



# Grace Lutheran Church

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FEBRUARY 2020

NEWSLETTER

## It's All About Love

Dear family and friends of Grace,

God's richest blessings be yours in abundance as we enter the month of February! This is the "month of love" - so they say - with the celebration of Valentine's Day occurring on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

Love is a greatly misunderstood concept in our modern world. Some think of it as merely a close friendship. Others think of it as only a sexual act. Others feel that it defies description altogether and includes many things.

In our English language, we have but one word for "love." In the Greek language, however - the language that the New Testament was originally written in - there were *three* different words for "love." The first, was ερος (eros (AIR-ohs)) and referred to a sexual love. The second was φιλεω (phileo (fill-EH-oh)) and referred to a "brotherly love." Hence the nickname of the city of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania as "The City of Brotherly Love." The third, and highest form of "love" in the Greek language was αγαπη (agape (ah-GAHP-ay)) and this referred to a love that was not tied to any other influences or factors - an **unconditional love**.

This third love, "agape" love, of course is the love that God has toward us, His people. He loves us all the time, no matter what. *He loves you just because He loves you!* The great news, of course, is that that love will never change either!

It's His "agape" love that goes into and through you and me as we unconditionally love one another. It's His "agape" love in us that allows us to love those who are difficult to love. It's this same agape love that has forgiven our sins and shortcomings in Christ and His life, death for us on the cross and glorious resurrection. It's that same agape love that has forgiven us that allows and empowers us to forgive others.

Many people who have gone on mission trips to help fellow Christians in foreign lands tell of being struck by the immediate bond of love and trust that existed between God's people. There may not be the ability to communicate all that well due to a language barrier; there may have been misunderstandings due to a cultural barrier - but through and above it all is God's **agape love**. All the people realized they were family. There is a joyful reveling in the fact that even though the missionaries may live halfway around the world, they were nonetheless eternally connected through Jesus Christ our Lord. They all have the same goals in the faith; they are all on the same team and have the same "Head Coach."

As you experience February this year, including - but not limited to - Valentine's Day, may you experience and share that **agape love** of Christ that has been give to you to flow through you. Share the love of Christ, and the hope you have through Him with those God places in your life.

Joining Jesus on His Mission,

*Pastor Huesmann*

# Ministry Updates...



We continue to have a great preschool year! Our enrollment has remained full. We will begin registration for the fall of 2020 soon. In house registration will be mid-March and the general public after that. But, those people wanting to register for the FREE VPK (4's) can do so at any time.

Last month, we enjoyed Ice/Snow day (inside), although it was quite cold outside, too, and also, Pajama and Bear Hunt day - Oh my! The children thoroughly enjoyed it! You can see photos of our many adventures and activities on our facebook page Amazing Grace Christian Preschool at GLC.

Don't forget to use smile. Amazon when ordering online. Simply designate Amazing Grace Christian Preschool as the charitable organization and Amazon donates funds to our preschool.

We continue to be blessed by a variety of children from all walks and nationalities. Thank you for your continued support through prayers, words of encouragement and especially Grace's volunteers who give tirelessly through the Preschool Action Team.

Until the Whole World Hears,  
Amy Onkka, Director <><



February is the month we celebrate love. The greatest love ever given was that of God sending His Son to save the world. This month we will be blessed on February 12th at 11:30 a.m. to be entertained by the Pensacola Bay Harmonizers. Location to be announced later. Hope to see you there!



"The Backpack Buddy weekend food ministry continues to deliver food to the students of Holm Elementary. Last semester we delivered 36-40 bags each week and currently we deliver to 49 students. To the many that ask how our finances are holding up, I believe that we have enough dollars to shop for the rest of the semester but I will keep all of you updated in the newsletter and weekly bulletin. Thank you to everyone that makes this ministry possible and as always please keep these students and their families in your prayers."



## His Hands and Feet Project For students in grades 3-12

**When:** Sunday, February 9th at 11:30 am—1:00 pm

**Where:** Grace Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall

**Lunch:** Spaghetti, Garlic Bread, Salad, Dessert

**Service Projects for:**

- Home Bound/Community Care Church Members
  - Backpack Ministry Students
- Come and enjoy working together as we share God's

## Sunday School Classes

### Jesus Our Friend

- Pastor Huesmann—Fellowship Hall

### Study of the Gospel of John

- John Cocking—Classroom #5

### The Untold Story by: Frank Viola

- Study of Acts/Paul's Journey—led by Rich Trampe in Office #6

### Youth

- Jr./Sr. High Class—Pastor's Conference Room

### Children—Ages 2-4

Nursery

### Ages K-5th Grade

- Gospel of Mark  
Pre-school Classroom





## Parenting From Your Strengths, Part 2

### Compass or Map? How a Parent Finds “True North”

Just as a GPS helps you stay on course as you travel to reach your destination, parents across the globe need a simple parenting GPS – Global Parenting System – to help them stay on course with raising their children. Three segments of the **Global Parenting System** work together to pinpoint your position and to tell you where to go next in parenting your children. The first of these, God’s Word, provides an unwavering reference point for the rest. Remember Rob and Kate from our previous article? This couple struggled to be on the same page in raising their children. The two could simply not get in sync. In looking for answers, each of them shifted positions often. Rob and Kate needed a common, fixed reference point from which to make their decisions.

#### **Do You Know How to Find True North?**

The solution to parenting seemed so simple: Rob and Kate would seek out reliable information from “experts” and use that as a starting point to work from there. Yet the more the couple sought advice, the more options they discovered. Which expert could they trust? Adventure travelers to the North Pole face a similar problem: geological experts use different options to identify the pole’s location. Thrill-seekers cannot plan their adventure until they choose one of those options and its guide to get there. The first, the **magnetic North Pole**, is a shifting location. Its **position changes** according to the activity of the earth’s magnetic fields. As the earth spins on its axis, fluid iron near the earth’s core spins too – but at a different rate. The difference between the two produces magnetic currents, which point out the location of magnetic north. Changes in the rate of rotation (both of the earth and the core) determine the pole’s position, which moves up to 50 miles a day. On the other hand, the **geographic North Pole** is a **stationery position**, marked by the earth’s axis of rotation. Known as “**True North**,” this point does not shift according to magnetic field. True North is clearly identified on maps by lines of longitude. It does not change. True North is steadfast and consistent.

#### **Follow a Map ... or a Compass?**

The method of navigation you choose will determine your North Pole destination – whether it’s a changing point (**a compass**) or a stationery one (**a map**). A compass, magnetized and freely suspended, points to the magnetic North Pole, changing with fluctuations in the earth’s magnetic current. A map, however, uses clearly marked geographic lines of longitude to locate its unwavering North Pole location. When it comes to parenting, you have a similar choice. The method of navigation you choose will determine how you parent. God’s Word is a map pointing you in the direction of “True North” – a directional guide that never wavers off course and doesn’t shift with the times or troubles of our day. This stable, reliable guide leads you along the parenting journey, offering unshakable stability in a shaken world. With God’s Word, you won’t be confused by constant shifts. You won’t wander off course simply because of changes around you. Other parenting approaches, like a compass, may get you close to your destination. But they change all the time.

#### **Not Just a Guide, But a Relationship**

God’s Word is a reliable parenting guide because it is the expression of Jesus Christ. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God” ([John 1:1](#), NIV). Instead of facing parenting challenges using our own abilities, we have our Savior and Creator walking with us and speaking to us through His Word. He is our True North. The Bible is our map. As Rob and Kate turned to God’s Word and to Christ as their True North, they discovered a common reference point. Time after time, the couple returned to the Word when facing a parenting challenge, finding they could rely on it both individually and together. God’s Word is the first reference point to draw on in your GPS parenting system. Surer than a reliable map ... unaffected by storm ... impervious to physical, social, or economic changes on earth ... this True North offers a spiritual fixed point parents need to find their way. The Word becomes a starting point for what it means to parent from your strengths ... and a signal that always points to Jesus Christ.



## “It’s Time to Sparkle” Zechariah 9:16”

“The Lord their God will save his people on that day as a shepherd saves his flock. They will sparkle in his land like jewels in a crown.”

**This is the theme of the Biennial LWML Gulf States District Convention. The LWML Ladies of the Emerald Coast Zone will be hosting the 38th Biennial LWML Gulf States District Convention on April 17-19, 2020 at the Navarre Convention Center, Navarre, Florida.**

### **There will be three Convention Offerings:**

1. District Mites
2. Missionary Pastor Matthew Wood and family in Indonesia
3. Southern District Disaster and Relief – GIFTS FROM THE HEART will go to Trinity, Panama City, Food Pantry, that not only helps members of churches, but also the community following October 2018, Hurricane Michael. Items needed are: Canned vegetables, Canned meat, Shelf stable milk, Rice, Pasta, Dried Beans, boxed Mac and cheese, Ravioli/Spaghetti-O’s, Cereal, Breakfast food, oatmeal and grits, peanut butter and crackers.

### **Motel Accommodations**

#### **Days Inn & Suites – 8700 Navarre Parkway, Navarre**

**Hotel Phone: 850-939-1761** This motel is across the parking lot from convention center.

You can come, park your car and not start it up until Sunday.

Standard room rate: \$96.00 + tax

Suite room rate: \$116.00 + tax

43 rooms total: 39 double, 2 king handicap and 2 suites

18 double, 2 king handicap and 2 suites downstairs: The rest are on the 2nd floor

**There is no elevator**, so please be mindful of those who need a ground level room.

When you register, mention LWML, April 2020. No charge for extra people – Cutoff date is April 10, 2020

#### **Best Western Navarre Waterfront – 8697 Navarre Parkway, Navarre**

**Hotel Phone: 850-939-9400**

Standard room rate: \$159.00 + tax

At time of Reservations, mention that you have AAA, AARP, or Military, room rate: \$143.99 + tax

(If you want a room overlooking pool, it will be more.) Check in time after 3:00 p.m. Check out 11:00 a.m.

**NOTE:** This motel is across the busy 98, with a stoplight from the convention center. Because of traffic, I would advise you to drive over, even though it is only a block or 2, unless you are good on your legs!

**If you’ve never attended an LWML event, this is your golden opportunity to meet one inspirational and magnificent group of ladies who have a heart for the Lord and His mission opportunities.** For More information about the LWML in general and the Convention, please pick up a copy of “Glad Tidings” on the counter in the Welcome Center. Registration forms and copies of this notice will be there also. If you have an interest in learning more about the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League and their role in the church, please speak with Chris Fisher, Donna Dull, or Carol Peterson.

**Facilities:** By the time you read this, the Community Building should be fully functional again. All areas have been completely repaired and the kitchen is receiving a few finishing touches. I will have the building open the morning of February 16th before and after church for anyone to come and see the building and the repairs that were made. All ministries that were using the building have either been relocated back into the Community Building or will be early February. And again, a huge THANK YOU to all who came out to the January work day and made the moves back into the Community Building a huge success.

The replacement and repair of the main church buildings doors have been completed and final adjustments made. These are doors with Crash Bars for opening from the inside and as the name implies the Crash Bars need to be pressed firmly for them to operate correctly. After exiting the building, please check behind you to ensure the doors are secured. Also, in February, all the doors of the church building, interior and exterior, are being re-keyed. This is being accomplished to ensure the security of the church, there are too many keys in circulation to people who no longer are required to have keys. Hopefully this can be accomplished without too much hardship for those requiring keys.

Bruce Dietly

*Love  
Always  
Adds  
To.  
It Never  
Takes  
Away  
From.*



# February Birthdays

Glen Hoffman 2/1  
Shane Poppe 2/2  
Pat Rosenthal 2/5  
Paul Bowdich 2/5  
Barbara Poppe 2/6  
Jeanie Taylor 2/7  
Mike Weis 2/10  
Jonathan Mankins 2/11  
Donna Dull 2/12  
Bill West 2/14  
Fred Fisher 2/15  
Larry Batzloff 2/18  
Maddi Bevans 2/20  
Emily Evans 2/21

Judy Lukers 2/21  
Bernhard Barsuhn 2/24  
Brett Hanes 2/27  
Gary Forney 2/27  
Paige Adkisson 2/27  
Ethan West 2/28



# February Anniversaries



Jon & Renee Navarro  
February 4  
Orlando & Diane Ingvaldstad  
February 16  
Stephen & Amy Bevans  
February 18  
Ed & Robin O'Connell  
February 19

## February Flowers and Eternal Candle

**February 2:** Flowers are given by Jon & Renee Navarro in honor of their Anniversary

**February 23:** Flowers are given by Al Day in memory of Jeanne Day's Birthday



## Looking Forward...

**February 2** Time Change for Services 9:15a.m. Sunday School 10:30a.m. Worship

**February 14** Valentines Day

**February 26** Ash Wednesday

**March 1** Lent

**March 8** Daylight Savings Time begins



# February Calendar

## Calendar Key:

S = Sanctuary N = Narthex FH = Fellowship Hall  
 WC = Welcome Center CB = Community Bldg Y = Youth  
 K = Kitchen OC = Office Conference SC = Sanctuary Conference  
 PK = PreK Room LS = Lord's Supper

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Moore's GLC
2 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	3 5:30 Christian Yoga FH 6:30 Stephen Ministry OC 7:00 AA Mtg. CB	4 5:00 Pre-K Board OC 6:00 Men's BSF FH	5 9:00 Adult Bible Study CB 4:45 Confirmation OC 6:00 Choir Practice 6:00 Women's Bible Study OC	6 10:30 Back pack CB 6:00 Women's BSF FH	7 7:00 AA Mtg. CB	8 8:00 Men's Prayer Breakfast FH
9 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	10 5:30 Christian Yoga FH 6:30 Elders Mtg OC 7:00 AA Mtg. CB	11 5:00 Pre-K Board OC 6:00 Men's BSF FH 6:30 BLL Mtg OC	12 9:00 Adult Bible Study CB 4:45 Confirmation OC 6:00 Choir Practice 6:00 Women's Bible Study OC	13 10:30 Back pack CB 6:00 Women's BSF FH	14 7:00 AA Mtg. CB	15 8:00 Work Day
16 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	17 5:30 Christian Yoga FH 7:00 AA Mtg. CB	18 5:00 Pre-K Board OC 6:00 Men's BSF FH	19 9:00 Adult Bible Study CB 4:45 Confirmation OC 6:00 Choir Practice 6:00 Women's Bible Study OC	20 10:30 Back pack CB 6:00 Women's BSF FH	21 7:00 AA Mtg. CB	22 10:00 Prayer Shawl CB
23 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	24 5:30 Christian Yoga FH 7:00 AA Mtg. CB	25 5:00 Pre-K Board OC 6:00 Men's BSF FH	26 <b>LENT BEGINS</b> 9:00 Adult Bible Study 4:45 Confirmation OC 5:00 Choir Practice 6:30 Worship Service	27 10:30 Back pack CB 6:00 Women's BSF FH	28 7:00 AA Mtg. CB	29 *Calendars are chang- ing constantly. Please check bulletins and weekly emails for most current events listings.

**Elders Report:** Isn't it amazing how time flies when you're having fun? We just finished the season of Christ's birth, put away the holiday decorations and ate all the holiday goodies, and here come the Elders talking about Lent. Yes, Lent begins of February 26th with the observance of Ash Wednesday. Our Lenten Wednesday services will be every Wednesday beginning on February 26th at 6:30 PM and continuing thru April 1st. Make sure you put these dates in your calendar, so you don't miss a service.

And don't forget the time change in February. Not the Daylight Savings Time or standard time change, but our new Sunday School and Worship time changes. Beginning February 2nd, Sunday School will begin at 9:15 AM and end at 10:15 AM, followed by our Worship service at 10:30 AM. If you forget and come early, that's alright, enjoy coffee and a donut while you wait. We pray that all find the new times more pleasing to their study and worship time.

**New Times!**  
**Sunday School & Bible Classes**  
**9:15 a.m.**  
*Starting 02/02/2020*  
**Worship - 10:30 a.m.**