

Grace Lutheran Church

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Hastings MI 49058



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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
January 14, 2024

Second Sunday After Epiphany ***January 14, 2024***

The season of Epiphany has begun 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. Today's green color reminds us, even in the middle of winter, we can continue to grow.

<i>Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.</i>
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Gathering Music

Welcome/Worship Instructions

Arise in body or spirit.

Gathering Song

Here I Am, Lord

ELW 574

Greeting

P The light of God given, experienced and shared be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

A The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

C **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

P Those who dwell in the land of deep darkness – on them light shined.

C **We have seen Christ's light, the light from God is Jesus.**

A Jesus said, "I am the light of the world...."

C **Those who follow me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life."**

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, and wind sweeping over the waters.

C **Amen.**



1 When a star is shin-ing o - ver east - ern hills,
 2 Where the world is wait-ing for an un - known day,
 3 Lead us on, O Day-star, in the qui - et night;



when the air is si - lent, and the clam - or stills,
 where a voice for - got - ten cries, "Pre - pare the way!"
 guide us through the shad-ow with your gen - tle light;



when the night is wait-ing, and the old hopes rise,
 Where an earth - ly pow-er makes the heart turn cold,
 show us in a man-ger our re - demp-tion's sign;



then the time has rip - ened and the heart grows wise.
 there the gifts are of - fered— in - cense, myrrh, and gold.
 bring us to a morn-ing where the prom - ise shines.



Lead us on, lead us on, to a morn-ing where the



prom-ise shines. Lead us on, lead us on,



to a morn - ing where the prom - ise shines.

Prayer of the Day

- A** Let us pray, Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give.
- G** **May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

First Reading

1 Samuel 3:1-10

At a time when visions are rare and unexpected, the Lord comes to Samuel and calls him to speak the divine word. Though just a boy, Samuel responds to God obediently, as Eli the priest has taught him to respond. This marks the beginning of Samuel's prophetic ministry.

L A reading from **1 Samuel:**

¹Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" ⁵and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. ⁶The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

L The Word of the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**



- 1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.
 2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un - to his praise to yield;
 3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har - vest home;
 4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to thy fi - nal har - vest home.



All be safe - ly gath - ered in ere the win - ter storms be - gin.
 wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.
 from his field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way;
 Gath - er then thy peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,



God, our mak - er, doth pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied.
 First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.
 give his an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
 there, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in thy gar - ner to a - bide.



Come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.
 Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.
 but the fruit - ful ears to store in his gar - ner ev - er - more.
 Come, with all thine an - gels, come, raise the glo - rious har - vest home!

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Paul helps the Corinthians understand that God has claimed the entirety of their lives through the death of Christ. Hence Christian relationships and conduct, including areas of human sexuality, are to reflect the reality that we belong to Christ and that the Holy Spirit lives within us.

📖 A reading from **1 Corinthians**:

¹²“All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are beneficial. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything. ¹³“Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food,” and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. ¹⁵Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, “The two shall be one flesh.” ¹⁷But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. ¹⁸Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. ¹⁹Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? ²⁰For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

What are you look - ing for? Come,

see, come and see. What are you

look - ing for? Come and see. Come and see.

Gospel Reading**John 1:43-51**

In John's gospel, Jesus' ministry begins with the call of disciples, who then bring others to Jesus. Philip's friend Nathanael moves from skepticism to faith when he accepts the invitation to "Come and see."

☐ The Holy Gospel, according to **John**.

☒ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." ⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." ⁴⁷When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" ⁴⁸Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." ⁴⁹Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" ⁵⁰Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." ⁵¹And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☒ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Time

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. There may be a time of dance and celebration that is offered.

Message

Silence for reflection

Arise in body or in spirit to sing the hymn.

Song of the Day

Will You Come and Follow Me

ELW 798

You may sit or kneel for prayer.

Prayers

*We pray the prayer response after each petition. You will hear, **We lift our hearts to you.** The assembly prays, **Reveal your love, O Lord.***

☐ As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

☐ Encourage the ministry and mission of the church, God of truth. Let the leaders of your church be trustworthy and accountable stewards, that all its resources and outreach bring hope and healing to communities. We lift up *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants Chrisy and David; our synod companion churches Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Lansing; Journey Church, Middleville; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* We lift our hearts to you.

☑ **Reveal your love, O Lord.**

☐ Delight in the goodness of your creation, God of fig trees and fertile soil. Heal areas of the world harmed by human greed. Restore those recovering from natural disaster. Protect our forests and waterways and all the creatures that live in them. We lift our hearts to you.

☑ **Reveal your love, O Lord.**

☐ Call the leaders of every neighborhood and nation to serve faithfully, God of wisdom. Give them visions of justice and unity. Lead them to action that promotes equitable partnership and uplifts those on the margins of society. Be with those who safeguard the world, including *Parker Stancil (Freedlund), Cody and Myrina Crawford (Clements), Cynthia Rudesill (Hansen), Joel Taggart (Varkula), Julia Ehredt (Schreiner, Halstead), and Seth Domke (Domke).* We lift our hearts to you.

☑ **Reveal your love, O Lord.**

Ⓐ Hold in your care any who suffer and struggle, God of compassion. You who know our inner hearts, be present with any who are oppressed, victims of racism or cultural bias, and all who long for respite or restoration especially those we name before you in the silence of our hearts or out loud, *Pastor Michael Anton, Veronica Baarson, Bob Bolton, Diana Brown, Chris Bush, Cherie Clements, Pat DePew, Lisa Golnek, Lorraine Handsbarger, Andy, Mary and Molly Lamb, Bill Miller and family, Martha Misak, Virginia Moomey, James Neiderheiser, Lisa Nurenberg, Corrina Palmer, Shirley Peterson, Annette Poholski, Jennifer Rohr, Mindy Shepler and family, Mike Shoemaker, Jeanette Ulrich, Al Throop, and Brenda Watson.* We lift our hearts to you.

☛ **Reveal your love, O Lord.**

Ⓐ Give this congregation the anticipation and excitement of Samuel, so inspired and empowered to do your work in the world. God of unity. Make us faithful as we build communities of inclusion and mutual care.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Ⓐ Trusting God who raised Jesus and will also raise us in spirit and truth, we remember all who have died and are at peace among the saints. We lift our hearts to you.

☛ **Reveal your love, O Lord.**

Ⓟ Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

☛ **Amen.**

Arise in body or spirit.

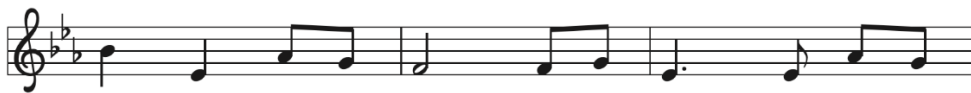
Offertory Song

Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken

ACS 966



1 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken by the
2 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken in a
3 Loaves are bro - ken, words are spo - ken, as in
4 By the loaves you break and give us, send us



Gal - i - le - an shore. Je - sus, Bread of life from
qui - et room one night. In the bread and wine you
faith we gath - er here. Je - sus speaks a - cross the
in your name to share bread for which the mil - lions

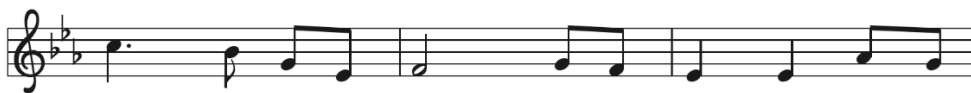


heav - en, was their food for - ev - er - more.
gave them, Christ, you came as Light from Light.
a - ges: "I am with you; do not fear!"
hun - ger, words that tell your love and care.

Refrain



By your bod - y bro - ken for us, by your



wine of life out - poured, Je - sus, feed a - gain your



peo - ple. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

Offering Prayer

- ▲ Let us pray . . . Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you.
- In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

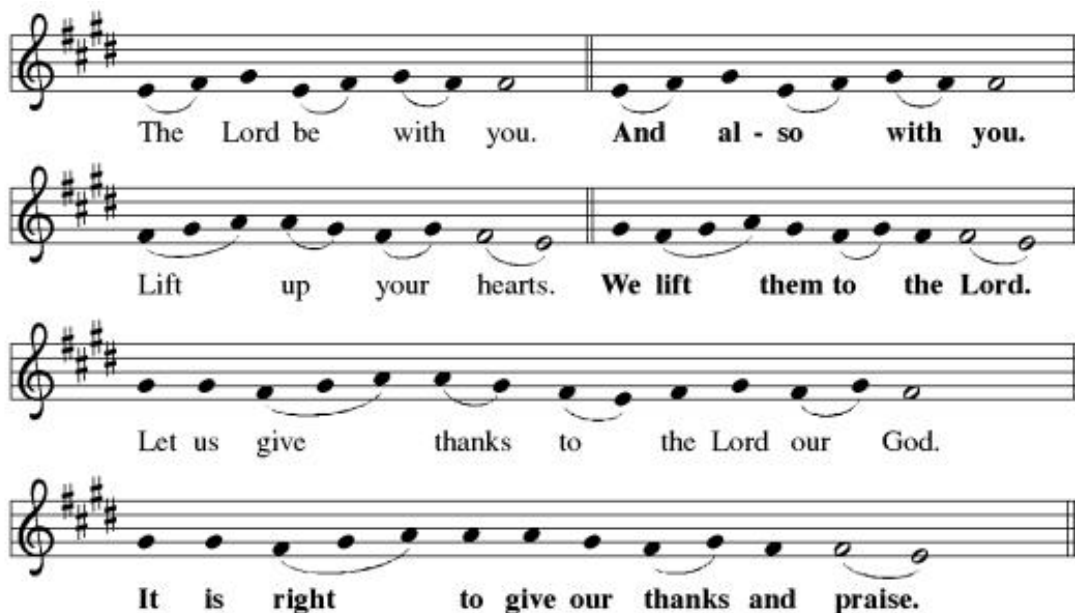
Sharing the Peace of God

☐ The peace of Christ be with you.

☑ **And also with you.**

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

Great Thanksgiving



☐ 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, God of pow - er, God of might;

Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of your name.

Sing ho - san - na in the high-est, sing ho - san-na to the Lord;

Bles-sed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

Table Prayer

- ☞ Almighty Lord, we praise your shining light, your glowing grace.
 - ☞ **From before the earth's foundation, you loved us and promised us life forever. Within the earth's deep sadness, we laud your great and glorious might. Despite our tears and sinning, we sing of the gladness of your mercy.**
 - ☞ 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. Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await Christ's coming again in righteousness and peace.
- ☞ **Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine we share.**
 - ☞ We call for your Spirit on us and this meal. Refresh our souls with this heavenly food, the body and blood of your Son. Nourish us as branches of your tree, and enlighten us with your undying flame. We sing out to the Father, we ring out to the Son, we exult in the Spirit.
 - ☞ **Be for us our purest pleasure, our victorious crown, our never-ending love. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

- ☞ Gathered by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught:
- ☞ **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

- ☞ At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come and see.
- ☞ **Thanks be to God.**

Sit

Communion Songs

<i>Bread of Life from Heaven</i>	ELW 474
<i>Take My Life, That I May Be</i>	ELW 583

Prayer after Communion

- ☞ Giver of every gift,
- ☞ **Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body . Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever. Amen.**

Mission Minutes

Arise in body or spirit

Blessing

- ☞ God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you ✚ bless you and remain with you always.
- ☞ **Amen.**

Sending Song

God Be with You Till We Meet Again

ELW 536

Sending

- ☞ Go in peace. You are God's beloved.
- ☞ **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Faith, Seen and Unseen

“Follow me,” says Jesus to Philip. Then “Come and see,” says Philip to Nathanael. Early in the Gospel of John and in Jesus’ public ministry, the movement is already spreading. This transmission of faith from person to person is something like a fire jumping from one twig to another.

Sometimes, though, it can feel as if the spark just isn’t catching—not much transmission is happening any longer. Many people lament that their children, grandchildren, or other loved ones have abandoned the Christian faith. But have they truly? Maybe, similar to Nathanael, they have not yet personally encountered Jesus. Nathanael questions and doubts the words of the witness Philip until he experiences for himself that Jesus is the Son of God. Just as the message of the good news can spread like fire from twig to twig, so can faith ignite—or reignite—when one has a life-changing encounter with Jesus. There is no miracle for pastors or others to perform; we are simply called to prepare the way, to welcome all of God’s children, and to accompany people no matter where they are on their faith journey.

To change metaphors, sometimes faith flows like an underground stream. In some limestone terrains, a stream of water might disappear from the surface and reappear farther along in a different kind of terrain. The fact that the stream can’t be seen doesn’t mean it has stopped flowing. Likewise, faith is sometimes difficult to identify, but that doesn’t mean it’s not flowing in and through someone’s life. Visible signs of Jesus at work in a person are not always where or in the form we expect to see them. They can be in Sunday worship or in daily acts of kindness, compassion, grace, and love for ourselves and for others. Only Jesus knows what is in our hearts—already burning, deeply flowing, or yet to spark.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Blood Drive Grace is hosting a blood drive on Thursday, January 25 for The American Red Cross. There is a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area if you would like to volunteer to help. If you would like to make an appointment to donate, call 1-800-733-2767, or use the donor app available through Google Play or the Apple Store. Thank you so much for helping give the gift of life.

Women of Faith meet Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m. All ladies are welcome.

Adult Forum please join us today at 9:30 as we continue our study of Galatians.

Please Pray for the Community Ministry of Diversity The *Roundtable Companions for Racial Equity* are a local group of people dedicated to promoting diversity and inclusion in our community. Their fundamental belief is Every individual, regardless of their background, deserves to be valued, respected and included. In the month of February, they are hosting a series of events at the Hastings Library called ***Lift Every Voice***. These events will offer education and dialogue focused on diversity issues and will involve panel discussions, film, music and art. Please see the January GraceGram for additional information.



Hand2Hand Program provides food over the weekend to students at Hastings schools. We are collecting donations of Yoo-Hoo Chocolate Milk, pudding cups, Slim Jims, granola bars, individual size instant oatmeal, ramen noodles, and ready-to-eat mac and cheese. For January, they are in additional need of Snack Pack pudding cups. **The deadline for January is Sunday the 28th.** Thank you for your continued support of this valuable program.

Grace Projects As you know, we have fully funded a new HVAC system for the Fellowship Hall. The Congregation Council has voted to have a fundraiser to replenish the funds we raised. Much like the roof deductible, we are seeking to make sure we have funds for any future property needs. The cost of the HVAC was \$25,252. We appreciate any contributions toward this future need of caring for our building.

Welcome to worship today! We hope you find what we have found - a loving Jesus who welcomes all. No matter your background or faith tradition, you will find that Grace Lutheran Church is a place that is full of love, care, and support. We are pleased that you are here among us to worship the ONE who reveals God’s presence in our lives. It is by God’s grace that we are made a child of God, who is blessed by God’s rich grace, mercy, and peace.

Please use this QR Code to access online giving.

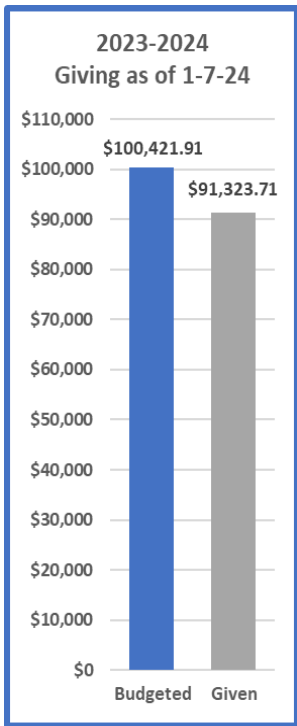


Stewardship Information

Attendance: 44	Views: 428
Weekly Giving: \$1,700.00	Budget Amount: \$4,366.17
December 2023 Online Giving: \$9,238.46	
Community Outreach – Family Promise: \$270.00	

Noisy Offering will be collected today to benefit Barry County Cares. You may place coins and other money into the silver bowl located in the front during the singing of the offertory song. Noisy Offering is taken every second Sunday.

The Congregational Care Committee will meet **TOMORROW**, Monday, January 15 at 3:00 p.m.



Giving Numbers Just a reminder that some people will be keeping their current numbers, but many will get new numbers for 2024 so it will be helpful to write your name on the outside of your envelope during the month of JANUARY in case there are changes we need to make. Thank you.

Book Study entitled Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist. The next study session is **January 28th at 9:30.**

The nursery is available weekly during the 10:45 worship service. Aurora Collins is the Nursery Attendant. She would love to have some little ones visit her. Please spread the word that Grace provides childcare during this worship service.

Updated Information for Sunday, January 21, 2024

8:00 am

Assisting Minister – Mark Anton
Lector – Dave Neeb
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck II

10:45 am

Assisting Minister – Vickey Argo
Lector – Kristi Winick
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck II
Fellowship – Bill and Lorrain Freedlund

Women of Faith Reminder When Hastings Schools are closed for inclement weather, we will not be meeting for Women of Faith.

Congregational Care meeting has been rescheduled to **Monday, January 29 at 3:00 p.m.** due to the cancelation of the meeting on January 15.

Noisy Offering will be collected today.

Ash Wednesday February 14, 2024, at 7:15 p.m. meal provided before worship starting at 6:15 p.m.

Look for the Lenten Devotional which will be available starting next week. This year the title is *Lifted Up in Love* by Henri J.M. Nouwen.

Meals for Lent Traditionally Grace Lutheran Church has shared a meal on Wednesdays of Lent followed by worship. If you are interested in providing a meal, please let Pastor Ken or Brenda know. Each of these meals begin at 6:15 followed by worship at 7:15 pm. Join us on Wednesdays in February 14, 21, 28, March 6, 13, and 20.