

This Week at Grace
Sunday, February 4, 2007
The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
14 Day to Minnesota Twins Spring Training

WANTED: 2 people to serve communion at either the 8:30 or 11:00 service on Sunday. Please reply to Pastor Todd.

WANTED: 15 people to attend the Blue Earth Conference Assembly on Sunday, February 11, at 1:30 pm, at Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Kiester. We should be home by 5pm. Please reply to Pastor Todd

INTRODUCTION

We are part of God's epiphany. In baptism God calls us. In the eucharist Christ feeds us and sends us to the world—just as God called Isaiah, and just as Jesus sent Simon, James, and John. The good news handed down to us is meant to be passed on to others.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Most holy God, the earth is filled with your glory,
and before you angels and saints stand in awe.
Enlarge our vision to see your power at work in the world,
and by your grace make us heralds of your Son,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING *Isaiah 6:1–8 [9–13]*

Today's reading recounts Isaiah's commissioning as a prophet in Jerusalem in the second half of the eighth century B.C. Such reports show others that he is authorized to proclaim God's word. Like all the pre-exilic prophets, Isaiah's message is one of judgment.

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the LORD sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ² Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³ And one called to another and said:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory."

⁴ The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵ And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of

hosts!"

⁶ Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷ The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." ⁸ Then I heard the voice of the LORD saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!" ⁹ And he said, "Go and say to this people:

'Keep listening, but do not comprehend;
keep looking, but do not understand.'

¹⁰ Make the mind of this people dull,
and stop their ears,
and shut their eyes,
so that they may not look with their eyes,
and listen with their ears,
and comprehend with their minds,
and turn and be healed."

¹¹ Then I said, "How long, O LORD?" And he said:

"Until cities lie waste
without inhabitant,
and houses without people,
and the land is utterly desolate;

¹² until the LORD sends everyone far away,
and vast is the emptiness in the midst of the land.

¹³ Even if a tenth part remain in it,
it will be burned again,
like a terebinth or an oak
whose stump remains standing
when it is felled."

The holy seed is its stump.

PSALM *Psalm 138*

¹I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with | my whole heart;
before the gods I will | sing your praise.

²**I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of
your steadfast | love and faithfulness;
for you have glorified your name and your word a- | bove all things.**

R

³When I called, you | answered me;
you increased my | strength within me.

⁴**All the rulers of the earth will praise | you, O LORD,
when they have heard the words | of your mouth.**

⁵They will sing of the ways | of the LORD,
that great is the glory | of the LORD.

⁶**The LORD is high, yet cares | for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty | from afar. R**

⁷Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you | keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right |
hand shall save me.

⁸**You will make good your pur- | pose for me;**
O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the
works | of your hands. R

SECOND READING *1 Corinthians 15:1–11*

Paul stresses that the proclamation of the resurrection is not a novelty, but part of the common apostolic witness to the risen Christ, which also includes his crucifixion and burial. The Christian church is solidly founded upon the preaching of Christ's resurrection.

Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ² through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you — unless you have come to believe in vain.

³ For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴ and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them — though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹ Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

GOSPEL *Luke 5:1–11*

Near the beginning of Jesus' ministry, his words and signs have powerful and surprising effects: crowds press upon him, there is a great and unexpected catch of fish, and a fisherman becomes an apostle.

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, ² he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. ³ He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. ⁴ When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." ⁵ Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." ⁶ When they had done this, they caught so many fish

that their nets were beginning to break. ⁷ So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸ But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" ⁹ For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; ¹⁰ and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." ¹¹ When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

TODAY:	8:30a and 11:00a Worship Services 9:30a Coffee Fellowship 9:45a Sunday School/Education Hour 2:00p Girl Scout Meeting
MONDAY:	7:00p Book Club 7:30p Cantori Rehearsal
TUESDAY:	9:00a Staff Meeting 9:30a Ladies Bible Study 11:00a Pastor's Text Study 11:30a Freeborn County Ministerium 2:30p 3D Meeting 7:00p Health Cabinet Meeting
WEDNESDAY:	9:00a Sewing Day 5:00p Chew-n-Chat 5:30p Cherub/Chancel Choir Rehearsals 6:30p Confirmation Classes 6:30p Sr. High Bible Study 6:30p Bells of Praise 7:30p Adult Choir
THURSDAY:	6:00a Early Morning Bible Study 7:00p Evening Bible Study
FRIDAY:	1:30p ThorneCrest Bible Study 3:30p 4 th -6 th gr. Youth Room
NEXT SUNDAY:	8:30a and 11:00 Worship Services 9:30a Coffee Fellowship 9:45a Sunday School / Education Hour 2:00p Blue Earth River Conference Assembly

MISSIONARY FOR A DAY: [Feb. 4: Given by Pastor Milt & Delores Ost.] [Feb. 4: Sunday School] [Feb. 6: Given by Babe & Lois Brandt in memory of their parents.] [Feb. 7: GLCW] [Feb. 10: In memory of Pastor Andy Andersen given by Phil & Kathie Rogers.].

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS our members and friends known to have been hospitalized this past week: Jan Guse (Rochester Methodist), Jim Hallum, Glenn McDaniel (St. Mary's, Rochester), Ethel McGill, and Bob Oakland.

PLEASE REMEMBER those needing the continuing prayers of our congregation: Janice Anderson, Marlene Bergeson, Larry Bergo, Kathy Diaz, Mark Fisher (father of Lynn Stadheim), Theresa Gamble, Jan Guse, Dan Hagen, Tara Hanson, April Hustoft, Marlys Jahnke, Bonnie Linder (Good Samaritan Center), Vern Nasby, DeAnna Nelson, LeMoyné Oakland, Marian Odson, Lissa Parrish, Joyce Schreiber, Sally Skrlin, LaVon Stewart, Sally Witham (mother of Greg Witham), and Eleanor Wolfe.

IN YOUR PRAYERS, please also remember Dennis & Teresa Raatz and family upon the death of Dennis' father, LaVaine Raatz.

WE JOIN OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS in Christ throughout the Southeast Minnesota Synod today in praying for Plainview Bear Creek Lutheran Church in Grand Meadow, Bear Lake Concordia Lutheran of Albert Lea, Cannon River Lutheran in Welch, and Bethlehem Lutheran Church of Mankato.

GREETERS for our worship services this morning are Jeff & Brenda Wieland at 8:30; and Mary Pirsig, Randy & Lynn Stay, and Gloria Ugland at 11:00.

ACOLYTES are Troy Seberson and Joe Leland at 8:30; and Nicole Stewart and Autumn Krcil at 11:00.

ALTAR FLOWERS are given today in memory of Chris Hallum on his birthday given by parents, Jim & Mary, and brothers.

LESSON READERS this morning are Pat Palmer at 8:30; and LaJean Westeng at 11:00.

BAPTIZED INTO THE KINGDOM of God at our 11:00 worship service is *Andrew James Westeng*, son of Jennifer Harnack and Mick Westeng. His sponsors are Daniel Troska, David Troska, Katie Johnson, and Holly Muilenburg.

COMMUNION BREAD AND WINE are given by Melvin & Peggy Bangert in memory of parents, Corald & Wilma Johnson and Fred & Martha Bangert.

REFRESHMENTS BETWEEN SERVICES are being served today by Haley Lau and her father, Ron.

FAIRTRADE COFFEE IS HERE! Buy it while it's hot!

BOOK CLUB will be held Monday, Feb. 5th, 7:00p, at the home of Jill Hagen and will focus on the books *Dinner With the Perfect Stranger* by David Gregory, and *Ultimate Gift* by Jim Stovall. Please join us!

GRACE SENIORS Valentine's Dinner: Wednesday, Feb. 14th, 12:00 Noon

Grace Seniors will hold their annual Valentine's get-together in Fellowship Hall at Grace Lutheran with a catered noon meal, followed by love stories shared by everyone. To attend, reservations are necessary by Feb. 11th. The cost is \$8.00 per person and should be paid in advance. Please call Irmi at 826-3176.

If you need a ride to a Grace Seniors activity, please call Lisa at the church office or the Kleih's.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS for Sunday, February 11th:

Jeremiah 17:5-10, Psalm 1, 1 Corinthians 15:12-20, Luke 6:17-26

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED! Soup suppers served during Lent are just around the corner! We need people to make soups, chilies, and bread for us. Please consider volunteering your cooking skills one night during Lent. Sign up sheets are located in the narthex this morning, or contact Jill at 373-6496.

AT LAST WEEK'S ANNUAL MEETING of the congregation, both resolutions were approved. The Church Council will proceed with the process of installing pew cushions in the sanctuary and chapel. A ministry team will be formed to work on this project, so if you are interested please let the pastors or the congregation president, Jerry Dahl, know. The same mission partners we had for our Missionary for a Day funds were again designated for 2007, and the proposed budget of \$525,009 was approved. At the organizational meeting of the Church Council, officers for 2007 were elected – Jerry Dahl, president; Dale Buendorf, vice-president; and Sue Barber, secretary.

THE BLUE EARTH RIVER Conference Assembly will be held next Sunday, Feb. 11th, at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Kiester from approximately 2:00-4:00p. We are in need of voting members to the assembly. Grace Lutheran is allowed 15 lay voting members. If you are interested/willing to attend, please let the pastors know. We will leave from the church at approximately 1:15p.

YEAR-END GIVING STATEMENTS for 2006 are available in the narthex area.

MISSING SOMETHING LATELY?

Many items have accumulated in our Lost and Found located in the narthex. Check it out.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY: The public is invited to the Annual Meeting of Habitat

for Humanity Freeborn/Mower on Monday, Feb. 5th, 7:00p, at Christ Episcopal Church in Albert Lea.

JR. HIGH SKI TRIP to Welch Village, Feb. 18th and 19th: Cost of the overnight is \$55.00 and includes housing, rental, lift ticket, pizza on Sunday night, and breakfast on Monday morning. We will leave from Grace at 10:00a on Sunday morning, and return between 4:00-5:00p Monday afternoon. Sign up is on the board outside of Denae's office.

SR. HIGH SKI TRIP to Giant's Ridge in Biwabik, Mar. 9-11th: Cost of the weekend is \$110.00 which includes housing, rental, lift ticket, and some meals. Please sign up on the board outside of Denae's office if you would like to attend.

9th-12th GRADE STATE-WIDE YOUTH GATHERING: Mar. 30th-Apr. 1st, Crowne Plaza, St. Paul

This weekend is filled with informative classes, great music, an opportunity to take a class at Luther Seminary, and the chance to meet some great people from all over the state. I believe there is even a toga party planned! The cost of the weekend is \$80.00 and includes housing, three meals, and a t-shirt. Please sign up on the board outside of Denae's office if interested in attending. If you have any questions about this or any other youth event, please contact Denae.

WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH A QUARTER? Put it in the offering plate. All quarters are given directly to the World Hunger Appeal. Thank you!

GIVING AT GRACE:

The Property and Finance Ministry appreciates your generous support. Your faithful stewardship is essential for us to continue to support our ministries at Grace.

	Sunday, Jan. 28th	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Giving	\$ 7,529.00	\$ 37,294.00
Budgeted Need	\$ 10,096.00	\$ 40,384.00
Quarters for World Hunger	\$ 45.75	\$ 179.50
Stones, Rocks, Boulders Fund	\$ 67.00	

Attendance Last Sunday - 387; Last Year - 436