

Grace Lutheran Church

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On the Hook for Discipleship

“Follow me,” Jesus says to brothers Andrew and Simon, both fishermen, “and I will make you fish for people” (Matt. 4:19). Down the shore, we assume Jesus says something similar to James and John, also brothers and fishermen. Nets were dropped, a father was left high and dry, and the first four disciples were led away from business as usual and led into God’s business. Not your ordinary day on the boat.

Maybe you or someone you know has had a dramatic experience of God’s call to discipleship. The Spirit’s push or pull led away from business as usual and led into a vocation of service and sacrifice in Christ’s name. There is a night and day difference between life before and life after God’s invitation to discipleship.

Extraordinary experiences of God’s call and discipleship, as awe-inspiring as they are, can seem to let those of us with ordinary lives and jobs off the hook. We can think someone needs to be called, not just hired, to do God’s work. We can think this, but we’d be wrong.

For most of us, instead of being led away to follow Christ’s invitation to discipleship, we are led deeper into our lives and work. Instead of dramatic “night and day” clarity, it slowly dawns on us: our lives and work are different because we follow Jesus. We are more patient, giving, and forgiving. When life-as-planned changes—a relationship unravels, a job is lost, longed-for hopes go unfulfilled—we find ourselves increasingly resilient, secured in the net of God’s grace and Christian community.

We may not have a call, we may not have a job, but each of us has a God-given vocation. Sometimes this means graciously and generously doing and giving. Sometimes it means graciously and generously being and receiving. Each of us is personally “on the hook” for discipleship, invited and empowered to love and serve God, family, and neighbors near and far.

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BEFORE WORSHIP

Our Participation Card has two sides to complete. Please fill it out and place it in the offering plate every Sunday. This card helps the ministry of both the Congregational Care and Community Outreach Committees.

3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

January 22, 2017

The season of Epiphany begins January 6th (the 12th day after Christmas) and marks the revelation of the baby Jesus as the Son of God. The Epiphany season, therefore, celebrates the spread of the Good News from its source in the Jewish community to all nations on earth. The color is green, for growth, as Scripture texts explore the mission of the church in the world.

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Pre- Service Music

Welcome/Worship Instructions

Stand as you are able.

Gathering Hymn

Here I Am Lord

ELW 574 (red book)

Greeting

☞ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

☛ **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

☞ Lord God, your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us.

☛ **Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Sit

First Reading

Isaiah 9:1-4

The northern tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali experienced defeat, but they are assured that their condition will be reversed when God makes a light-filled appearance. The joy they will experience will resemble celebrations of great harvests, because God will deliver them from everything that diminishes or oppresses them. The people in the northern parts of Israel have experienced “gloom” and “darkness” because of the destruction wrought by Assyrian military forces. To these people, the prophet announces the shining of a great light of salvation.

☞ A reading from **Isaiah:**

¹There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time [the LORD] brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

☞ God, we thank you for your Word,

☛ **the story of your grace.**

Psalm 27:1, 4-9



¹The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then | shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I | be afraid?

⁴**One thing I ask of the LORD; one | thing I seek;**

that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God | in the temple.

⁵For in the day of trouble God will | give me shelter,

hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high up- | on a rock.

⁶**Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies | who surround me.**

Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music | to the LORD. 


⁷Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call;

have mercy on me and | answer me.

⁸**My heart speaks your message— | “Seek my face.”**

Your face, O LORD, | I will seek.

⁹Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your ser- | vant in anger.

Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of | my salvation. 

Second Reading

Corinthians 1:10-18

Paul calls on the Corinthians to end their dissensions and share the unified outlook of the gospel. Discord arises when we forget that we belong not to human leaders or institutions but to Christ who was crucified for us. Indeed, the unifying word of the cross of Christ is the center of the gospel and the power of God’s salvation.

 A reading from Corinthians:

¹⁰Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe’s people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. ¹²What I mean is that each of you says, “I belong to Paul,” or “I belong to Apollos,” or “I belong to Cephas,” or “I belong to Christ.” ¹³Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

¹⁸For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

- ☐ God, we thank you for your Word,
- ☑ **the story of your grace.**

Stand

Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 4:12-23

Jesus begins his public ministry shortly after John the Baptist is imprisoned by Herod. He proclaims the nearness of God's reign and calls four fishermen to be his first disciples.

- ☐ The Holy Gospel, according to **Matthew**.
- ☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹²Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: ¹⁵“Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—¹⁶the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.” ¹⁷From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

¹⁸As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁹And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” ²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

²³Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

- ☐ The Gospel of the Lord.
- ☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sit

Children's Sermon/Children's Church

All children [including infants] and youth who desire to come forward for the children's sermon are welcomed and encouraged to do so. Parents/caregivers are welcome to accompany their child during the children's message.

Message

Silence for reflection

Song of the Day

Will You Come and Follow Me

ELW 798 (red book)

Kneel or sit as able.

Prayers

A Called to be a light to the nations, let us pray for God's justice, peace, and healing.

A brief silence.

A Holy God, you call us to fish for people. Tear down divisions and unite the church universal in your mission. Make us of the same mind and purpose in service and worship to you. Empower and guide the faith of our bishops and congregations and all the servants of your church, especially *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David, Chrysanne and Sarah; our synod companion churches, Peace Lutheran Church in Charlotte, First Presbyterian Church in Hastings; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Paul.* Lord, in your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

A Nurturing God, you call us to care for creation. Breathe into us the joy and beauty of stewardship. Teach us to care for the small seed and the expansive sky. Lord, in your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

A Compassionate God, you call us to care for the stranger in our midst. Sustain refugees from every country and empower organizations that provide food and shelter for them, especially Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service. Protect the lives of those who serve in the military, especially *Myrina Clements, Kayla Pohl, Joshua Wright, Tim Krewson and Tyler Van Houten.* Lord, in your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

A Redeeming God, you break the oppressor's rod. Bring an end to tyranny and poverty. Wipe out fear. Uphold all your children who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Heal us with your presence. Comfort the sick and their caregivers, especially *Rick Palmer, Victoria Steadman, John Burdick, Sharon Duits, Mary Jane Hayner, Danny Gillons, Oliver Cheeseman, Kathy & Ken Plourde, Judy Heil, Bill Parsons, Bryan Appel, Steve Feldpaush, Abigail Kopf, Sandy VanDerLaan, Don Lewis, Kris Gilbert, Bonnie Ehredt, Jennifer Andersen and Beuhla.* Lord, in your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

A Triune God, you call us into relationship with you. Raise up leaders in your church who risk looking foolish for the sake of the gospel. Lord, in your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

A Be attentive, gracious God, to the individual petitions we lift to you in loud voice or in the silence of our hearts.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Ever-living God, you call us to rest in you. Keep us faithful on earth and bring us to life everlasting with the saints of every time and place. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Receive these prayers in the name of Christ, the light of the world, who is one with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Stand as you are able

Sharing the Peace of God

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

(We share the peace of Christ with one another.)

Sit

Offering of Gifts and Music

Everyone at worship is encouraged to fill out a Participation card and place it in the offering plate every Sunday morning

Stand as you are able.

Offering Song

Create in Me

ELW 187 (red book)

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me.
Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take not your
Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Offering Prayer

A Let us pray . . . Merciful God, receive the gifts we bring, our selves, our time, and our possessions.

C Through this meal unite us as your body, shining with the light of your justice and mercy; for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Great Thanksgiving

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow - er and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer

P You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

C **We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.**

P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able.

C **We ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine.**

P May we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

C **To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C **Our Father in heaven, holy be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.**

Amen.

Invitation to Communion

☐ We who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. Come. Be filled with light and life.

Communion at Grace

All who are present are invited to receive Holy Communion. This sacrament is a gift to all who come with open hands and open hearts to the presence of Jesus.

✠ **Bread** is served by the Pastor. **Wine** is served from a *common cup* by the Assisting Minister.

✠ If you need gluten free bread, please let the Pastor know when you come forward.

✠ If you prefer wine from the *pouring chalice* in an **individual cup**, take an empty cup from the tray and have it filled by the Worship Assistant. Return the individual chalice/cup to the basket provided.

✠ **Grape Juice** is provided in the pre-filled cups in the center of the serving tray.

✠ A **Verbal Blessing** may be given by the Pastor, if you do not wish to commune.

✠ If you wish **communion brought to you** in the pew, please notify the usher.

Sit

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

One Bread, One Body

ELW 496 (red book)

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

ELW 484

As the Grains of Wheat

ELW 465

Stand

Prayer after Communion

Ⓐ O Morning Star, fair and bright, you have refreshed us again with heavenly food. You are our dearest treasure.

☑ **Go with us now—today, tomorrow, every day—that we tell the story of your never-ending love and sing your praise both now and forever. Amen.**

Congregational Announcements

Blessing

Ⓟ The God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

☑ **Amen.**

All children and youth, as well as the young at heart and playful spirits, are invited to come forward to make music and dance during the Sending Hymn. Please choose one instrument to play or one scarf to use for waving and dancing.

Sending Song

We Are Called

ELW 720

Dismissal

Ⓐ Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Stewardship Information

Worshippers last week: 86

Weekly Giving: \$

Budget Amount: \$4,226.98

The local **Food Pantry** located at the Methodist Church on Green Street is currently in need of sugar, elbow macaroni and saltine crackers.

One Service Sunday - January 29th - Worship will be held at 10:00 am, Adult Forum at 8:45 am

January 29th is Family Promise of Barry County Sunday. Stephen Larghi, Director and developer of this inter-faith ministry, will visit us to inform us of the nature of this mission in our county. We will also have a special offering this Sunday to help support this ministry. The Community Outreach Committee has agreed to begin supporting Family Promise of Barry County through offerings and volunteers.

Congregational Care – is in need of an additional shepherd to make phone calls to members to keep them informed of funerals, cancelled worship services, one service Sundays, etc. If you are interested, please contact Margaret Wood, 269-948-4307.

Community Outreach has planned a Lenten devotional written by members of Grace. If you would like to participate, check the display in the Gathering Area for details. Dates and texts are listed which you can choose and directions for the devotional are also posted.

Pastor Mike Kemper is the editor.

Vacation Bible Experience - It is never too early to begin making plans for VBE... Our first organizational meeting will be coming up soon. We are looking for a new Coordinator this year. Please prayerfully consider if God is calling you to this ministry opportunity. Grace has LOTS of folks willing to help and support the coordinator so no fears that you will be left alone. If this is your calling, please contact Jana Bishop at 269-838-3348 or mark.jana.bishop@gmail.com.

Youth Committee - We are looking for people interested in serving on the Youth Committee. The Committee is tasked with overseeing youth and family ministry activities at Grace. Being a member of this committee is not a commitment to lead a youth group, teach Sunday school, head up events such as VBE or the Christmas Program but rather a commitment to participate in committee meetings, brainstorm on how we can provide ministry to the youth of Grace and those beyond our doors and to pray for those who are “boots on the ground” doing the work of ministry. If God is calling you to be a part of this committee please contact Jana Bishop by February 15th at 269-838-3348 or mark.jana.bishop@gmail.com

Thanks to Pastor Mike Kemper for attending to some pastoral duties during Pastor Paul’s vacation.

Today's Worship Leaders

	8:00 am	10:45am
Assisting Ministers	Barry Wood	Vickey Argo
Cantor	Mark Anton	Mark Anton
Lector	Carl Schoessel	Sandy Mosteller
Communion Server	Jan Schreiner	Mark Anton
Acolyte/Crucifer	Gavin Patton	Emmalee Peck
Usher	Dan/Melissa, Gavin, Grayson Patton	Gary/Lisa Golnek Mark Anton, Joe Longcor
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Tom/Cheryl Drumm	<i>Volunteers</i>
Children's Church	Volunteers	Children's Church Kristi Winick, Traci Wales
Chancel Team	Vickey Argo	

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders, January 29, 2017

Assisting Ministers		Steve Kaiser
Cantor		Mark Anton
Lector		Carla Neil
Communion Server		Phyllis Lietz
Acolyte/Crucifer		Jack Barnaart
Usher		Mark Anton, Gwen Hansen
Greeter/Coffee Hr.		Volunteers Ingrid Morgan, Carla Neil
Children's Church	Volunteers	Children's Church Tom/Cheryl Drumm
Chancel Team	Vickey Argo	

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today, January 22

Worship at 8:00 & 10:45 am

Adult Forum 9:30 am

Children's Church 10:45 am

Youth Groups 6:00-7:30 pm

Wednesday, January 25

Prayer Group 6:00 pm

Saturday, January 28

Bell Workshop 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Sunday, January 29

One Service Sunday – Worship at 10:00 am