

MARCH/APRIL 2014

Goodness GRACIOUS

Our Lenten Walk

A message from the heart of Pastor Janice Kibler

Dear Friends,



We are about to enter a wonderfully reflective season of the church year as we approach Ash Wednesday and the forty days of Lent. It is a time of remembering our identity as followers of Christ, and considering what that path of following actually means for us. It is a time to consider how we might live out the mercy and compassion of Christ in our own context. It is a time to focus on our spiritual practices of prayer, scripture reading, fasting, meditation, and charity. It is a rich time of year that invites a look at our inner lives.

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This year, you may want to consider participating in an online course called "The Big Class," featuring Making Sense of the Cross and David Lose, a preaching professor at Luther Seminary. This open, online 45 minute course and discussion will be available the first week of Lent, March 5-12 at churchnext.tv. No special software is required. "The Big Class" is a worldwide online course for all who want to go further in their walk with Christ and is free to all. View the [full press release](#) on the ChurchNext blog site or [register for "The Big Class"](#).

More locally, we will observe Ash Wednesday (March 5) with the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion at 6:30pm. Pastor Janice will join other ELCA and Episcopal clergy on campus that afternoon 2-4pm offering the imposition of ashes to the CU community, an aspect of "Rooted in Grace -Reaching Out in Christ's Love."

On the Wednesdays during Lent, when we gather for worship, we will reflect on some of the questions Jesus asked. Jesus does not ask questions to get simple answers, or to give simple answers. He uses questions to transform people. Out of 186 questions addressed to



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Grace on the web at www.GraceBoulder.org

him, he only directly answered 3. His common response was to tell a story, or ask a question in response in order to get people to think differently. Jesus asks questions that reposition us, challenge our image of God and our place in the world, and present us with new and creative possibilities. Part of my personal daily discipline in the 40 days will be to dive more deeply into those questions. I invite you also, to open the gospels and look for the questions Jesus asks that invite thought and reflection, knowing that as we open our hearts and minds to the questions, we will be opening ourselves to transformation and greater depth of faith.

May the 40 days of Lent be a time of increased devotion, prayer, and charity as you make time and space to consider the great love of God for you in Christ.

Pastor Janice Kibler

A Grace-Filled Lent 2014

Holy Eucharist each Sunday at 10:00 AM

March 5 -Ash Wednesday Worship – 6:30pm

Wednesday Schedule for Midweek Services:
6:00 supper, 6:40 worship

March 12 – Where is your faith? (Luke 8:22-25)

March 19 – What do you want me to do for you?
(Matthew 20:29:34) Guests: Pr. Austin and
Tanya Propst, coordinators for Young
Adults in Global Ministry in Madagascar

March 26 – Who do you say that I am? (Mark 8:27-30)

April 2 – Do you love me? (John 21:1-16)

April 9 – How will you believe what I say?
(John 5:46-47)

Holy Week:

April 13 – Palm Sunday – 10:00 Worship

April 17 - Maundy Thursday – 7pm Worship

April 18 - Good Friday – 7 pm Worship

April 20 - Easter Sunday – 8am reflection at Green
Mountain Cemetery, 8:30 Easter breakfast,
10:00 Festive Worship

Regis University Flood Relief Spring Break Trip

The week of March 2-7, 2014, Grace Lutheran will host a group of undergraduate students and their faculty advisor from Regis University in Denver, as they come to Boulder for a service project spring break trip. Yes, that's right, these eager young people are taking their free time over spring break to volunteer in the continuing flood relief efforts in Boulder. They've connected to the ongoing efforts in Boulder through Flatirons Habitat for Humanity and the United Way, to be given daily tasks to help people still in need after our historic September 2013 thousand year flood. The group of 7 or 8 will sleep on the floor at Grace for five nights, prepare their breakfast and lunches in the Grace kitchen and then pile into the Regis University van and go out into our community to work where they are needed. The group will also spend time within our community during the evenings: joining LCM for Night Church on Sunday night, the Mardi Gras party on Tuesday night at St. Aidan's, and with Grace on Wednesday night for imposition of ashes and Worship on Ash Wednesday. So when you see these young bright faces in our midst, give them a welcoming hello and ask how the volunteer work is going.

How can you help?

Sign up through the Church Office to provide dinner for the Regis Flood Relief Spring Break Trip group on Wed., March 5 and Thurs., March 6.

Lenten Giving: *Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains*

During March, our Partner in Ministry is Lutheran Family Services, and you are invited to remember them in intentional ways. LFS provides support to people in our area through a variety of avenues including adoption support, pregnancy counseling, foster care, refugee and asylee programs, services for older adults, parenting education, and disaster response. This valuable ministry is done as a response to Jesus' call to be people of compassion as we love others. During Lent, you are invited to give a financial gift to Grace for LFS, and are encouraged to do this as part of your Lenten discipline of providing for the poor. Consider giving \$10/week for each adult in your home. That is the cost of lunch for many of us. By foregoing lunch one day/week, and spending that time in prayer or helping someone else during that time, we will be practicing the classic Lenten discipline of giving (time and money) to others as an expression of our devotion and love for Christ.

In addition to receiving an offering for LFS, we will be collecting household supplies for refugee families who come to the Denver area for resettlement. Items that are needed include:

Silverware (fork, knife, spoon)	Toilet Paper
Kitchen Utensils: spatula, wooden spoon, cutting knives, serving utensils	Shampoo
Can Opener	Soap
Cookie Sheets	Toothbrush/Toothpaste/Floss
Mop/Broom	Deodorant
Cleaning Solutions (409, Windex)	Lotion
Dish Soap	Chap Stick
Laundry Detergent	Tissues
Toilet Brush	Alarm Clock
Trash Bags	Paper/Pens/Pencils
Sponges	Light Bulbs

All items are to be new and properly sealed. Please bring your items to Grace, where LFS will come and pick them up and put them to good use. Thank you for your generosity!



Social Media and Grace – With the release of our new website and our growing presence on Facebook, we want all in the congregation to be aware of the guidelines we are following regarding pictures of people. For those under 18 years old, we are requesting a signed release form from parents before we use their images. Pictures of those over 18 are being used, but no names are attached (except for staff). If you prefer that we not use your picture on social media, please let Amy know and we will be happy to honor your request.

Please let others know about presence on social media by inviting them to “Like” us on Facebook, and by visiting our website.

RIC: New Committee Begun

The Council has authorized a committee to facilitate conversation about Grace becoming a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation. A Reconciling in Christ congregation is one that intentionally and publicly welcomes all, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people.

Current committee members are: Dave Zeckser, chair (303-530-0852); Diana Anderson (303-666-9385); Tom Dozier (303-449-8762); Martin Gerra (303-444-7333); and Ron Schwiesow (303-447-9880).

If you have any questions about this work, or would like to help, contact any of the committee members. In addition to hosting the adult forum on March 16, the committee will provide other opportunities for conversation about this.

For more information about the Reconciling in Christ program, see www.reconcilingworks.org

Looking Ahead on the Property Committee

Submitted by Dave Zeckser

A recently reconstituted Property Committee, now called Property Team, has begun to examine several property related concerns which have become more apparent in recent months. Those issues include at least the following.

Roof - The roof of the sanctuary was inspected by a “non-roofer” consultant about 5 years ago and at that time we were told it had at least another 5 years of life. It is time to have another independent inspection/evaluation. It may be of value to consider solar potential on the roof of the education wing as well. The bell tower also needs another good look since we had some leakage during the “flood” rains.

Energy Conservation Issues - An extensive energy audit was performed in 2006. It indicated major energy leakage and included considerable detail indicating how our building should be retrofitted to become much more efficient saving energy and money. That study needs to be updated and acted upon.

Sound and Video Recording - There is increased interest in updating our antiquated sound system to digital with improved acoustics, recording and adding video. This would continue to be available to shut-ins, but could also be added to an updated Grace web site helping potential visitors to get a better understanding of us at Grace

Bridge Repair/Replacement - The “bridge” just south of the main entrance has been in poor repair for several years. A small portion collapsed and has been at least temporarily repaired. Unfortunately the problems are much more systemic with significant corrosion of the steel decking and leakage into the restrooms near the stage in the undercroft.

Slate Sanctuary Floor - The slate floor in the sanctuary has become increasingly brittle. It cracks and breaks regularly and is a possible tripping hazard due to its irregularity. Any floor replacement should also occur after or concurrently with any other changes in the sanctuary should those be deemed appropriate.

Several other issues of high importance, but perhaps of less costly nature are also being investigated. They include, painting, parking lot and grounds clean-up, community use of the building, emergency response capability, life safety issues and elevator usage. The Team is investigating, costing, and considering funding options, and will have proposals to the Church Council later this spring.

Team members include David Bartlett, Janice Kibler, Bruce Matheson, Karen Nelson, Art Ray, Ron Schwiesow, Jim Swaeby, and Dave Zeckser. Don't hesitate to contact any of the Team members if you have questions or suggestions.

AED On Our Wishlist: At our January congregational meeting, there was good (and energized) conversation about our need for an Automated External Defibrillator (AED). We would be able to purchase one that fits our needs for \$1500. We did not include that in our current budget. If you feel led to help purchase that AED for Grace, please let Amy or Pr. Janice know, or simply send a check with AED in the memo line. Once we have one, we will offer training to all of our ushers so that we are all more aware of safety issues when we gather.

Meet our new staff:

Jody R., Bookkeeper/Accountant

Hello, I am delighted to have joined the Grace Lutheran Church community as your part time bookkeeper. I love my work providing you with financial services such as bookkeeping, monthly reporting, budgeting, writing checks to pay bills, paying staff and ministry leaders, recording offering and member contributions and processing pledges. I am working with the property committee on parking lot rentals, and interfacing with your property manager to process property rental matters for the Foundation. I work mostly from my home office and also can often be found working in the admin office at Grace on Wednesday afternoons after my marimba class. I also stop by every Tuesday for our weekly staff meeting.

I am a member of Atonement Lutheran Church and bring to Grace a varied background of experiences and history in the Lutheran church. My Dad retired from Trinity Lutheran in Loveland after being their pastor for about 16 years. I have siblings, and lots of nieces and nephews in Loveland also. In recent years I have moved from a strong career oriented life in operations management and finance, to one of part time work and growing my creative soul. I get tremendous enjoyment in learning to play piano, playing Zimbabwean music with a marimba band at the Kutandara Center, and custom painting furniture and pictures for the wall.

Thank you for this opportunity, I am very happy to be working with you and look forward to personally meeting many more of you in the months ahead. You are welcome to call (303-554-8074) or email (professional.qualified@gmail.com) if you have questions or whenever I can be of help to you in your ministry.

Grace and peace,
Jody



Jeffrey Seppala, Director of Music

Jeffrey feels honored to be able to worship together in song as the Director of Music at Grace Lutheran. After years of performing and teaching around the country Jeffrey is now in the process of completing his DMA in Voice Performance and Pedagogy at the University of Colorado-Boulder. He grew up in Minnesota and subsequently received a Bachelor's degree from Biola University and a Masters of Music degree from the A.J. Fletcher Opera Institute at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. After working with Opera Colorado and Central City Opera Jeffrey decided Colorado would be a beautiful place to grow his family and church family.

Sustainable practices at home and at church

Amy Munding, Office Administrator

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth

Pretty much all of us have joined the recycling band wagon, rinsing out our food cans and milk jugs for collection separate from our trash. We recycle newspaper, junk mail and paper when we're done with it. We even may take our used alkaline batteries and computer junk to CHARM for proper disposal when they've lived out their usefulness.

Reduce+Reuse+Recycle moved us even farther in the past decade from just recycling. Turning over a page printed on one side and using it for jotting notes, is a great way to reuse. So is giving perfectly useable goods to Goodwill or the non-profit thrift shop, so that someone down the line can get even more use of it. Finding a new home for children's outgrown clothing or even purchasing used clothing from a second-hand store, are all ways of reusing and not just throwing away.

But what about the Reduce part of that triad? Recycling, check. Reuse, yes, I try to. What about Reduce? Does this mean I shouldn't buy stuff? Maybe. Does this mean I should consume less? Probably. My favorite personal way of reducing in the past couple of years, is to refuse plastic shopping bags. I usually remember to bring my cloth shopping bags with me, but when I forget - buy a bag for 10 cents? No thanks, I just carry it out. (Or take the groceries out in the cart and load into the car from there.) I also try to use plastic containers instead of plastic bags in which to send everyone's lunch.

Reducing is the really the coming wave of the recycling movement, and it has a new name: sustainable practices. The shift in terminology is meaningful, because when we think about being sustainable, we think about living into our future. If we are to sustain life on the planet God created, we must treat everything we do now with the awareness of what impact our actions have on the future. For Christians, we are called to be stewards for the earth, for the now and for our great-great grandchildren's children.

So how can we practice sustainability at church? Does this mean we all have to bring iPads to Sunday Worship instead of printed bulletins? Hey, good idea, but not very likely at the moment. What we can do right now is to share as much information with each other electronically, through e-Notes, reading the newsletter on-line on the church website, and communicating via email instead of licking a postage stamp onto an envelope. Some people even bring their laptop computers to church meetings and read the agenda and documents being discussed online in real time during the meeting. At Grace, we put in place wifi that extends from the offices to the Fellowship Hall to keep everyone wired to keep on communicating electronically.

How do you currently practice sustainability at home and how could that transfer to practices at church?

Sustainability at church: Using washable coffee mugs instead of disposable paper cups.

