

This Week at Grace
Sunday, February 25, 2007
The First Sunday in Lent
36 Days to the Twins Home Opener

INTRODUCTION

The Lenten discipline is a spiritual struggle. In the confession of sins we acknowledge that we struggle and seek God's strength. Jesus struggles with us, and so we are sustained. Help is as close as a prayer and a confession that we cannot do it on our own. God gives life and its fruit, and so all we offer in worship is giving back what was first given us by grace.

Elizabeth Fedde, deaconess, died 1921

Born in Norway and trained there as a deaconess, Fedde was asked to come and minister to the poor and to seamen in New York City. She established the Deaconess House in Brooklyn as well as Deaconess Hospital in Minneapolis.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land.
Guide us now, so that, following your Son,
we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world
toward the life you alone can give,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING *Deuteronomy 26:1-11*

The annual harvest festival called the Feast of Weeks provides the setting for this reading. This festival celebrates the first fruits of the produce of the land offered back to God in thanks. In this text, worshipers announce God's gracious acts on behalf of Israel.

When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ² you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³ You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into

the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us." ⁴ When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, ⁵ you shall make this response before the LORD your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶ When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷ we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸ The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹ and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰ So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me." You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. ¹¹ Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

PSALM *Psalm 91:1–2, 9–16*

God will give the angels charge over you, to guard you in all your ways. (Ps. 91:11)

¹You who dwell in the shelter of | the Most High,
 who abide in the shadow of | the Almighty--
²**you will say to the LORD, "My refuge | and my stronghold,
 my God in whom I | put my trust." R**
⁹Because you have made the | LORD your refuge,
 and the Most High your | habitation,
¹⁰**no evil | will befall you,
 nor shall affliction come | near your dwelling.**
¹¹For God will give the angels charge | over you,
 to guard you in | all your ways.
¹²**Upon their hands they will | bear you up,
 lest you strike your foot a- | gainst a stone. R**
¹³You will tread upon the lion | cub and viper;
 you will trample down the lion | and the serpent.
¹⁴**I will deliver those who | cling to me;
 I will uphold them, because they | know my name.**
¹⁵They will call me, and I will | answer them;
 I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and | honor them.
¹⁶**With long life will I | satisfy them,
 and show them | my salvation. R**

SECOND READING *Romans 10:8b–13*

Paul reminds the Christians at Rome of the foundational affirmation of those who are saved: the confession of faith in the risen Jesus as Lord.

"The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart"

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim);⁹ because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.¹⁰ For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved.¹¹ The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame."¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him.¹³ For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

GOSPEL *Luke 4:1–13*

After being filled with the Holy Spirit at his baptism, Jesus is tempted by the devil regarding what it means to be called "the Son of God."

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness,² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished.³ The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread."⁴ Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'"

⁵ Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world.⁶ And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please.⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours."⁸ Jesus answered him, "It is written,

'Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.'"

⁹ Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here,¹⁰ for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,
to protect you,'

¹¹ and

'On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

¹² Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"¹³ When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

TODAY: 8:30a and 11:00a Worship Services
 9:30a Coffee Fellowship
 9:45a Sunday School/Education Hour

	2:15p	7 th -12 th gr. Good Samaritan Sunday
MONDAY:	6:00p	Mary Circle
	7:30p	Cantori Rehearsal
TUESDAY:	9:00a	Staff Meeting
	9:30a	Ladies Bible Study
	11:00a	Pastor's Text Study
	2:30p	3D Meeting
	3:30p	Widow Support Group
	7:30p	Lois Circle
WEDNESDAY:	9:15a	Deborah Circle
	9:15a	Martha Circle
	9:30a	Program Staff Meeting
	1:15p	Ruth Circle
	5:30p	Cherub/Chancel Choir Rehearsals
	5:30p	Soup and Sandwich Supper
	6:30p	Bells of Praise
	7:00p	Worship Service
	8:00p	Adult Choir
THURSDAY:	6:00a	Early Morning Bible Study
	9:00a	BERC Pastor's Meeting
	6:30p	GLCW Board Meeting
	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	Girl Scout Meeting

MISSIONARY FOR A DAY: [Feb. 25: Given by Pastor Milt & Delores Ost.] [Feb. 25: Sunday School] [Feb. 26: Given by Pastor Walsh.] [Feb. 27: In honor of Arcley and Lucille's birthday given by Babe & Lois Brandt.] [Feb. 28: GLCW] [Mar. 1: In memory of Eva Hanson given by Al & Pat Arends.].

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS our members and friends known to have been hospitalized this past week: Ruth Marcus, Delona Petersen, and Sarah Stay.

PLEASE REMEMBER those needing the continuing prayers of our congregation: Janice Anderson, Marlene Bergeson, Larry Bergo, Kathy Diaz, Mark & Carol Fisher (parents of

Lynn Stadheim), Theresa Gamble, Jan Guse, Dan Hagen, Tara Hanson, April Hustoft, Marlys Jahnke, Bonnie Linder (Good Samaritan Center), Ethel McGill, Vern Nasby, DeAnna Nelson, LeMoyne 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 Jim & Mary Hallum upon the recent death of Mary's brother, John Hubbard.

WE JOIN OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS in Christ throughout the Southeast Minnesota Synod today in praying for Grace Lutheran Church of Waseca, Faith Lutheran in Winona, Good Shepherd Lutheran in Rochester, and Deer Creek Valley Lutheran Church of Glenville.

GREETERS FOR OUR SERVICES this morning are Carol Thompson, Mary Tuohy, and Tom & Julie Sorenson at 8:30; and Jerry & Gail Rasmussen, and Gary & Jeanne Schindler at 11:00.

ACOLYTES are Lars Gjersvik and Jenna Bowman at 8:30; and Jordan Mondeel and Makenzie Johnson at 11:00.

LESSON READERS for our worship services are Jerry Dahl at 8:30; and Char Elvebak at 11:00.

BAPTIZED INTO THE KINGDOM of God at our 8:30 service today is *Chaise Olivia Harmdierks*, daughter of Brandon & Andrea Harmdierks, with sponsors Lindsay Honsey and Josh Harmdierks; and at our 11:00 service, *Presley Ann Broskoff*, daughter of Ashley Avery and Travis Broskoff, with sponsors Amber Avery, Scott & Sally Fadden, and Kris & Jenny Dutton.

REFRESHMENTS BETWEEN SERVICES are being served today by Tyler Stadheim and his parents, Blake & Lynn.

LOAVES AND FISHES: Sign-up sheets for Loaves and Fishes are available in the narthex this morning. We are in need of volunteers for the month of March. (When signing up, please be sure to include your phone number.) Your help would be appreciated by many.

SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S: Grace Lutheran will be serving refreshments at St. John's Lutheran Home next Sunday, Mar. 4. We are seeking donations of cake or dessert to be served that afternoon. (Please bring items to St. John's that day by 1:30p.) Thank you for your willingness to help us brighten the day with a special treat for the residents and their families.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY is seeking individuals interested in serving on a selection committee dealing with the applications from families in need of homes. For more info, contact Renee at 377-4375.

**EQUAL EXCHANGE COFFEE is coming next week before and after both services.
Caffeine is your friend!**

ATTENTION EVERYONE! A new Thursday evening study will begin on Mar. 1st. During the month of March – the five Thursdays of Lent – we will view a segment of the movie, *The Passion of the Christ*, each week and then have approximately a half hour of discussion on the portion of the film viewed. This is a great opportunity to focus on the events surrounding the passion of our Lord. Join us at 7:00p on the Thursdays in March. We will meet in either the Fireside Room or Fellowship Hall depending on events scheduled at the church. Bring your Bibles!

BOOK CLUB will hold it's next meeting on Monday, Mar. 5th, 7:00p, and will focus on the book *Among the Lilies* by Mary Adriano. Plan to join us!

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION – Summer Camp

Registration forms for Good Earth Village are here and if you get registered before Mar. 15th you qualify for a discount. Also, something new is – *Bring a Friend Discount* – check it out! Grace Lutheran pays \$100 for each member going to camp. Forms are located outside of Jill's office, and financial scholarships are also available.

CONFIRMATION STUDENTS will be taking part in service projects during Lent. We encourage parents to have their students here and also to take part in the service projects. Many hands make for light work!

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.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS for 5th graders is coming, beginning Mar. 11th through Apr. 1st. Classes will be held in the Chapel at 9:45a during the Sunday School hour. Both parents and students need 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.

BOLD WOMEN'S DAY: Women of the ELCA Introduces Bold Women's Day

Lutheran women who act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ are everywhere and come

from all walks of life. Some are homemakers and caregivers. Others are professionals with careers. Most volunteer many hours for both their church and community. Some are bold in conspicuous and visible ways while others are bold in quiet yet strong ways. Bold Women's Day celebrates all the Lutheran women and the many and diverse ways in which they act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. You – individually and collectively of Grace Lutheran – are invited to celebrate Bold Women's Day, observed in 2007 on Feb. 25th.

THE END IS NEAR! High School Seniors: your scholarship applications are due on Tuesday, Feb. 27th. If you can't find yours, there are extra copies available in the waiting area by the offices, or you can access a copy on the youth page of the church web site: www.gracealbertlea.org.

HEARTS TOUCHING HEARTS in the Lord, a book written by retired Grace Pastor Milt Ost detailing Grace Lutheran's mission work in Latvia and Russia, continues to be available for purchase in the church office during the week.

FEBRUARY CIRCLE MEETINGS:

Mary Circle will meet Monday evening, 6:00p, at the church.

Lois Circle meets Tuesday evening, 7:30p, at the home of Cathy Perschbacher, 107 W. Richway Dr.
Bible Study Leader is Evie Eglund.

Deborah Circle will meet Wednesday, 9:15a, at the home of Alice Spilde, 604 Edgewood Ave.
Peggy Bangert will lead the Bible Study.

Martha Circle meets Wednesday, 9:15a, at the home of Clarice Heckmann, 909 Spicer Rd.
Bible Study Leader is Evelyn Hovland.

Ruth Circle will meet Wednesday, 1:15p, at the home of Ardis Bang, 417 Ridge Rd.
Bible Study will be group discussion.

For anyone who does not receive the *Lutheran Woman Today*, Bible Study helps are available in the narthex today.

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, Feb. 18th	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Giving	\$ 10,968.00	\$ 66,099.00
Budgeted Need	\$ 10,096.00	\$ 70,672.00
Quarters for World Hunger	\$ 52.50	\$ 353.25
Stones, Rocks, Boulders Fund	\$ 157.00	

Attendance Last Sunday - 374; Last Year - 404

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Albert Lea, Minnesota

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
February 25, 2007