24, 10:15am**
Sunday before Easter. It is a celebration of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, observed with palm branches



Maundy Thursday **MARCH 28, 6:00pm**
Thursday before Easter. It commemorates the Last Supper and foot washing, often observed with stripping of the altar. **Holy Communion**



Good Friday **MARCH 29. 6:00pm**
Friday before Easter. It is a most solemn day as we observe the day Jesus was crucified. **Holy Communion**



Holy Saturday **MARCH 30, 6:00pm**
Saturday before Easter. It observes the day Jesus was in the tomb. It is a day of somber reflection.



Resurrection Sunday **MARCH 31, 10:15am**
Hallelujah! Christ has risen! It is a day of joyful celebrations. This day we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. **Holy Communion**

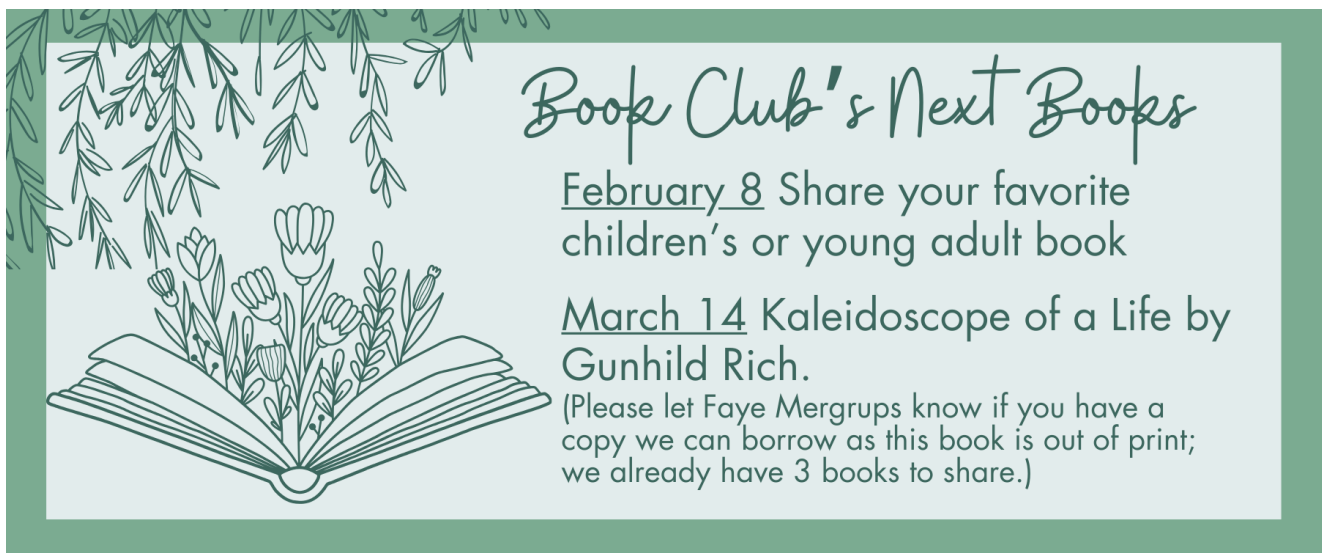
STEWARDSHIP DEFINED: “Therefore”

According to the King James Bible Dictionary, the word “therefore” is used 1,237 times in the Bible. The most prominent use of the word “therefore” in Scripture is a “reaction or a response to what has happened in the past.” It serves to connect a truth with a proper response. Understanding that “therefore” connects action or response to a truth, could we not use the single word “therefore” as a definition of stewardship? Is not stewardship faith in action! Stewardship is all we do after God enables us to say, “I believe.” Through faith, we know that God loves us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to the cross for the forgiveness of our sins, so we can enjoy the abundant life now and life eternal with Him. Through faith, we believe what Jesus has done for us; “therefore” we will serve and obey Him. “Therefore” is the link between knowing and doing. There are many wonderful definitions of stewardship, but, if we attempt to simplify our understanding of stewardship and define stewardship with just one word, the word “therefore” is as brief and concise as we can get.

In Romans 12:1, we find one of the hundreds of verses that uses the word “therefore”: “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God...”. In the chapters preceding this verse, Paul repeatedly references God’s abundant mercy to us. Using the word “therefore,” Paul directs us, in light of God’s mercy, to “present [our] bodies as a living sacrifice.” Having received God’s mercy, we are motivated to live as faithful stewards. God wants us completely and totally. Everything that we are and have should belong to Him. “Therefore,” God wants all of us.

In our daily routines, we tend not to take this notion of giving everything to God too seriously. However, God’s Word clearly wants us to think more about how we can use our lives and our bodies in service to Him. The question to consider is, “Do we use our bodies in ways that honor God?” Let’s consider our hands. Do we use them to serve only ourselves or do we use them in service to God? Do we use our eyes, ears, brains, mouths, etc. in service to God? God says every part of us is to be used as an act of worship. “Therefore...by the mercies of God” each of us should do whatever God puts before us and do it cheerfully.

May the word “therefore” remind us of the importance of faithful stewardship, and, with the help of the Holy Spirit, we can be the stewards God has made us to be.



Book Club's Next Books

February 8 Share your favorite children's or young adult book

March 14 Kaleidoscope of a Life by Gunhild Rich.
(Please let Faye Mergrups know if you have a copy we can borrow as this book is out of print; we already have 3 books to share.)

LUTHERANS IN AFRICA

**PRESENTATION ON
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11**



TRAINING

TRAINS PASTORS IN 23 AFRICAN COUNTRIES



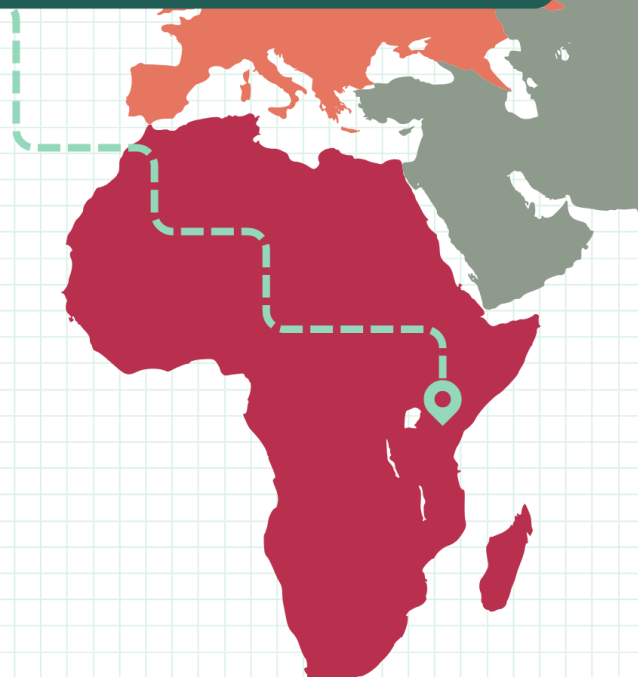
TEACHING

CONDUCTS CLASSES AROUND CONTINENT & AT THEOLOGY SCHOOL

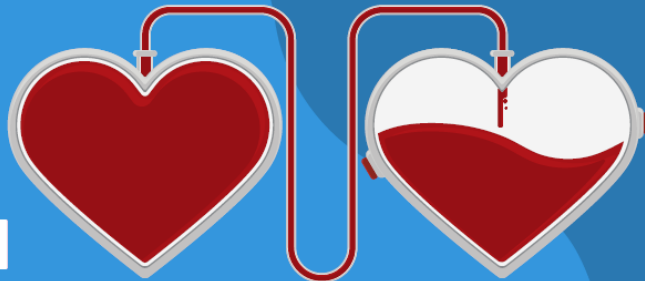


TRANSLATING

TRANSLATES KEY RESOURCES & LUTHERAN DOCTRINES



**PLEASE
MAKE A
BLOOD
DONATION**



GIVE BLOOD|SAVE LIVES

There is an urgent need for blood donations.
Below are upcoming opportunities to give.

Feb. 2	11am - 4pm	Walmart
Feb. 6	1pm - 6pm	Safeway
Feb. 20	1pm - 6pm	Safeway
Feb. 27	10am - 3pm	Sutter Coast Hospital



WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT


February 21-March 20

SOUP Supper

Vespers @ 5:15pm | Supper @ 6:00pm



Saturday, February 24
8:30am

MEN'S 
FELLOWSHIP
BREAKFAST

Devotional following breakfast

Tithes & Offerings

We thank you for your faithful support of Grace Ministries.

Online giving/tithing is available. Safely and securely support the ministries of Grace Lutheran Church through VANCO, an online giving platform. You can check our church website for instructions under the GIVING tab, or contact Thomas Hutzell at (707) 218-7259.

- Weekly Giving Envelopes are available for 2024. If you do not already have envelopes assigned, please see Thom. Those already assigned envelopes will find them in their church mailbox.
- NOTE: Our Giving/Tithing Box is at the Usher's Stand inside the sanctuary. You can drop off your offerings before or after Worship each Sunday.
- Checks can also be mailed to Grace Lutheran Church, 188 E Cooper Ave, Crescent City, CA 95531

"You should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7

Happy Anniversary

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

David & Erica Wilson	2/14	1 year
Mike & Barbara Allen	2/17	56 years



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Elizabeth Bailey	1/3
Nancy Scott	2/3
Darin Bradbury	2/4
Abbie Crist	2/5
Michael Sherrill	2/6
Lee Sherrill	2/6
Carole Cink	2/7
Christian Alexandre	2/8
Janet Knodel	2/10
Mary Thiessen	2/10
David Cink	2/11
Carol Kays	2/12
Megan Lambson	2/13
Daniel Quick	2/14
Connie Claussen	2/14
Danni Charleston	2/15
Blake Owen	2/15
Michael Means	2/17
Evan Campbell	2/19
Tim Vincent	2/19
Aaron Claussen	2/21
Jessica Turner	2/22
Toni Radle	2/23
Erika Wilson	2/23
Melanie Thompson	2/25
Karma Robb	2/26
Marcy Bradbury	2/27
Knela Newton	2/27
Marilyn Restad	2/27
Jack Brusnighan	2/27
Christine Cochran	2/28